

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANNING AND COMMUNITY STRATEGY)
TO THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE
6 NOVEMBER 2008

Community Grants

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the current budget position 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), **e-mail address lorna.edwards@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.**

2.0 Recommendations

- (a) *that Members note the current budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee*
- (b) *that Members agree to the payment of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) grant to Abingdon Town Council and the Drayton Twinning Society, subject to the required monitoring information having been received*
- (c) *that Members consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and the Council priority in respect of the following applications:*
- (i) **DAMASCUS Youth Project, £6,500**, towards the cost of employing youth workers, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) **APAGE, £4,500**, towards printing and distributing the Arts Festival brochure, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iii) **Abbey Brass, £500**, towards the purchase of learner instruments, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iv) **Compass Café, £5,000**, towards the cost of employing a Youth Pastor, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (v) **Abingdon & District Musical Society, £891**, to cover any losses on a series of concerts, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (vi) **Abingdon Band, £2,500**, towards the purchase of instruments, music stands and banners, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (vii) **Abingdon Concert Band, £550**, towards the purchase of new music and display boards, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (viii) **Abingdon Town Council, £2,957**, towards the cost of updating and reprinting the mini-guide of Abingdon, Economic Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ix) **The Vale of White Horse Foyer, £1,670**, towards the cost of an outward bound personal development course, Social Agenda, Access priority
 - (x) **Appleford Parish Council and Village Hall Committee, £4,000**,

- towards the purchase of furniture and curtains, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (xi) **Age Concern, Oxfordshire, £8,608**, towards the cost of additional community development in Abingdon and surrounding villages, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (xii) **Abingdon on Thames Chamber of Commerce, £1,500**, towards the cost of staging the Abingdon Extravaganza evening, Economic Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (xiii) **The owner, 26 Pagisters Road, Abingdon, £211.50**, towards maintenance of trees which are subjects of a Tree Preservation Order, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (d) that Members consider grant applications which were awarded a grant by the Executive on 17 October and are being referred to the Area Committees for possible additional support:
- (xiv) **Oxfordshire Play Association, £5,673**, towards core costs of providing support services to play settings in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority (£1,500 awarded)
- (xv) **South & Vale Carers Centre, £7,938**, towards core costs of providing a support service to carers, Social Agenda, Access priority (£3,214 awarded)
- (xvi) **Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire, £3,000**, to impart a love of reading to children in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority (£1,000 awarded)
- (xvii) **Oxfordshire Playbus, £6,000**, towards a replacement sensory vehicle for children with special needs, Social Agenda, Access priority (£2,000 awarded)

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

This report supports the Council's Vision and Priorities in that it supports creating a cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment. It does not conflict with any Council strategy or any Council policy.

Furthermore, the award of grants to community and voluntary sector groups helps to deliver actions set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy which aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in the Vale.

4.0 The Community Grants Budget

4.1 The current budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee is as follows:

Budget b/f 2007/08	Budget 2008/09	Total budget 2008/09	Environment -al Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretion-ary Proportion
£3,727.97	£25,997.00	£29,724.97	£9,098.95	£9,098.95	£2,599.70	£5,199.40 + £3,727.97
	Allocated	£7,087.50	£1,087.50	£6,000	£0	£0
	Remaining	£22,637.	£8,011.45	£3,098.95	£2,599.70	£8,927.37

4.2 The meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee scheduled for 26 June was cancelled as no applications had been received.

4.3 Nonetheless the budget table above shows that £7,087.50 has already been allocated. Of this £1,087.50 was allocated at the March meeting of the Committee towards additional parish cleansing in 2008/09. Since the beginning of the current financial year two applications have been considered under officer delegation and in consultation with the Chair. A grant of £500 was awarded to Abingdon Pubwatch towards setting up a web-site with a further £500 being awarded to the MG Car Club Abingdon Works towards the costs of an exhibition on MG at the Abingdon Museum. In addition £2,500 has been allocated to Abingdon Town Council and £500 to the Drayton Twinning Society both towards twinning activities. Finally, a grant of up to £2,000 was awarded by e-mail to the Preston Road Community Centre as third party WREN funding towards the refurbishment of the men's toilets. The remaining budget is £22,637.47.

5.0 Twinning partnership grants (Service Level Agreements)

5.1 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 Abingdon Area the allocation is:

Abingdon Town Council £2,500
Drayton Twinning Society £500

5.2 The twinning associations, in common with all SLA partners, are asked to provide specified information to enable officers to monitor that the partnership is meeting its commitments under the SLA. This information has been received from Abingdon Town Council and is expected soon from the Drayton Twinning Society.

5.3 Members are asked to agree to the payment of the SLA grant to Abingdon Town Council and Drayton Twinning Society, subject to the required monitoring information having been received.

6.0 New grant applications

6.1 Applications totalling £39,387.50 have been received from the following organisations:

- (i) **DAMASCUS Youth Project, £6,500**, towards the cost of employing youth workers, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (ii) **APAGE, £4,500**, towards printing and distributing the Arts Festival brochure, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iii) **Abbey Brass, £500**, towards the purchase of learner instruments, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (iv) **Compass Café, £5,000**, towards the cost of employing a Youth Pastor, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (v) **Abingdon & District Musical Society, £891**, to cover any losses on a series of concerts, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (vi) **Abingdon Band, £2,500**, towards the purchase of instruments,

- music stands and banners, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
- (vii) **Abingdon Concert Band, £550**, towards the purchase of new music and display boards, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (viii) **Abingdon Town Council, £2,957**, towards the cost of updating and reprinting the mini-guide of Abingdon, Economic Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ix) **The Vale of White Horse Foyer, £1,670**, towards the cost of an outward bound personal development course, Social Agenda, Access priority
 - (x) **Appleford Parish Council and Village Hall Committee, £4,000**, towards the purchase of furniture and curtains, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (xi) **Age Concern, Oxfordshire, £8,608**, towards the cost of additional community development in Abingdon and surrounding villages, Social Agenda, Access priority
 - (xii) **Abingdon on Thames Chamber of Commerce, £1,500**, towards the cost of staging the Abingdon Extravaganza evening, Economic Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (xiii) **The owner, 26 Pagisters Road, Abingdon, £211.50**, towards maintenance of trees which are subjects of a Tree Preservation Order, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority

6.2 A grant narrative for these applications is included in Appendix A to this report. Members are requested to consider and determine the grant applications presented.

7.0 Applications referred from the Executive

7.1 At the meeting of the Executive on 17 October six grant applications were considered. A grant was awarded to five of the six applicants and the leader of the Council requested that all the applications be taken to the Area Committees for further consideration so that they could award an additional grant if they so wished. One of the applicants received the total grant requested and another applicant was seeking funding towards events which are in specific locations in the Vale but not in Abingdon. These two applications are not included but the Committee may wish to consider the four applications listed below.

7.2 In view of the timing of the October Executive meeting in relation to the Autumn meetings of the Area Committees, the Abingdon Area Committee is the only one which will have an opportunity to consider the applications at its Autumn meeting. The South East Area Committee had already met on 14 October and the agenda for the North East Area Committee meeting of 20 October had already been distributed, which meant that it was not possible for the committee to consider these applications. Nonetheless, the members of the latter committee were made aware of the leader's request and agreed to consider the applications at the committee's meeting in March 2009. The West Area Committee, scheduled to meet on 11 November, had been cancelled as the value of the grants being sought was less than £4,000.

- (xiv) **Oxfordshire Play Association, £5,673**, towards core costs of providing support services to play settings in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority (£1,500 awarded)

- (xv) **South & Vale Carers Centre, £7,938**, towards core costs of providing a support service to carers, Social Agenda, Access priority (£3,214 awarded)
- (xvi) **Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire, £3,000**, to impart a love of reading to children in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority (£1,000 awarded)
- (xvii) **Oxfordshire Playbus, £6,000**, towards a replacement sensory vehicle for children with special needs, Social Agenda, Access priority (£2,000 awarded)

A grant narrative for each of these applications is provided under Appendix B to this report.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

RODGER HOOD
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANNING AND COMMUNITY STRATEGY)

Background Papers: Grant applications and supporting documents