

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR & MONITORING OFFICER  
TO EXECUTIVE  
4 APRIL 2008

Community Grants

**1.0 Introduction and Report Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the Executive Committee in respect of Community Grants and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received. The Executive currently considers grant applications bi-annually. Executive considered applications in October 2007 and the next meeting, at which the consideration of grants is planned, will be in October 2008.
- 1.2 The contact officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626).

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

- 2.1 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.

**3.0 Recommendations**

- (a) *Members are asked to note that the Executive's budget for 2008/09 for Vale-wide grants is £21,714*
- (b) *Members are asked to consider and determine the following grant applications and agree the Council agenda and priority:*
- (i) **Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers, £2,000**, towards running costs of supporting disabled people to pursue activities, Social Agenda, Access priority*
  - (ii) **Oxfordshire Visual Arts Festival, £1,000**, towards printing and distribution of the brochure, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
  - (iii) **Oxfordshire Children's Information Service, £4,758**, towards the cost of providing information and advice to parents, Social Agenda, Access priority*
  - (iv) **Age Concern Oxfordshire, £2,330**, towards singing taster sessions, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
  - (v) **Oxfordshire Chinese Community & Advice Centre, £4,000**, towards the Chinese New Year celebration and increased running costs*
  - (vi) **Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, £5,000**, towards the introduction of a mobile resource centre and training courses, Social Agenda, Access priority*
  - (vii) **My Life My Choice, £1,342.18**, towards running self-advocacy groups, Social Agenda, Access priority*
  - (viii) **Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action, £5,000**, towards a volunteer brokerage service, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
  - (ix) **Root and Branch, £1,000**, towards the purchase of a kitchen range, Social Agenda, Access priority*

*(x) Oxford Film & Video Makers, £3,650, towards events in the Summerscreen 2008 festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*

*(xi) Oxfordshire Rural Education Initiative, £2,000, towards educational work, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*

*(xii) Vitalise, £1,741.75, towards the provision of holiday breaks for disabled people and volunteering opportunities, Social Agenda, Access priority*

*(c) Members are asked to consider an application from Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau for a one-off grant of £6,000, towards roof repairs and;*

*(d) to make an award, in exceptional circumstances,, from savings made i the Community Strategy service budget*

*(e) Members are asked to agree to the request from Area Committees to carry forward unspent grant budget from 2007/08*

#### **4.0 Community Grants**

4.1 The budget position of the Executive for Vale-wide community grants in 2008/2009 is shown below

<b>Budget b/f 2007/08</b>	<b>Budget 2008/09</b>	<b>Total Budget 2008/09</b>	<b>Environmental Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Social Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Economic Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Discretionary Proportion</b>
<b>£0</b>	<b>£21,714</b>	<b>£21,714</b>	<b>£7,599.90</b>	<b>£7,599.90</b>	<b>£4,342.80</b>	<b>£2,171.40</b>

#### **5.0 Applications**

5.1 Applications for consideration under the Council's Community Grants Scheme have been received from the organisations listed below and there is a narrative providing additional details at Appendix A to the report. The total amount of grants requested is £33,821.93.

**(i) Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers, £2,000**, towards running costs of supporting disabled people to pursue activities, Social Agenda, Access priority

**(ii) Oxfordshire Visual Arts Festival, £1,000**, towards printing and distribution of the brochure, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

**(iii) Oxfordshire Children's Information Service, £4,758**, towards the cost of providing information and advice to parents, Social Agenda, Access priority

**(iv) Age Concern Oxfordshire, £2,330**, towards singing taster sessions, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

**(v) Oxfordshire Chinese Community & Advice Centre, £4,000**, towards the Chinese New Year celebration and increased running costs

**(vi) Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, £5,000**, towards the introduction of a mobile resource centre and training courses, Social Agenda, Access priority

**(vii) My Life My Choice, £1,342.18**, towards running self-advocacy groups, Social Agenda, Access priority

**(viii) Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action, £5,000**, towards a volunteer brokerage service, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

**(ix) Root and Branch, £1,000**, towards the purchase of a kitchen range, Social Agenda, Access priority

(x) **Oxford Film & Video Makers, £3,650**, towards events in the Summerscreen 2008 festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(xi) **Oxfordshire Rural Education Initiative, £2,000**, towards educational work, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

(xii) **Vitalise, £1,741.75**, towards the provision of holiday breaks for disabled people and volunteering opportunities, Social Agenda, Access priority

5.2 Members are asked to consider and determine the grant applications and to agree the Council Agenda and priority.

## **6.0 Application from Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau**

6.1 The Bureau occupies part of Old Abbey House and under the terms of its lease with the District Council it has to make a contribution of 30% of the cost of building repairs. The Trustee Board is seeking an exceptional grant towards the cost of roof repairs. The Bureau is required to contribute £12,750.

6.2 The Bureau has received a grant of £ 3,000 from St Michael & All Saints Churches Fund for towards the cost of the roof repairs. It has also made a proposal that £ 3,750 should be paid by instalments over three years. The Trustee Board is therefore seeking an exceptional grant of £ 6,000.

6.3 Officers are mindful that an award of £ 6,000 from the Executive's Community Grants budget of £ 21,714 would restrict the ability of the Executive to support other community project and services. Officers have therefore looked at the allocations in other budgets, related to community strategy and development, to identify other sources of funding. An amount of £ 6,000 is available if expenditure is re-allocated and the balances from a number of budgets are transferred.

6.4 Members are asked to agree to this reallocation of budget from Community Strategy to assist with the roof repairs.

## **7.0 Unspent grant budget**

7.1 At the end of 2007/08 three Area Committees have unspent grant budget as indicated below:

North East Area Committee	£2,313.65
South East Area Committee	£635.88
Abingdon Area Committee	£12,271.63 (last Committee meeting on 25 March – final figure to be reported verbally)
West Area Committee	£0

7.2 Those area committees with unspent grants budget have resolved to request that these amounts be carried forward into 2008/09. The Executive is asked to agree their request.

TOBY WARREN  
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

TIM SADLER  
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR & MONITORING OFFICER

Background Papers: Applications and supporting documents