

Executive Report



Report of head of corporate strategy

Report No. 125/10

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Wards affected: all wards in the Vale

To: EXECUTIVE

DATE: 6 April 2011

Executive member responsible: Tony de Vere

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Community Grants

Recommendations

(a) that the Executive notes the budget for community grants in 2011/12 for Vale wide projects

(b) that the Executive allocates £250 of the budget for the cost of grants management software in 2011/12

(c) that the Executive considers and determines the new community grants applications which have been received and appraised

(d) that the Executive considers and determines the new application for third party funding

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the Executive in respect of community grants, to invite the Executive 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 is apportioned according to the electorate in each area on 1 January 2011. Therefore the budget position for community grants for 2011/12 for Vale wide projects is £20,680.
4. The Executive agreed at its meeting on 7 January 2011 to fund the grants management software from the proportion of the community grants budget allocated to the Executive. The cost for 2011/12 is £250.
5. If sufficient budget remains unallocated at the end of this meeting, the Executive will meet again in early October to consider and determine new grant applications.

New grant applications

6. Applications totalling £36,337 have been received from the applicants listed below. Precises providing additional details are in the appendix to this report.
7. 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.
8. 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 £20,400.

Applicant	Age UK Oxfordshire
Project	IT lessons at St Edmunds Centre
Project cost £	£25,395
Grant sought £	£5,000
Score	140
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£5,000
Reason	Project improves access to services and reduces social isolation

Applicant	My Life My Choice
Project	Local speaking up group
Project cost £	£5,594
Grant sought £	£2,500
Score	130
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£2,500
Reason	Project improves access to services and reduces social isolation

Applicant	South and Vale Carers' Centre
Project	Carers – Take a Break
Project cost £	£17,650

Grant sought £	£4,500
Score	125
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£4,500
Reason	Project provides local support to volunteer carers

Applicant	Ryder Cheshire Volunteers Oxfordshire
Project	Vale of White Horse project
Project cost £	£20,000
Grant sought £	£5,000
Score	115
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£3,500
Reason	Project improves support in the Vale for adults with a physical disability

Applicant	Oxfordshire Chinese Community Advice Centre
Project	Elderly group and advice centre
Project cost £	£16,648
Grant sought £	£3,200
Score	115
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£2,000
Reason	Also receive partnership grant of £4,675 per year

Applicant	Oxfordshire Community Voluntary Action
Project	First steps in volunteering outreach sessions
Project cost £	£51,315
Grant sought £	£1,250
Score	110
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£1,500
Reason	Project encourages volunteering

Applicant	Vitalise
Project	Respite care breaks for disabled people and carers
Project cost £	£5,423
Grant sought £	£1,355
Score	100
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£650
Reason	National project rather than Vale project

Applicant	Oxfordshire Association for the Blind (OAB)
Project	Future Vision – new resource centre
Project cost £	£595,000
Grant sought £	£5,000
Score	90
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£1,000
Reason	Low score but potential community benefit, large gap in funding, reliant on other funders, provide grant to assist with project

	development
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Applicant	Oxfordshire Play Association
Project	Oxfordshire play week
Project cost £	£12,500
Grant sought £	£2,500
Score	80
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£0
Reason	Adequate funds appear to be in place

Applicant	Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire (ARCH)
Project	Recruitments, training and 1 year support for 8 new volunteers
Project cost £	£6,144
Grant sought £	£3,144
Score	75
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£0
Reason	Adequate funds appear to be in place

Applicant	Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum
Project	People and Biodiversity
Project cost £	£15,855
Grant sought £	£1,000
Score	65
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£0
Reason	Adequate funds appear to be in place

Applicant	Oxford Harmony
Project	Learn to sing course
Project cost £	£1,678
Grant sought £	£678
Score	55
<i>Officer recommendation</i>	£0
Reason	There appears to be limited community benefit

9. An application has also been received from Kennington Parish Council for third party funding of £1,253 for the Forestside BMX track project. Third party funding is required by WREN, a landfill tax credit trust, as a condition of a grant from its fund. Kennington Parish Council has applied for a WREN grant of £11,391.
10. The Lottery and Other Grants Support Fund was set up by Executive to provide matched funding and third party funding support. Applications to the Fund are determined by Executive. It is a capital fund and the current unallocated fund balance is £66,488.09.
11. Executive is requested to consider and determine the new grant applications received.

Options

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

Financial, legal and any other implications

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

Conclusion

14. The Executive 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.