

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

6 July 2005

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the current budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants at the beginning of the financial year 2005/06 and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting.
- 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 2005/06 is £28,421.32 (including £3,473.32 carried forward from 2004/05) which is apportioned as follows:*

o <i>Environmental Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£8,731.80</i>
o <i>Social Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£8,731.80</i>
o <i>Economic Agenda (10%)</i>	<i>£2,494.80</i>
o <i>Discretionary (20%)</i>	<i>£4,989.60 + £3,473.32</i>

- (b) *Members are asked to note that grants totalling £2,500 are to be awarded to the following two twinning associations in the South East Area as directed by the Executive on 6 August 2004, subject to the completion of service level agreements:*

<i>Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association</i>	<i>£2,000</i>
<i>Hendreds Twinning Group</i>	<i>£500</i>

- (c) *Members are asked to determine the following parish cleansing grant bids for 2005/06:*

<i>Ardington & Lockinge</i>	<i>£40.80</i>
<i>Blewbury</i>	<i>£200.00</i>
<i>Charney Bassett</i>	<i>£160.00</i>
<i>Childrey</i>	<i>£77.50</i>
<i>Chilton</i>	<i>£172.90</i>
<i>Harwell</i>	<i>£1314.67</i>
<i>Milton</i>	<i>£450.00</i>
<i>West Hendred</i>	<i>£150.00</i>

- (d) *Members are asked to consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and Council priority in respect of the following:*

- (i) ***Wantage Blind Club, £759***, towards the cost of providing transport for blind people in outlying villages to attend the Day Centre in Wantage, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (ii) ***Wantage Counselling Service, £1,500***, towards the cost of providing a counselling service to clients on low incomes, Social Agenda, Access priority

- (iii) **St Matthews Harwell Parochial Church Council, £7,500**, towards the cost of alterations to the church extension to provide facilities and improve access for people with disabilities, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (iv) **Historic Building Grant: St Mary the Virgin, Childrey, £1,500**, towards the comprehensive restoration of the church tower and nave, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(e) Members are asked to note a misunderstanding concerning the Wantage Summer Festival application considered on 20 January as outlined in the attached Briefing Note (at Appendix B to this report), to consider a second application (also at Appendix B) and to determine how the matter should be resolved.

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 Members are asked to note that, due to an oversight, the balance remaining at the end of 2004/05 is £3,473.32 instead of the £2,879.32 originally reported. The current budget position for this Committee for Community Grants for 2005/06 is as follows:

Budget b/f 2004/05	Budget 2005/06	Total budget 2005/06	Environment -al Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£3,473.32	£24,948	£28,421.32	£8,731.80	£8,731.80	£2,494.80	£4,989.60 + £3,473.32 (carried forward)
	Allocated	£ 2,500	£ 0	£2,5000	£ 0	£ 0
	Remaining	£25,921.32	£8,731.80	£6,231.80	£2,494.80	£8,462.92

4.2 The following parish councils have submitted applications for grant aid towards supplementary parish cleansing in 2005/06. The grant applications represent 50% of the cost of the additional litter picking on relevant land not in the parish council's ownership.

Ardington & Lockinge	£40.80
Blewbury	£200.00
Charney Bassett	£160.00
Childrey	£77.50
Chilton	£172.90
Harwell	£1314.67
Milton	£450.00
West Hendred	£150.00
Total	£2,565.87

4.3 The Executive decided at its meeting on 6 August 2004 (Minute Ex.83) that twinning associations should be partners in service provision and be subject to service level agreements. It was resolved that funding would come from Area

Committee budgets. Last year the twinning associations confirmed that they would enter into a service level agreement with the Council. The Hendreds Twinning Group has now signed a Service Level Agreement and the Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association is in the process of considering the draft agreement.

- 4.4 The Committee is asked to note the grants to be awarded in the current financial year to the following two twinning associations located in the South East Area, subject to them signing a service level agreement:

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

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

- (i) **Wantage Blind Club, £759**, towards the cost of providing transport for blind people in outlying villages to attend the Day Centre in Wantage, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (ii) **Wantage Counselling Service, £1,500**, towards the cost of providing a counselling service to clients on low incomes, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (iii) **St Matthews Harwell Parochial Church Council, £7,500**, towards the cost of alterations to the church extension to provide facilities and improve access for people with disabilities, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (iv) **St Mary the Virgin, Childrey, £1,500** towards the comprehensive restoration of the church tower and nave, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

- 4.5 Members are invited to consider and determine the applications received and to determine the Council agenda and priority.

- 4.6 At the South East Area Committee held on 20 January 2005 an application was considered from the Wantage Summer Festival for funding towards the 2005 Festival to be held from 11 June – 10 July 2005. It has been brought to the attention of the officers that the application concerned the 2004 festival and had only been received after the event because the original application, which pre-dated the event, had gone astray. In view of the circumstances the applicant is requesting that the application considered on 20 January 2005 be re-considered as an application for the 2004 festival.

- 4.7 In view of the confusion, the applicant has been advised to submit a new application for the 2005 festival so that Members may consider it, if they decide that the grant awarded on 20 January should have been for the 2004 festival.

- 4.8 Members are asked to review the two applications in the light of the unusual circumstances and decide how they wish to proceed.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

TIM SADLER
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES

Background Papers: Applications