

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE**

10 MARCH 2009

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, to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting, to agree a principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing in 2009/10 and to make awards according to that principle.
- 1.2 The Contact Officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626)

2.0 Recommendations

- (a) *that Members note the remaining budget for the South East Area Committee for 2008/09*
- (b) *that members consider and determine the grant applications, the agenda and Council priority in respect of the following applications:*
- (i) **Wantage Town Football Club, £7,696**, towards equipment for the new football pitches, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) **Childrey Playing Field Trust, £6,212**, play area fencing, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iii) **1861 Wantage Air Training Corps, £6,000**, towards a second-hand mini-bus, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (c) *that Members consider grant applications which were awarded a grant by the Executive on 17 October 2008 and are being referred to the Area Committees for possible additional support:*
- (iv) **Oxfordshire Play Association, £4,173**, towards core costs of providing support services to play settings in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority
 - (v) **South & Vale Carers Centre, £4,724**, towards core costs of providing a support service to carers, Social Agenda, Access priority
 - (vi) **Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire, £2,000**, to impart a love of reading to children in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority
 - (vii) **Oxfordshire Playbus, £4,000**, towards a replacement sensory

vehicle for children with special needs, Social Agenda, Access priority

- (d) *that Members note the Community Grants budget for the South East Area for 2009/10*
- (e) *that Members request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2008/09 into 2009/10*
- (f) *that Members determine their principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing in 2009/10 and determine the applications received*

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

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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 South East Area Committee for Community Grants is as shown in the table below.

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
£1,135.88	£22,587.00	£23,722.88	£7,905.45	£7,905.45	£2,258.70	£5,653.28
	Allocated	£17,874.88	£4,224.88	£7,905.45 (+ £5,653.28 from Discr +£91.27 from Econ. = £13,650.5)	£91.27 to Social	£5,653.28 to Social
	Amount returned in whole of 08/09	£1,097.15				
	Remaining	£5,848.00 + £1,097.15 = £6,945.15	£3,680.57	£0	£2,167.43	£0

- 4.2 Members are advised that since the last meeting of the Committee two grants have been awarded under officer delegation and in consultation with the Chair. A grant of £300 was awarded to the Wantage Choral Society towards a Christmas concert organised in association with children from a local primary school and a brass ensemble, and a grant of £500 was awarded to Springline Amateur Dramatic

Society towards the cost of installing a sound system. Further details on the latter are provided below under paragraph 5.0.

- 4.3 One of the parish councils, to whom a grant was awarded for additional parish cleansing in 2008/09, has not needed to claim the whole grant, so £97.15 has been returned to the budget. After the delegated grants, this unclaimed grant portion and the previously returned grant of £1,000, the balance is £6,945.15.

5.0 Update on deferred grant application

- 5.1 At the last meeting of the Committee an application for £6,000 was considered from Springline Amateur Dramatic Society towards the cost of repairing and resurfacing the stage and installing a PA Sound System and other fixtures. It was agreed to defer determination of the application until the March meeting of the Committee pending the outcome of Springline's applications to other bodies, which comprised the bulk of the proposed funding for the project.
- 5.2 Springline provided an update on their funding position in December 2008. For the purposes of fundraising they had decided to separate the work into two projects, one covering the sound system and one covering the stage and lighting. Springline had applied to Grassroots for £8,000 for the sound system and were awarded £5,000 subject to being able to raise the remaining £3,000 from elsewhere by 31 March 2009. In December Springline had a shortfall of £900 and were concerned that they would miss out on the Grassroots funding, so applied to the Council for a grant of £500 which was awarded under officer delegation and in consultation with the Chair. As a result, they have withdrawn their application for this meeting of the South East Area Committee.
- 5.3 Springline may apply to the South East Area Committee for a grant towards the stage and lighting in the next financial year (June 2009). At that point they will know the outcome of their grant application to WREN.

6.0 New grant applications

- 6.1 Applications totalling £19,908 have been received from the following and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix A.
- (i) **Wantage Town Football Club, £7,696**, towards equipment for the new football pitches, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (ii) **Childrey Playing Field Trust, £6,212**, play area fencing, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority
 - (iii) **1861 Wantage Air Training Corps, £6,000**, towards a second-hand mini-bus, Social Agenda, Access priority

7.0 Grant 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 so no further consideration is necessary. The sixth application, where no grant was awarded by the Executive was withdrawn.

7.2 Due in part to the timing of the October Executive meeting in relation to the Autumn meetings of the Area Committees, and in part to the amount of grant awarded to new applications, none of the Area Committees was able to consider the referred applications at its Autumn meeting. The Area Committees agreed to consider the referred applications at their March meetings.

7.3 The referred applications are as follows and a narrative is included at Appendix B. The grant requested and awarded by the Executive is shown on the narratives. The amount of grant requested from the Area Committees, shown below, is the balance after the award from the Executive and other funding received since the Executive meeting.

- (iv) **Oxfordshire Play Association, £4,173**, towards core costs of providing support services to play settings in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (v) **South & Vale Carers Centre, £4,724**, towards core costs of providing a support service to carers, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (vi) **Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire, £2,000**, to impart a love of reading to children in the Vale, Social Agenda, Access priority
- (vii) **Oxfordshire Playbus, £4,000**, towards a replacement sensory vehicle for children with special needs, Social Agenda, Access priority

8.0 The 2009/10 community grants budget for the South East Area Committee

8.1 Following the meeting of the Council on 25 February 2009 and the approval of the Council's budget for 2009/10, members will receive from officers a verbal report of the South East Area Committee's community grants budget for 2009/10.

9.0 Carry forward of unspent grant

Members are invited to request that the Executive approves the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2008/09 into 2009/10.

10.0 Applications for additional parish cleansing for 2009/10

10.1 At the meeting of the South East Area Committee on 14 March 2006 the members of the Committee determined their principle for awarding such grants in the South East Area for 2006/07, namely that grants would be awarded but the level of grant would be limited to 40% of the total cost where that total was calculated on the basis of an hourly rate of £6.00. The same principle was adopted in 2007/08 and 2008/09.

10.2 The applications for additional parish cleansing grants, which have been received by the deadline, are listed in the table at Appendix C. Column 9 of the table shows the amount that would be awarded if the Committee adopts the same principle as for the current year

- 10.3 Members are asked to decide if they wish to continue using the same principle to award grants for additional parish cleansing in 2009/10 or to adopt a new principle. Once the principle has been agreed members are asked to determine the parish grant applications listed at Appendix C, noting that any grants awarded will be allocated from the 2009/10 budget.

TOBY WARREN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY STRATEGY

MATT PROSSER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers: Application forms and documents