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(i) Applicant: Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Abingdon

The Trustee Board of the CAB is seeking a grant to cover the shortfall in its core funding for 2006/07.

The CAB receives a grant of £80,535 p.a. as part of the Service Level Agreement with the Council covering the period April 2004 - March 2007. In April 2005/06 a further one-off grant of £2,015 was awarded to help offset the increase in non-rental costs and an undertaking was given that the increase in rent in 2005/06 would be covered by an additional grant from the Council. This amounted to £3,022 from 9 July 2005 when the increase took effect.

In 2006/07 the increase in rent for the whole year will be £4,140 and at its April meeting the Executive resolved to award a grant to cover this increase. The Executive requested that the Abingdon Area Committee also consider the application and be encouraged to fund the remainder of the shortfall, which amounts to £2,565.

The CAB staff have sought funding from the parish councils covering the areas where their clients live; this represents about fifty percent of the parish councils in the Vale. In 2005/06 they raised £2,365 from other funders towards their core costs but a number of the charitable trusts and other organisations to whom they apply throughout the year will not provide core funding. Since the Bureau has recognised that it will be unable to raise sufficient additional core funding from the Council to meet all its essential requirements the Trustee Board has decided to reduce the hours of the paid staff. On the retirement of one of the two part-time managers of the Bureau in July, no replacement will be sought and the Bureau's hours will be reduced accordingly. Despite the savings that are being made and the Vale grant to cover the rent increase, the CAB still faces a shortfall of £2,565 in its core funding for 2006/07.

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
3 year service level agreement	£ 80,535	£ 80,535	£ 80,535
Rental assistance	£ 0	£ 3,022	£4,140
Costs assistance	£ 0	£ 2,015	-
Additional funding requested	£ 0	£ 0	£ 2,565
Total	£80,535	£ 85,572	£ 87,240

The aims of the CAB are to ensure that individuals do not suffer through lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibilities or of the services available to them, or through an inability to express their needs effectively and equally to exercise a responsible influence on the development of social policies and services, both locally and nationally. The CAB provides an independent, free, confidential and impartial advice service to everybody who seeks it. The main areas of its enquiry and casework are money, debt, employment, welfare, benefits, housing, relationship breakdown, tax and consumer issues.

In 2004/05 the Bureau helped over 7,000 Vale residents. With the equivalent of 2.3 paid staff, the bulk of the Bureau's work is carried out by volunteers.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Health & Wellbeing; Access to Services; the work of the Bureau plays an important role in improving the quality of life in the Vale.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost £98,805 (unrestricted core funding)

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Balances	£9,198 unrestricted funds at 31.03.05
Running Costs	£93,137 from unrestricted funds at 31.03.05
Own Contribution	836 voluntary hours per month
Grant Sought	£2,565
Previous Awards	SLA grant of £80,535 p.a. plus one-off grant of £2,015 and grant of £3,022 to cover rent increase in 2005/06 £4,140 grant from the Executive to cover rent increase in 2006/07
Parish Support	Abingdon Town Council: £8,000 Appleton with Eaton: £35 Blewbury: £30 Cumnor: £150 Kennington: £300 Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor: £125 Marcham: £200 Milton: £50 North Hinksey: £200 St Helen Without: £80 Total: £9,170
Other Support	Funding received from other sources (e.g. Oxfordshire County Council Social Care) is restricted to specific purposes.

Officer Comment (Toby Warren (Head of Innovation & Enterprise)):

The CAB has arranged several meetings with officers and councillors prior to the submission of this application. The meetings have given officers and councillors a better understanding of the value of the CAB service and its financial position. The meetings have also given the CAB a better understanding of the Council's financial position.

(ii) Applicant: Preston Road Community Centre Association

The Preston Road Community Centre Association is seeking a grant towards the cost of replacing the Community Centre's kitchen. The District Council's grant is needed as third party funding for the Association's application to WREN and also towards the cost of the project itself. The project was short-listed in Autumn 2005 in the People's Millions Lottery Award but was not selected. The Association currently has an application with the Lottery's Awards for All programme.

The present kitchen is the original built as part of the hall in the 1970s. It is in a poor state of repair and the cooker has been condemned by the Vale's Environmental Health Department. Separate sinks are required for food preparation, hand-washing and general cleaning in order to comply with current hygiene standards. Currently the Community Centre is losing bookings and thus revenue due to the state of the kitchen.

The Community Centre is in a part of Abingdon with high levels of deprivation and social exclusion. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 shows that in this area of Abingdon Caldecott 39% of children live in families which depend on benefit, the highest level in the Vale.

The facilities have been used by a range of individuals and organisations from children to the elderly including the following:

- Parent Toddler Groups
- Polling Station
- Senior Citizens Clubs
- Casual Hire

Casual hire includes mainly local users for family and other functions such as weddings, children's birthday parties, dances, summer barbecues, and fund-raising events. It is estimated that the refurbished kitchen will enhance the Community Centre for the benefit of about 2,000 people.

The building is owned by the Vale of White Horse District Council and leased to the Community Centre Association.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Town & Village Vitality, Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Access to Services.

Total project cost	£24,310 incl VAT; £20,725 excl VAT VAT cannot be reclaimed
Balances	£6,707 at 01/05/05
Running costs	£47,681 at 01/05/05
Own contribution	£1,000
Grant sought	£6,385 to include £1,650 as third party funding for WREN application
Previous awards (Vale)	2003/04 £835 – towards the fire door in the main hall
Parish Council support	Applied to Abingdon Town Council for £500 – decision awaited
Parish precept	£706,402 Band D £57.87
Other support	WREN - £15,000 awarded Awards for All for £4,075 – awaiting outcome

Officer comment: Nick Burroughs, Principal Planning Officer [Strategy]

The local plan recognises that it is important in the area to maintain lively communities and existing services. The proposed improvements to the Preston Road Community Centre will enable it to continue to be well-used and help support the vital town and village activities that contribute to the maintenance of a thriving community.

(iii) Applicant: Abingdon Museum

The Curator of Abingdon Museum is seeking a grant towards the cost of research and consultancy fees to produce a development plan for the museum. A grant from the district council would support the museum's application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Project Planning Grant of £50,000.

Following an Access Audit in December 2004, which established that the Abingdon Museum is one of the most inaccessible in the sub-region, it was decided to embark on a period of planned development to maximise access to the museum. The goal is to provide a modern museum service which fully meets the needs of the public in terms of physical access (not just to the building), community engagement and interest whilst maintaining the educational role of the museum. The development of the museum will focus on the need to broaden what the museum offers for the benefit of the groups which currently do not visit the museum.

A two-stage strategy for development has been decided, with an initial phase of research, consultation and planning followed by managed implementation. The Museum has applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Project Planning Grant of £50,000 which is designed to help museums gather and present the information required to apply for a Heritage Main Development Grant. The Curator has been advised that the chances of the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund being successful would be increased if the district council provided some financial support to the project.

The initial phase of the project will deliver three co-ordinated studies which will be road-maps for development: an Audience Development Plan, an Access Plan and a Conservation Plan.

The Abingdon Museum receives an annual grant of £32,000 from the district council under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) towards running costs. The SLA does not cover research and development costs which are the subject of this application.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Access to Services, Education & Lifelong Learning, Town & Village Vitality

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£60,000
Own Contribution	See Parish Council support
Grant Sought	£3,850
Previous Awards (Vale)	None
Parish Council Support	Abingdon Town Council awarded £5,400
Parish Precept	£706,402 Band 'D' £57.87
Other Support	Will apply for a £50,000 Project Planning Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in July. Oxfordshire County Council awarded £750 In-kind support: Value of volunteer work £2,600

Officer comment: Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise

Abingdon Museum makes a major contribution to the town's identity and sense of community. This project will increase awareness of this role. Research should also provide information about aspects of the town's heritage that is important for its residents.

(iv) Applicant: Peachcroft Christian Centre, Abingdon

The Peachcroft Christian Centre has embarked on a large-scale extension to provide more and better facilities for the community it serves. In 2005/06 an application for grant funding of £50,000 was submitted to the Council. A grant of £10,000 was awarded by the Executive on 15 April 2005 from a

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capital fund and a community grant award of £15,000 was made by the Abingdon Area Committee on 13 July 2005. At the time of the application, the Centre had raised £263,000 from the congregation; in the meantime this has increased to £294,972.

To date a total of £775,669 has been raised or is promised. The shortfall is £28,863. The Peachcroft Christian Centre is seeking a grant in 2006/07 towards the shortfall in the project costs.

Since the Centre was built in 1987 the Peachcroft housing estate has grown to over 2,000 houses with approximately 6,000 people. The centre is currently a one-roomed building seating 60; hence it is far too small for the needs of the Peachcroft estate. The congregation of over 50 adults and 30 children and young people has also completely outgrown the capacity of the building. Limited floor space, storage space, toilet and kitchen facilities greatly restrict the use that can be made of the Centre by both the congregation and the community at large.

The Centre is a focal point for many local community groups, including parent and toddler groups, over 55's club, holiday clubs, Women's Institute, Abingdon Music Centre and a youth café (run by the centre for local teenagers). In consultation with the community, the police, town and district Councillors and youth professionals, the Centre is playing a leading role in the development of work with the marginalized, at-risk youth of North Abingdon. The Centre's minister, Rev Stephen Godfrey, recently received a citizenship award for his work with young people in the area. The completion of the extension is urgently awaited so that young people have an alternative to hanging around on the streets and receive support and direction for the future.

The Centre has consulted extensively with its user-groups and surveyed 100 local households to ensure that the extension and the services it will offer are needed and will be used by the local community. The proposed extension plans include a flexible large main hall to seat 150 (with overflow capacity) which could be divided into several smaller spaces if required. This will serve as a worship area for Sunday services, but will also be used for numerous community functions throughout the week. In addition there will be a crèche, improved office and kitchen areas, a larger toilet block and a separate quiet room, all totally accessible to people with a disability.

Total project cost	£804,532 incl VAT – includes loan capital and interest totalling £173,233 Cannot reclaim VAT
Own contribution	£294,972 raised from and by the congregation
Grant sought	£25,000
Previous awards (Vale)	£25,000 2005/06
Parish Council support	£1,420 from the outgoing Abingdon Mayor's Charity Fund £500 Abingdon Town Council in 2005/06 and in 2006/07
Parish precept	£706,402 Band D £57.87
Other support	WREN £30,000 awarded Charitable Foundation & Trusts £153,381 Loans received & promised £226,790 Church in Abingdon Trust £23,436 Miscellaneous donations, bank interest and recoverable tax etc £92,880 Awards for All – awaiting outcome

Officer comment: Nick Burroughs, Principal Planning Officer (Strategy)

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The local plan recognises that it is important in the area to maintain lively communities and existing services. The extension to the Peachcroft Christian Centre will enable it to continue to be well-used and help support the vital town and village activities that contribute to the maintenance of a thriving community.