

Abingdon Area Committee Report



Report of head of corporate strategy

Report No. 121/10

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Wards affected: Abingdon (all wards), Drayton,
Sutton Courtenay and Appleford

To: Abingdon Area Committee

DATE: 6 April 2011

Executive member responsible: Tony de Vere

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Community Grants

Recommendations

- (a) that the Abingdon Area Committee notes the budget for community grants in 2011/12 for the Abingdon area of the Vale*
- (b) that the committee considers and determines the new applications which have been received and appraised*

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee in respect of community grants, to invite the committee to consider and determine grant applications.

Relationship with Corporate Plan

2. The award of grants to community and voluntary sector groups helps to deliver actions set out in the Vale's Sustainable Community Strategy, which aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in the Vale.

The community grants budget

3. The total budget for community grants for 2011/12 for the Vale is £103,400. This budget is apportioned between the Executive and four area committees. The Executive receives 20% of the budget and the remainder (£82,720) is apportioned according to the electorate in each area on 1 January 2011. The electorate in the Abingdon area on 1 January was 29,900, 31.90% of the Vale's electorate. Therefore the budget position for community grants for 2011/12 for the Abingdon area of the Vale is £26,391.
4. At its meeting on 7 January 2011 the Executive invited the area committees to meet no more than twice a year, in early April and early October. Therefore, if sufficient budget remains unallocated at the end of this meeting, the area committee will meet again in early October.

New grant applications

5. Applications totalling £50,690 have been received from the applicants listed below. Precises providing additional details are in the appendix to this report.
6. Officers have used a scoring system to help in evaluating each application. The scoring system is a fair and transparent way of evaluating how closely a project supports corporate and community strategy priorities, the local need and the amount of funding requested as a percentage of project cost.
7. In making the following recommendations officers have also taken into account the available budget. If the following recommendations are approved without amendment the total grant awarded will be £23,226.

Applicant	The Nasio Trust
Project	Operation Exit 7
Project cost £	£6,250
Grant sought £	£4,750
Score	150
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£4,750
Reason	Project supports self development of young people

Applicant	The Abingdon Bridge
Project	Project engage
Project cost £	£13,000
Grant sought £	£5,000
Score	115
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£3,500
Reason	Project supports self development of young people

Applicant	APAGE
Project	Abingdon Arts Festival 2012
Project cost £	£9,500
Grant sought £	£4,000
Score	105
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£2,000

<i>recommendation</i>	
Reason	Less than amount requested due to available budget and high number and quality of other applications

Applicant	Film Oxford
Project	Film under the Stars – Summer screen
Project cost £	£4,025
Grant sought £	£3,425
Score	105
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£350
Reason	High score but grant only towards costs of film hire rather than fixed costs. Also being considered by South East Area Committee for grant for Wantage performance

Applicant	South Abingdon Community Led Planning Group
Project	Community led plan
Project cost £	£14,727
Grant sought £	£4,725
Score	100
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£3,308
Reason	Project will encourage local solutions to local problems

Applicant	Abingdon Carbon Cutters
Project	Community food project
Project cost £	£1,940
Grant sought £	£1,240
Score	100
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£868
Reason	Project fosters community spirit

Applicant	Caudwell Day Centre
Project	Central heating unit
Project cost £	£3,500
Grant sought £	£3,500
Score	100
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£2,450
Reason	Project helps to overcome social isolation

Applicant	Abingdon Town Amateur Boxing Club
Project	New training hall
Project cost £	£200,000
Grant sought £	£5,000
Score	90
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£3,500
Reason	Early stages of project, large gap in funding, provide grant to assist with project development

Applicant	Abingdon Music Festival Association
Project	'Maestro' one day master class
Project cost £	£1,490
Grant sought £	£550
Score	85
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£0
Reason	Adequate funds appear to be in place

Applicant	24th Abingdon Scout Group
Project	Rebuilding of scout hall
Project cost £	£114,200
Grant sought £	£5,000
Score	75
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£2,000
Reason	Low score but has potential community benefit, early stages of project, planning permission obtained but large gap in funding, provide grant to assist with project development

Applicant	Abingdon Chamber Concerts
Project	Enhanced marketing scheme
Project cost £	£1,010
Grant sought £	£500
Score	70
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£0
Reason	There appears to be limited community benefit

Applicant	Archway Foundation
Project	Serving those hurt by loneliness
Project cost £	£73,500
Grant sought £	£3,000
Score	65
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£0
Reason	Expenditure costs unclear

Applicant	Abingdon Town Band
Project	Sustaining players project
Project cost £	£12,045
Grant sought £	£5,000
Score	65
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£500
Reason	There appears to be limited community benefit, the application is for members' instruments and uniforms rather than public performance, recommend small grant to support cost of free public performances in Abingdon.

Applicant	Abingdon Rowing Club
Project	Rowing club electrics

Project cost £	£8,717
Grant sought £	£5,000
Score	60
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£0
Reason	There appears to be limited community benefit

8. Members are requested to consider and determine the new grant applications received.

Options

9. There are no alternative options to the consideration and determination of the grant applications received.

Financial, legal and any other implications

10. Grant awards, if any, will be allocated from an Abingdon Area community grants budget and prior to determination the committee will be advised of the amount available to allocate.

Conclusion

11. The Abingdon Area Committee is requested to consider and determine the new grant applications received.

Background Papers

Community grant applications and supporting documents

Appendices

Precises summarising the applications received. Please note that precises are in alphabetical order.