

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE
13 JUNE 2006

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for this Committee at the beginning of 2006/07 in respect of Community Grants and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received.
- 1.2 The Contact Officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer, (Tel: 01235 547626).

2.0 Recommendations

- (a) *Members are asked to note that the Committee's budget for 2006/07 is £29,273.88 (£25,084 plus £4,189.88 carried forward from 2005/06) which is apportioned as follows:*

o <i>Environmental Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£8,779.40</i>
o <i>Social Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£8,779.40</i>
o <i>Economic Agenda (10%)</i>	<i>£2,508.40</i>
o <i>Discretionary (20%)</i>	<i>£5,016.80 + £4,189.88</i>

- (b) *Members are asked to note that a total of £4,446 was allocated from the 2006/07 budget at the meeting on 14 March 2006 towards additional parish cleansing and the Wantage Summer Festival 2006, leaving a budget of £24,827.88*

- (c) *Members are asked to consider requests for payment of the grants under Service Level Agreements from the following two twinning associations in the South East Area and to decide if payment can be made:*

***Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association £2,000
Hendreds Twinning Group £500***

- (d) *Members are asked to consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and Council priority in respect of the following:*
- (i) ***Ardington & Lockinge Parish Council, £7,441***, towards the cost of a village play area, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) ***Camel Pre-School, Wantage, £10,000***, towards the cost of refurbishment, Social Agenda, Access priority
 - (iii) ***Harwell Parochial Charities (re: Francis Geering Almshouses, Harwell), £800***, as third party funding for a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iv) ***The owner of Sparsholt Court, West Hendred***, a grant towards the cost of re-building and re-pointing a Grade II listed garden wall, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (v) ***The owner of The Dell, Harwell***, a grant towards the cost of re-thatching and re-ridging a Grade II listed cottage, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

- (vi) *The owner of Winding Way Cottage, Blewbury, a grant towards the cost of re-riding a Grade II listed cottage, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*

3.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies

This report supports the Council's Vision and Priorities. It also supports the Vale Community Strategy. It does not conflict with any Council strategy or any Council policy.

4.0 Community Grants

- 4.1 The current budget position for the South East Area Committee for Community Grants is as follows:

Budget b/f 2005/06	Budget 2006/07	Total budget 2006/07	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£4,189.88	£25,084	£29,273.88	£8,779.40	£8,779.40	£2,508.40	£9,206.68
	Allocated	£6,946	£1,946	£2,500	£0	£0
	Remaining	£24,827.88	£6,833.40	£6,279.40	£2,508.40	£9,206.68

- 4.2 Twinning partnership grants (Service Level Agreements)

In accordance with the decision of the Executive at its meeting on 6 August 2004 (Minute Ex.83) twinning associations are partners in service provision and have signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to this effect. The funding for the SLA is allocated from Area Committee budgets. In the South East Area the allocation is:

Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association, £2,000
Hendreds Twinning Group, £500

- 4.3 The twinning associations are asked to provide the following information as set out in their SLA:

- A report of the programme for 2005/06, providing an evaluation of the events and activities, based on any surveys carried out and feedback received from participants, plus any suggestions for future activities to develop the link
- An outline of any feedback from the wider community (non-members) on activities in 2005/06 and suggestions for future activities which might attract new people and groups
- A programme for 2006/07 including activities which seek to broaden involvement in the twinning link by reaching out to new people and groups, especially young people
- An outline of how the association's activities contribute to the Vale Community Strategy and how they benefit the communities served by the association
- A copy of the annual accounts showing how the 2005/06 grant was spent

Information has been received from The Hendreds Group which covers c), e) and partially covers a) and b). The Group undertook a survey of participants last year and has noted some ideas to improve future exchanges. It aims to use the Vale grant to subsidise costs of younger children to enable them to participate in twinning activities in 2006/07. Further details have been requested.

The Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association has provided information which covers a) and shows how the Association has undertaken activities to broaden the link and involve school students during the last year. The Association sought feedback

from its members on which activities they preferred and has responded to members' suggestions. Further information has been requested.

4.4 Members are asked to note that the information provided does not meet all the requirements set out under Schedules 2 and 3 of the Service Level Agreement, but that further information has been sought from the twinning associations and should be available to update Members verbally at the meeting.

4.5 One-off grants

Applications have been received in respect of the following organisations and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix A to the report:

- (i) **Ardington & Lockinge Parish Council, £7,441**, towards the cost of a village play area, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **Camel Pre-School, Wantage, £10,000**, towards the cost of refurbishment, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (iii) **Harwell Parochial Charities (re: Francis Geering Almshouses, Harwell), £800**, as third party funding for a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iv) **The owner of Sparsholt Court, West Hendred**, a grant towards the cost of re-building and re-pointing a Grade II listed garden wall, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (v) **The owner of The Dell, Harwell**, a grant towards the cost of re-thatching and re-ridging a Grade II listed cottage, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (vi) **The owner of Winding Way Cottage, Blewbury**, a grant towards the cost of re-ridging a Grade II listed cottage, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

4.6 Members are invited to consider and determine the applications listed above and to determine the Council agenda and priority.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers: Applications