

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR**  
**TO THE EXECUTIVE**  
**4TH AUGUST 2006**

**Prospectuses to Target Grants for the Benefit of Vale Residents**

**1.0 Introduction & Report Summary**

- 1.1 The Council's four area committees wish to create greater awareness of the types of projects that are a priority for support for each area committee. Each area committee has approved a grants 'prospectus' with information about the committee's priorities when determining grants.
- 1.2 Each area committee has noted that the Chair of the Executive has requested that all area committee prospectuses are submitted to the Executive. The Chair wishes to ensure that whilst the prospectuses reflect local priorities they still retain a degree of consistency.
- 1.3 This report provides information about the prospectuses that the area committees have approved. The appendix consists of copies of the approved prospectuses.
- 1.4 The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise (Tel: 01235 547695).

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 *Members are requested to consider if there is a need for any of the area committees to be asked to amend their prospectus in order to retain a degree of consistency across the Vale.*

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

- 3.1 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 The Prospectus Concept**

- 4.1 The prospectuses are intended to make the voluntary and community sector and others more aware of the types of projects that are a priority for support by the respective area committee.
- 4.2 The prospectuses are designed to fit with the strands (or themes) of the Vale Community Strategy. The Vale Community Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will work together to improve the quality of life of everyone who lives in, works in or visits the Vale.
- 4.2 The Vale Community Strategy has nine strands:
- Transport
  - Access to Services
  - Recreation, Culture and Leisure
  - Safe and Supportive Communities
  - Town and Village Vitality
  - Environment
  - Housing
  - Education and Lifelong Learning
  - Health and Wellbeing

- 4.3 The Community Strategy strands are fairly broad which provides an opportunity for each area committee to select the strands that are important for its own area.
- 4.4 The introduction to each prospectus advises that each application will be determined on its own merits. If it wishes a committee will be free to support an application for a project which is not mentioned within the prospectus.
- 4.5 The prospectuses are designed to be 'user friendly'. The wording hopefully makes the document understandable and readable.

## **5.0 Local Priorities**

- 5.1 This section of the report provides information about the differences between the prospectuses.
- 5.2 The Abingdon Area Committee noted that Transport and Access to Services are community strategy priorities. The Committee considered that the kind of community led transport, housing and access to service projects that it is able to fund will not have a significant impact on quality of life in the Abingdon area. The Committee will continue to monitor action in relation to these priorities but feel it is more appropriate for the funding for these priorities to come from other sources. Therefore these priorities do not appear in the Abingdon Area Grant Prospectus.
- 5.3 The Abingdon Area Committee agreed that applicants seeking funding to improve a village hall or community centre must show that the facility has a sustainable future.
- 5.4 The North East Area Committee recognises that some tree maintenance is carried out for reasons of amenity and the health of the tree is not at risk. Therefore the North East Area Prospectus makes it clear that the Committee will consider grant applications for the maintenance of the health of trees.
- 5.3 The South East Area Committee want to make it clear that Wantage and Grove can not apply for grants for additional street cleansing as they have different arrangements with the Council.
- 5.4 The West Area Committee considers that in most cases tree maintenance should be the responsibility of the owner. Therefore it will only consider tree maintenance applications in exceptional circumstances.

## **6.0 Conclusion**

- 6.1 The prospectuses help local groups to more fully understand one of the ways in which their local councillors can support them. The fit to the Vale Community Strategy is also important as it offers vision and direction to local groups, and builds support for the vision and direction.

Background Papers:  
Area committee prospectuses

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