

CABINET

8 FEBRUARY 2005

COMMUNITY GRANTS – CAPITAL 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.

CAB832 'Community Grants – Capital Awards 2005/06' – 17 March 2004.

CAB910 'Community Grants – Emergency Capital Grant' – 27 July 2004.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report contains details of applications for capital grant aid in 2005/06 and recommends appropriate levels of support based on the policies and criteria currently in force and the availability of resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1 That the following capital grants be approved, subject to compliance with the conditions of grant currently in force and any additional conditions specified in Appendix 1:-

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|-------|---------------------------------|--------|
| (i) | Bishops Waltham Museum Trust | £1,000 |
| (ii) | Cheriton Village Hall | £5,000 |
| (iii) | Colden Common Community Minibus | £5,000 |

(iv)	Denmead Memorial Hall	£3,340
(vi)	Droxford Community Hall	£8,000
(vii)	Swanmore Methodist Church	£10,000
(viii)	The Colour Factory	£10,000
(ix)	Victoria Hall	£6,000
(x)	Winchester Lido Sports Association	£3,000

2 That subject to the views of the Winchester Town Forum the following grants are made from the Winchester Town Account:

(i)	The Colour Factory	£5,000
(ii)	Winchester Lido Sports Association	£1,500

3 That the following applications for capital grant are not supported:

- (i) Denmead Memorial Hall (second application)
- (ii) Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau

4 That the following application is funded as an exception:

(i)	The Rowans Hospice	£5,000
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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present details of the community capital grant applications for 2005/06 and to recommend appropriate levels of support for each, as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The original application forms and supporting documents are held in the Arts and Community section of the Community Services Department. In the interests of economy, additional copies have not been taken. However, any Member wishing to study the forms should contact the Partnership and External Funding Officer to arrange.

2 Resources

- 2.1 Budget provision of £90,000 has been made in the Council's capital programme to support eligible applications for grant aid.
- 2.2 In addition to this budget, a grants reserve is maintained. This is primarily to support emergency grant requests (both capital and revenue) that may arise during the course of the year. Taking into account all commitments being held in the reserve and interest applied in the current year, the anticipated balance at the 1 April 2005 is £29,121.
- 2.3 Twelve applications for capital grant were received and the total amount of grant requested for 2005/06 was in excess of the budget (two of the applications are significant building projects) at £160,000. The number of applications is fewer than in the previous financial year and this may reflect the impact of the amended timescales for applications this year. This report recommends grant awards totalling £61,340 for 2005/06, which is within the current budget allocation.

3 Application Details

- 3.1 Details of all the applications received are shown in Appendix 1. Each project has been subject to a rigorous evaluation to assess the level of community benefit, compliance with the policies and criteria currently in force, the level of external funding already secured, and sustainability. The recommended grant levels reflect the results of these considerations.
- 3.2 Members are reminded that the maximum level of City Council grant aid available to each project is double the contribution from the local parish council or the Winchester Town Account, except where the tax base for the Parish is 150 or below. This exception does not apply to any of the applications received.

- 3.3 The majority of applications relate to works necessary to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and this has been a key priority of the capital grants scheme for the last three years. Other projects recommended for approval focus on facilities in areas of social exclusion and isolation.
- 3.4 It should be noted that a financial commitment is carried forward from 2004/05 for Kilmeston Village Hall. This project was awarded a total capital grant of £20,000 with £15,000 from the 2004/05 budget and £5,000 from the 2005/06 budget.
- 3.5 Two of the applications have recommendations for two year grant commitments. These are The Colour Factory and Swanmore Methodist Church. In both cases the organisations are undertaking significant building projects which could span two years in completion. Consideration was also given to the financial commitment that would also be required from the Parish Council and Town Forum. The need to prevent unnecessary financial pressures being placed on these sources of funding was taken into account. The commitment from each, had the grants been recommended for one year only would have been £10,000. For these reasons it is recommended that the grant awards are for £10,000 in each financial year (2005/06 and 2006/07) subject to the necessary match funding in each year from the Parish Council or Town Forum as appropriate (£5,000 in each year).
- 3.6 It should be noted that a financial commitment from the Town Forum will be required for The Colour Factory and the Winchester Lido Sports Association. Due to timescales this commitment has not been secured in advance of the Cabinet report and any approval of grants to these organisations should be subject to the appropriate levels of funding being agreed by the Town Forum at the meeting on 3 March 2005.
- 3.7 It is recommended that two applications are not supported. These are a second application from Denmead Memorial Hall and an application from Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau. Whilst the works proposed may be worthwhile and beneficial they are not a key priority for the City Council at this time and are not essential to keeping the facility open for community use. Appendix I outlines details of these applications and reasons for not funding. Where possible these organisations will be advised of alternative funding options.
- 3.8 A request for capital financial support has also been received from The Rowans Hospice. The organisation / project is not eligible to apply to the capital grants scheme as Parish Council funding has not and will not be secured. Cabinet is however requested to give consideration to the project outside of the capital grant rules. In considering the request, it was felt that the work of the Hospice is highly beneficial to residents from across the District and was linked with health considerations in the Community Strategy. It was also felt that consideration should be given to the significant contribution proposed from Portsmouth City Council and the use of this as a substitute to the parish money. It is stressed that any such grant award would be a one-off exception and subject to the organisation securing the financial contribution from Portsmouth City Council.

4 Other Capital Projects for Consideration

- 4.1 Cabinet will note that the above recommendations account for approximately 70% of the budget, with £28,660 remaining. This amount is to be held in the capital grant account as Community Services are aware of a number of larger scale capital projects likely to come to fruition during 2005/06 which will require capital grant assistance. Where resources permit and the applications meet the grants criteria, it

is proposed to fund such projects from the capital grants budget. It should be noted that once finalised some of the financial requirements of the projects may be too extensive for the budget and consideration at that stage will need to be given to alternative sources of support from the City Council.

- 4.2 Cabinet may recall that the capital grant report for 2004/05 highlighted the progress with the plans for improved sports facilities at Perins School and the possible need for City Council funding during phase one of the development. Funding is now in place for the first phase of the project and it is now anticipated that funding from the City Council will be requested for phase two, which will concentrate on an additional sports hall facility for community use. The estimated funding request from the City Council is likely to be in the region of £150,000 and once details are finalised a further report will be submitted for consideration by Cabinet.
- 4.3 Again, Cabinet may recall that the capital grant report for 2004/05 highlighted the needs of Bishops Waltham & Meon Valley Citizen's Advice Bureau. The Bureau requires new premises and had hoped to be included in the new Church community centre planned (by supplying a capital contribution to the building in exchange for a long-term peppercorn rent lease arrangement). Unfortunately the building project has been significantly delayed, however the need for new premises continues and the Bureau is currently considering alternative options. Depending on the outcome and success of the options it is highly likely that the Bureau will still require a significant capital input. If and when further details, in particular financial details, become apparent a report will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.
- 4.4 Discussions with Ridgemede School Pool have been taking place with regards to a project to make significant physical improvements to the swimming facilities at this school which have considerable community use. Whilst still at a very early stage this is a project likely to request capital financial support from the City Council.
- 4.5 The City Council is also aware of proposals to redevelop Chesil Theatre in partnership with St John's Charity. This project is now at a planning stage and it is anticipated that some of the capital works may take place during 2005/06. The project would concentrate on updating and improving the theatre facilities including the construction of a jointly accessible community room / facility between the theatre and the St John's building. The project is likely to request approximately £100,000 from the City Council over a number of years.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

5 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 5.1 The community capital grants scheme helps address many of the Council's aims for the district including the promotion of a healthier, safer and more caring community, and the encouragement of a variety of cultural opportunities for all. The value of local facilities in terms of wider community benefit, and the need to protect and enhance provision is a stated priority in the recently adopted Cultural Strategy for the District.
- 5.2 The only grant which would have to be authorised under the scope of the well being power in S2 of the Local Government Act 2000 is the proposed grant to The Rowans. There is nothing in the statutory guidance which would prevent the use of the power for this purpose. The Rowans contributes to health and wellbeing theme of the

