

Executive

2 October 2009

Report of **Head of Corporate Strategy**

Report No. 50/09

Author: **Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer**

Telephone: **01235 547626**

Wards Affected
All

E-mail: **lorna.edwards@whitehorsedc.gov.uk**

Executive Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Tony de Vere**

Telephone: **01235 540391**

E-mail: **tony.devere@whitehorsedc.gov.uk**

Community Grants

Recommendations

- (a) that the Executive notes the remaining budget for 2009/10 for Vale-wide grants*
- (b) that the Executive agrees that the apportioning of the budget into different agendas is no longer required when the Executive or an area committee is considering or determining community grant applications*
- (c) that the Executive agrees a reduction of £ 15,000 in the council's community grants budget for 2009/10 that is apportioned between the Executive and area committees*
- (d) that the Executive considers and determines the grant applications that have been received and appraised*

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the Executive in respect of community grants and to invite Executive to consider and determine the grant applications received. The Executive currently considers grant applications twice each year, usually in April and October.

2. Relationship with Corporate Plan

- 2.1 The award of grants to community and voluntary sector groups helps to deliver actions set out in the Vale's 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 Executive community grants in 2009/10 is that £10,250 has been allocated and £11,464 remains to be allocated.
- 3.2 In the past the budget has been apportioned into different agendas and a discretionary proportion in order to guide Executive and area committees in the allocation of the budget. However Executive should note that the community grants scheme is a discretionary scheme and Executive and area committees are advised to allocate the budget to support the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy. This report therefore includes a recommendation that the apportioning of the budget into different agendas is no longer required.
- 3.3 The Executive is aware that the council is facing a difficult financial situation. Executive should be aware that budget monitoring of the cost centre from which community grants are funded has identified a deficit of £ 12,000 which there is still time to mitigate. This deficit has arisen due to a commitment to increase grant payments to Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau and Wantage Independent Advice Centre by the annual rate of inflation.
- 3.4 This report therefore includes a recommendation that the community grant budget is reduced by £15,000 to address the deficit of £12,000 with an allowance for any unforeseen costs.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the budget reduction is apportioned between the Executive and the area committees in the same way that the annual community grants budget is apportioned. The Executive receives 21 per cent of the budget and the remainder is apportioned according to the percentage of the electorate in each area on 1 January 2009. Therefore the budget reduction is apportioned as follows:

	Reduction	Remaining
Executive	£3,150	£8,314
Abingdon area committee	£3,786	£10,830
North East area committee	£ 2,710	£13,670
South East area committee	£3,264	£8,531
West area committee	£2,090	£413
Total	£15,000	£41,758

- 3.6 If the Executive agrees to the budget reduction and the proposed apportionment of the reduction, Executive should note that the remaining Executive community grants budget for 2009/10 will be £8,314.

4. New grant applications

- 4.1 Applications totalling £9,754 have been received from the following applicants and narratives providing additional details are in Appendix A:
- **KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now), £3,000**, towards running costs of providing sport and recreation activities for children and young people with special needs
 - **OCVA (Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action), £2,500**, towards running costs of the Volunteer Centre and expansion of its work in the Vale
 - **MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Therapy Centre, £1,471**, towards running costs of providing support to MS sufferers
 - **My Life My Choice, £2,783**, towards running costs of four self-advocacy groups for people with learning difficulties in the Vale

5. Options

5.1 There are no alternative options to the consideration and determination of the grant applications received.

6. Financial, legal and any other implications

6.1 Grant awards, if any, will be allocated from an Executive community grants budget and prior to determination Executive will be advised of the amount available to allocate.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Executive is requested to consider and determine the grant applications.

Background Papers

Community grant applications and supporting documents

Appendix:

Narratives summarising the applications received