

CABINET

8 FEBRUARY 2005

COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2005/06

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Contact Officer: Sally Horne Tel No: 01962 848582

RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB747 'Community Grants – Policy and Review 2004/05' 03 December 2003

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

CAB826 'Community Grants – Revenue Awards 2004/05' 03 March 2004

WTF29 'Community Grants – Capital and Revenue 2004/05' 18 May 2004

WTF42 'Community Grants – Revenue Awards 2005/06' 06 January 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report seeks approval for the level of revenue grants to be awarded to voluntary and community sector applicants in 2005/06.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet: -

1 Approves the following revenue grant awards to key clients from the proposed revenue grants budget for 2005/06 on condition that each organisation enters into a clearly defined service level agreement with appropriate performance targets:

(i) Winchester Area Community Action £100,465

(ii)	Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau	£127,158
(iii)	Bishop Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau	£40,615
(iv)	Trinity Centre	£86,100
(v)	Hatfair	£33,825

2 Approves the following revenue grant awards for 2005/06, 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
(ii)	Homestart Meon Valley	£10,000
(iii)	Relate	£5,000
(iv)	ROCC	£2,000
(v)	SCRATCH	£1,500
(vi)	SNAPS	£1,200
(vii)	Stonham Housing Association	£6,000
(viii)	The Olive Branch	£1,000
(ix)	Tower Arts Centre	£21,000
(x)	Victoria Housing Project	£3,500
(xi)	Waterlooville Citizens Advice Bureau	£1,290
(xii)	Winchester Area Community Action	£5,000
(xiii)	Winchester and District Savers	£15,000
(xiv)	Winchester Carer Centre	£1,100
(xv)	Winchester Churches Housing Group Ltd	£3,000
(xvi)	Winchester Churches Nightshelter	£10,000
(xvii)	Winchester Detached Youth Project	£8,500
(xviii)	Winchester Festival of Art and the Mind	£1,000
(xix)	Winchester Festival	£2,000
(xx)	Winchester Folk Festival	£1,000

(xxi)	Winchester Group for Disabled People	£1,500
(xxii)	Winchester Rent Deposit Scheme	£4,800
(xxiii)	Winchester Young Carers	£2,100

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)	Homestart Winchester and Districts	£5,000
-----	------------------------------------	--------

4 Approves the recommendations of the Town Forum for grant awards from the Town Account to:

(i)	Carroll Youth Centre	£5,000
(ii)	King Alfred Youth Activity Centre	£8,112
(iii)	Winnall Junior Youth Club	£1,000
(iv)	Winnall Community Centre Playscheme	£5,000
(v)	Winnall Rock School	£5,000
(vi)	Winchester Live at Home Scheme	£5,000

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

- (ii) deafPLUS South
- (iii) Pheonix House Alpha Service
- (iv) Platform 4
- (v) Plaza Theatre Romsey
- (vi) The Saturday Venture Association
- (vii) The Winchester Gallery

6 Approves the allocation from the revenue grant budget of £10,000 for 2005/06 for the establishment of a Community Chest programme.

CABINET8 FEBRUARY 2005COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2005/06REPORT 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 2005/06 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 in the draft 2005/06 budget considered by Cabinet at its last meeting and any subsequent change to the budget will require adjustments to the awards proposed by Cabinet at a later date.
- 1.3 Further to the success of the Community Chest scheme in 2004/05 a request for a further budget allocation is made to enable the continuation of this small grants programme.
- 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 request for grant assistance of £687,447 outstrips the resources available by over £190,000. 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 2005/06. Any issues requiring note have been specified in the 'Comments' column. This column of the table also shows the variation in the 2005/06 grant award in comparison with the current financial year (if any). It should be noted that the majority of recommendations are for standstill budget. Due to limited resources it has not been possible to accommodate requests for growth from any of the key or current clients with one exception (detailed in section 5).
- 2.3 It should also be noted that the proportion of funds in 2005/06 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 78% of the total available budget for revenue grants. No increase in grant is proposed for the key clients in 2005/06. The apportionment of the available budget between 'arts', 'community' and 'housing' organisations is 13%, 80% and 7% 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'. Consideration has also been given to the Community Strategy in assessing the applications and detail is provided as appropriate in Appendix I.

3 Resource Issues

- 3.1 The available budget for the revenue grants in 2005/06 is £506,400 and includes an increase of £15,000 on last financial year.
- 3.2 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 established by Cabinet on 03 March 2004. This provides very small grants for one-off items of expenditure. To date in 2004/05 27 grants have been awarded to a wide range of community organisations. This allocation of £10,000 to the Community Chest leaves a remaining budget of £496,400 for revenue grants. £250 will be drawn from the reserve (which stands at some £29,000) to balance the sum available against proposed awards.
- 3.3 As Cabinet will appreciate the revenue grants scheme is highly over-subscribed with a total of 30 existing and 12 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 Further to the agreement of the Town Forum to the following arrangements, a number of grants have been recommended for consideration from the Town Charge. The Town Forum considers applications of relevance to the Town Area only and perform a funding role similar to that of the Parish Councils. All applications considered by the Town Forum have been identified as such in Appendix I.
- 4.2 Applications affecting the Town Area only were considered by the Town Forum on 6 January 2005 and the recommendations are outlined above. It should be noted that the recommendation to King Alfred Youth Activity Centre and Winnall Rock School are subject to conditions relating to their landlord and tenant relationship. These will be incorporated into their respective Service Level Agreements.
- 4.3 It should be further noted that the recommendation of grant to the Winchester Live at Home Scheme is currently a provisional amount subject to a further report to clarify details at the next meeting. The Town Forum is minded to support the organisation up to a maximum of £5,000, and Cabinet is asked to approve this subject to the Town Forum confirming that the grant can be released.

5. Assessment Process

- 5.1 A number of 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 been restricted to two organisations this financial year.
- 5.3 In addition to the grant proposed for Winchester Area Community Action, an additional £2,000 will be vired from the Chief Executive's department (This is included in the overall grant sum recommended). This is to 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 one applicant organisation receives a significant increase in grant. Substantial funding is required to assist in the next crucial phase of the Winchester and District Savers project (WADS), which is the proposed credit union for the District. This increase is possible largely due to the planned increase of £15,000 to the revenue grants budget. It is not anticipated that WADS will require similar levels of long-term funding since the project should either move towards self sufficiency after this phase of support or demonstrate that there is insufficient interest in a local credit union and wind itself up.
- 5.5 It is not recommended that any clients supported in 2004/05 are rejected for revenue grant in 2005/06 with the majority of organisations receiving a recommendation for a standstill grant award.
- 5.6 Of the twelve new applicants it is recommended that two are supported from the main revenue budget. These are the Olive Branch and The Winchester Festival of Art and the Mind. These recommendations are on the basis of the assessment, scoring and availability of budget.
- 5.7 It is also proposed that Homestart Winchester and Districts is funded from the grant reserve. This application is seeking 'pump-priming', start up costs which, though they are not capital grants, will be of a one-off nature. The recommended amount can be accommodated from the grants reserve which currently stands at £29,121. It should be noted that this new organisation is likely to require revenue support for core costs in future years.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:6. CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

6.1 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

A number of the above projects are assisted under the well-being power in S 2 Local Government Act 2000. This is the power to promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area – and is relevant to partnership working with other community organisations. The Council has to have regard to any relevant provisions of the community strategy, as well as the above strategies in making grants.

All of the above projects contribute to themes of the community strategy, in particular the themes of housing, health and wellbeing, leisure and recreation and inclusive society as well as the key area of investing in youth. Detail for each application is provided in Appendix I.

The Statutory Guidance on the well-being power would not prevent grants being made as proposed. Some projects can also be justified under other powers eg. S19 Local Government Act 1976 – non-profit making recreation projects; S142 Local Government Act 1972 – advice on people's rights; S 145 Local Government Act 1972 – promotion of the arts and S73 Housing Act 1985 – assistance for voluntary organisations concerned with homelessness.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 Resources issues are identified in the body of the report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix I Application Details 2005/06

Appendix II Assessment Matrix