

# Report to the ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE



**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009**

Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy  
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Report No. 19/09

Wards Affected  
All wards in the Abingdon  
Area

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

### Recommendations

- (a) *that Members note the budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee at the beginning of the financial year;*
- (b) *that Members consider and determine the following grant applications:*
  - (i) *The Abingdon Bridge, £5,000, towards the drug and alcohol service;*
  - (ii) *Abingdon Music Centre Trust, £1,300, towards providing music classes to wider audiences;*
  - (iii) *The Northcourt Centre, £3,000, towards a replacement floor;*
- (c) *that Members review the role of the arts in Abingdon and discuss future support for APAGE.*

### 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for Community Grants at the beginning of the financial year 2009/10 and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting.

## 2. Relationship with Corporate Plan

- 2.1 This report supports the Corporate Plan in that it concerns the provision of a value for money service, namely the Community Grants Scheme, that meets the needs of our residents and service users.
- 2.2 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

## 3. The Community Grants Budget

- 3.1 The current budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee for Community Grants is as shown in the table below.

<b>Budget b/f 2008/09</b>	<b>Budget 2009/10</b>	<b>Total budget 2009/10</b>	<b>Environmental Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Social Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Economic Agenda Proportion</b>	<b>Discretionary Proportion</b>
<b>£1,764.72</b>	<b>£26,096.00</b>	<b>£27,860.72</b>	<b>£9,751.25</b>	<b>£9,751.25</b>	<b>£2,786.07</b>	<b>£5,572.15</b>
	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>£4,545.00</b>	<b>£375.00</b>	<b>£4,170.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
	<b>Remaining budget</b>	<b>£23,315.72</b>	<b>£9,376.25</b>	<b>£5,581.25</b>	<b>£2,786.07</b>	<b>£5,572.15</b>

- 3.2 The sum of £3,670.00 had been allocated in November 2008 as funding towards two projects (Compass Café and The Vale of White Horse Foyer) in the event that the applicants were unsuccessful in obtaining a grant from the County's Chill Out Fund. At the March meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee Members were advised that the applicants had not been able to apply to the Chill Out Fund as the budget for 2008/09 had already been spent. They were advised that they would have to wait until the new financial year before submitting their application. In view of this and given that there were a number of applications before the Committee, Members agreed to free up funds from their 2008/09 budget for the new applications and to carry forward into 2009/10 their commitment to the two earlier applications. This sum has been included in the allocated budget for 2009/10.
- 3.3 In accordance with the practice over the last few years Members considered applications towards additional parish cleansing at their March meeting and awarded two grants totalling £375 to be allocated from their 2009/10 budget. This sum has also been included in the allocated budget.
- 3.4 Since the beginning of the financial year an application from Vale Housing Association towards printing a community newsletter has been considered under officer delegation in consultation with the Chair and a grant of £500 was awarded. This figure is also included in the figure for the budget already allocated giving a total figure of £4,545, as shown in the table above.
- 3.5 In addition, an application from Carbon Cutters is currently being considered under officer delegation and the outcome will be reported verbally at the meeting. If this application is successful the remaining budget may be reduced by up to £250.

#### 4. New grant applications

4.1 Applications totalling £9,300 have been received from the following applicants and there are narratives providing additional details at Appendix A.

- (i) **The Abingdon Bridge, £5,000**, towards the drug and alcohol service
- (ii) **Abingdon Music Centre Trust, £1,300**, towards providing music classes to wider audiences
- (iii) **The Northcourt Centre, £3,000**, towards a replacement floor

4.2 Narratives containing information about the applications are provided at Appendix A. Members are invited to consider and determine the grant applications received.

#### 5. Abingdon vitality and the role of the arts

5.1 Abingdon Performance Arts Group Enterprise (APAGE), the organisers of the Abingdon Arts Festival, has requested that the Council should class the group as a 'partner organisation' in order to give them increased certainty that they will receive a grant each year. The organisers feel that increased certainty will assist them in planning their annual programme.

5.2 The request from APAGE provides an opportunity for the Abingdon Area Committee to review the role of the arts in Abingdon and discuss future support for APAGE. To inform this discussion, Members should note that in 2008/09 the Abingdon Area Committee made the following grant awards for arts activity:

APAGE	£3,000.00
Abbey Brass	£300.00
Abingdon & District Musical Society	£250.00
Abingdon Band	£750.00
Abingdon Concert Band	£250.00
Abingdon Music Festival Association	£475.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,025.00</b>
Area Committee budget 2008/09	£29,725.00
Percentage awarded for arts activity	17%

#### 6. Financial, legal and any other implications

6.1 None

Background Papers: Grant applications and associated documents