

CABINET

3 March 2004

COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2004/05

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Contact Officer: Sally Horne Tel No: 01962 848582

RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB747 'Community Grants – Policy and Review 2004/05' 3 December 2003

CAS21 'Community Grants – Monitoring and Service Level Agreements' 20 January 2004.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report seeks approval for the level of revenue grants to be awarded to voluntary and community sector applicants in 2004/05. Cabinet is also requested to approve the establishment of a budget for the Community Chest initiative.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet: -

1 Approves the following revenue grant awards for key clients for 2004/05, from the approved revenue grants budget on condition that each organisation enters into a clearly defined service level agreement with appropriate performance targets:

- |       |                                       |          |
|-------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| (i)   | Winchester Area Community Action      | £99,024  |
| (ii)  | Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau     | £125,298 |
| (iii) | Bishop Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau | £40,020  |

(iv)	Trinity Centre	£84,840
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(v)	Hatfair	£33,330
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2 Subject to recommendation 5 below, approves the following revenue grant awards for 2004/05, from the approved revenue grants budget on condition that each organisation enters into clearly defined service level agreement with appropriate performance targets:

(i)	Bishop Waltham Festival	£3,000
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(ii)	Carroll Youth Centre	£4,700
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(iii)	Homestart Meon Valley	£10,000
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(iv)	Relate	£5,000
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(v)	SNAPS	£1,133
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(vi)	Tower Arts Centre	£21,000
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(vii)	Waterlooville Citizens Advice Bureau	£1,259
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(viii)	Winchester Carer Centre	£1,056
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(ix)	Winchester Detached Youth Project	£8,500
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(x)	Winchester Group for Disabled People	£1,500
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(xi)	Winchester Young Carers	£2,100
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(xii)	Winchester Festival	£2,000
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(xiii)	Winnall Youth Club	£1,000
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(xiv)	Bird in the Hand Employment Project	£1,170
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(xv)	Winchester Churches Housing Group Ltd	£3,000
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(xvi)	Winchester Churches Nightshelter	£10,000
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(xvii)	ROCC	£2,000
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(xviii)	SCRATCH	£1,000
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(xix)	Stonham Housing Association	£6,000
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(xx)	Victoria Housing Project	£4,350
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(xxi)	Winchester Area Community Action	£5,000
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(xxii) Winchester Housing Trust Ltd £5,000

3 Approves the following awards for 2004/05 from the Revenue Grant Reserve account, on condition that each organisation enters into a clearly defined service level agreement with appropriate performance targets:

(i) Winchester and District Savers £5,000

(ii) Knowle Community Buildings Association £5,000

4 Expresses regret that it is unable to support the following applications:

(i) Roving Action Teams (RATS)

(ii) Early Music Now

(iii) Winchester Basics Bank

(iv) Denmead Festival

(v) Kudos Employment Ltd

(vi) Winchester Bereavement Support

(vii) 14-25 Winchester Youth Counselling

(viii) The Winged Fellowship

(ix) The Olive Branch

(x) King Alfred's Youth Activity Centre

(xi) DeafPLUS

(xii) SVA Disability Awareness

(xiii) Winchester Festival of Art and The Mind

(xiv) Friends of the Family (Winchester)

(xv) Colden Common Preschool Playgroup

(xvi) Winchester Alliance for Mental Health

(xvii) Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling

(xviii) Whiteley First Responders Scheme

- 5 That the Town Forum be invited to consider providing the funding for the proposed grants to the Carroll Youth Centre and Winnall Youth Club from the Town Charge in view of the constraints on the Community Services grants budget and the balances available for the Town Charge. Should this be acceptable to Town Forum, that Cabinet approves a 2.5% increase in grants to key clients (based on 2003/04 grant awards)
- 6 That the Town Forum considers whether it wishes to recommend that an award be made to King Alfred's Youth Activity Centre, having regard to advice from the Director of Community Services.
- 7 Approves the allocation from the revenue grant budget of £10,000, plus any surplus from the revenue grant budget after the allocation of the above grants, for 2004/05 for the establishment of a Community Chest programme.

CABINET3 March 2004COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2004/05REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICESDETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the formal requests for revenue grant assistance from the City Council in 2004/05 and recommends appropriate levels of support for each.
- 1.2 The report explains the rationale and underlying assumptions leading to the recommended grant awards. It is important to note that the figures for the revenue budget used throughout this report are those proposed by Cabinet on 11 February 2003 and any subsequent change to the budget may require adjustments which will be reported verbally.
- 1.3 Further to agreement in principle by Cabinet to the establishment of a Community Chest scheme, the policy and financial arrangements for this initiative have been outlined.
- 1.4 The original application forms and supporting documents are held in the Central Business Unit of the Community Services Department. In the interests of economy, additional copies have not been taken however any Member wishing to study the forms prior to the meeting should contact the Partnership and External Funding Officer who will make the appropriate arrangements.

2 Application Details

- 2.1 A summary of each application has been set out in Appendix I. Cabinet will note that the total demand for grant assistance of £660,702 outstrips the resources available by over £175,000. Notwithstanding the fact that every application has considerable merit, each has been subject to thorough scrutiny and evaluation in order to present a fair and equitable funding position to Members. A detailed explanation of the assumptions underlying the grant recommendations and the assessment criteria used are outlined in section 5.
- 2.2 Appendix I shows the details of past grant awards as well as the requested grant and the recommended approval amount for 2004/05. Any issues requiring note have been specified in the 'Comments' column. This column of the table also shows the percentage variation in the 2004/05 grant award in comparison with the current financial year (if any). It should be noted that the majority of recommendations are for standstill budget with the key clients receiving an inflationary increase of 1%. Due to limited resources it has not been possible to accommodate requests for growth from any other current clients.
- 2.3 One possible way of generating further resources within the revenue budget is proposed below in section 4 and if accepted by Cabinet and the Town Forum would

release sufficient funding to enable a 2.5% inflationary increase for the five key clients. Appendix I includes a column for such an increase to demonstrate the financial implications.

- 2.4 It should be noted that the proportion of funds in 2004/05 allocated to support the five 'key' clients, i.e. Winchester Area Community Action, Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau, Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau, Trinity Centre and the Hatfair, represents 79% of the total available budget for revenue grants (based on a 1% increase to these clients). The apportionment of the available budget between 'arts', 'community' and 'housing' organisations is 12.5%, 79.7% and 7.8% respectively. The links with strategies and corporate priorities have been taken from the Council's 'Strategic Priorities 2004 – 2007', the 'Cultural Strategy', the 'Social Inclusion Strategy' and the 'Winchester District Arts Strategy'.

### 3 Resource Issues

- 3.1 Prior to allocating the revenue grants it is recommended that £10,000 of the budget is set aside for the Community Chest grant scheme, which was agreed in principle by Cabinet on 3 December 2003. It is also advised that this is supplemented by any surplus from the revenue grants budget once the recommended awards have been made. This balance will depend on the position with the Town Forum and whether a 1% or 2.5% increase is awarded to the key clients (details outlined below). The Community Chest grants scheme will provide small grants for one-off pieces of expenditure and will be piloted across the District for 2004/05. This allocation of £10,000 leaves the sum of £483,400 available for revenue grants in 2004/05.
- 3.2 As Cabinet will appreciate the budget is highly over-subscribed with a total of nineteen new applicant organisations requesting grant and it should be noted that any upward amendment to a recommended grant level can only be accommodated by a compensatory saving elsewhere.

### 4 The Town Forum.

- 4.1 The recommendation for revenue grants currently includes grant awards to two organisations which investigation suggests serve mainly the town area (Carroll Youth Centre and Winnall Youth Club). Given the pressure on the revenue grants budget and the significant reserves in the Town Account, it would seem reasonable to fund these from that account. This would require consultation with the Town Forum on the merits of the applications.
- 4.2 A new application falling into the same category has also been received from the King Alfred's Youth Activity Centre. It is not possible to recommend support for this application from the Community Services revenue grant budget due to the pressure on funding.
- 4.3 It is suggested that Cabinet invite the Town Forum to consider whether any or all of the grants to these three organisations be made and met from the Town Charge in 2004/05, having regard to advice from the Director of Community Services.
- 4.4 If the proposed grants to the Carroll Youth Centre and Winnall Youth Club are met from the Town Charge this would release sufficient resources within the revenue grants budget to award a 2.5% inflationary increase rather than the current proposal of 1% to the five key clients.

## 5 Assessment Process

- 5.1 A number of very difficult decisions had to be made in order to reconcile supply and demand for the revenue grants. The recommendations in Appendix I represent the outcome of a robust evaluation process. Each application has been considered against the assessment matrix, which is attached as Appendix II and which was issued with the application forms. Considerable effort has been made to ensure that each application has been subjected to a fair and objective process.
- 5.2 Whilst every effort has been made to increase the range and number of organisations receiving revenue grant, this comes at a cost to those clients already receiving grant. Every attempt has been made to minimise any negative impact on the Council's key clients and to keep reductions to others to manageable proportions. It is acknowledged that the Key Clients are in a vulnerable funding position and that Winchester City Council support is vital. Whilst a balance needs to be created between supporting existing and encouraging new clients within the tight budget restraints, support for new applicants from the revenue budget has not been possible this financial year.
- 5.3 In addition to the inflationary increase proposed for Winchester Area Community Action, an additional £2,000 will be vired from the Chief Executive's department. This is to further support the organisation in its important role on the Local Strategic Partnership and will be revisited annually by the Chief Executive's department. For ease of administration it will be included in the Service Level Agreement for the main revenue grant.
- 5.4 It is recommended that two clients from 2003/04 do not receive revenue grant in 2004/05. The first of these is Early Music Now, which it was felt would be more appropriately funded from alternative sources given the low level of grant available (less than £500). The second is Roving Action Teams (RATS). This project received a 50% grant cut in 2003/04 and it was considered that, in terms of added value, the grant adds very little to the service available in the Winchester District.
- 5.5 Of the nineteen new applicants it is recommended that none are supported from the main revenue budget. However, it is proposed that two – Knowle Community Buildings Association and Winchester & District Savers – are funded from the grant reserve. Both of these applications are seeking 'pump-priming', start up costs which, though they are not capital grants, will be of a one-off nature and therefore involve no long term commitment from the revenue budget.

## 6 Transfer of Voluntary Sector Housing Grants

- 6.1 Members will be aware that the funding for Voluntary Sector Housing grants will transfer to Community Services from 2004/05.
- 6.2 As part of the transfer, these clients have been required to complete the full 'new applicants' application form despite being existing clients. This has ensured that these organisations meet the comprehensive requirements in terms of constitution, accounts and other audit processes in line with the policy and criteria for the revenue grants and ensured this information is held on file. These clients have also been assessed using the process and matrix outlined above. The percentage budget allocated to these clients is 7.8% and these awards have had no detrimental impact on awards to them or to existing Community Services clients.

- 6.3 In future financial years the housing grants will be fully absorbed in the Community Services grant process and these clients will be treated identically to existing clients.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

7 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 7.1 The community grants scheme is of direct relevance to a number of key objectives and priority areas: -

- Working with and supporting the voluntary sector to deliver the most appropriate services for local communities - Corporate Priority
- Helping the voluntary sector to provide better services to the community - Cultural Strategy
- Recognising the importance of small-scale community facilities and services and support these wherever possible - Cultural Strategy.
- Providing more and better leisure opportunities which meet the needs of young people and people after retirement - Cultural Strategy

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Resources issues are identified in the body of the report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix I Application Details 2004/05

Appendix II Assessment Matrix