

Report to the SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE



13 October 2009

Report of **Head of Corporate Strategy**

Report No. 57/09

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Wards Affected
All wards in the South
East Area

Community Grants

Recommendations

- (a) that the South East Area Committee notes the remaining budget for community grants in 2009/10 for the south east area of the Vale*
- (b) that the South East Area Committee considers and determines the SLA grants to twinning associations*
- (c) that the South East Area Committee considers and determines the new 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 South East Area Committee in respect of community grants and to invite the committee to consider and determine the grant applications received.

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 table below shows the budget position for the South East Area Committee after the last meeting of the committee in June 2009. The figure for the remaining budget is likely to change following the meeting of Executive on 2 October as explained under paragraphs 3.2 to 3.5 below. The new figure for the remaining budget will be confirmed verbally at the meeting.

Budget b/f 2008/09	Budget 2009/10	Total budget 2009/10	Environmental Agenda Proportion	Social Agenda Proportion	Economic Agenda Proportion	Discretionary Proportion
£0	£22,495	£22,495	£7,873	£7,874	£2,249	£4,499
	Allocated	£10,700	£6,200	£2,500	£2,000	£0
	Remaining budget	£11,795	£1,673	£5,374	£249	£4,499

3.2 The South East Area Committee is aware that the council is facing a difficult financial situation. 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.

3.3 Executive will consider a report on 2 October which includes a recommendation to reduce the community grant budget by £15,000 to address the deficit of £12,000 with an allowance for any unforeseen costs.

3.4 The report proposes 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 proposed 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

3.5 If the Executive agrees to the budget reduction and the proposed apportionment of the reduction, the South East Area Committee's remaining community grants budget for 2009/10 will be £8,531.

3.6 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, 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 Vale Sustainable Community Strategy. Executive will consider a report on 2 October recommending that the apportioning of the budget into different agendas is no longer required. Officers will advise the South East Area Committee on

the outcome. In the meantime, the apportionment is shown according to agendas in the table under paragraph 3.1.

4. Twinning partnership grants (Service Level Agreements)

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 signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to this effect. The funding for the SLA is allocated from Area Committee budgets. In the South East Area the allocation is:

Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association £2,000
Hendreds Twinning Group £500

- 4.1 The original SLAs ran from 2004-2007 and came to an end on 31 March 2007. The Executive agreed that all SLAs should be extended. The SLAs have been extended on an annual basis for the last two years pending a review of all service level agreements. 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. Both twinning associations have submitted the required monitoring information for 2009/10.
- 4.2 Members are asked to consider and determine the SLA grants to the Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association and the Hendreds Twinning Group.
- 4.3 If the budget reduction, outlined above under item 3, is agreed by the Executive and if the allocations for twinning SLAs are agreed in full by the South East Area Committee, the remaining budget for the committee will be £6,031.

5 New grant applications

- 5.1 Applications totalling £12,200 have been received from the following applicants. Narratives providing additional details are in Appendix A:
- **Wantage and Grove Street Pastors, £5,000**, towards running costs, Social Agenda
 - **East Hendred Community Centre, £500**, towards replacement fencing, Environmental Agenda
 - **Wantage Betjeman Festival of Literature and Poetry, £6,700**, towards pre-festival events, Social Agenda
- 5.2 Members are requested to consider and determine the new grant applications received.

6. Options

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

7. Financial, legal and any other implications

- 7.1 Grant awards, if any, will be allocated from a South East Area community grants budget and prior to determination the committee will be advised of the amount available to allocate.

8. Conclusion

8.1 The South East Area Committee is requested to consider and determine the SLA grant to the two twinning associations located in the south east area of the Vale and to consider and determine the new grant applications received.

Background Papers

Community grant applications and supporting documents

Appendix:

Narratives summarising the applications received