

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

3 MARCH 2005.

COMMUNITY GRANTS – CAPITAL AWARDS 2005/06

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

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

CAB832 - Community Grants – Capital Awards 2004/05 - 17 March 2004

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

CAB1014 – Community Grants – Capital Awards 2005/06 – 08 February 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report asks the Town Forum to consider and approve the Town Charge element of funding towards community capital grant applications in 2005/06.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Forum recommend to Cabinet:

- 1 The following capital grants for 2005/06 from the Town Charge:
 - (i) The Colour Factory £5,000
 - (ii) Winchester Lido Sports Association £1,500
- 2 The following capital grant commitment for 2006/07 from the Town Charge:
 - (i) The Colour Factory £5,000

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the requests made for capital grants by projects serving the Winchester Town area. As in previous years, projects located in the Town area are required to secure a contribution towards the costs from the Town Charge.
- 1.2 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 necessary arrangements.

2 Assessment Process

- 2.1 A number of difficult decisions have had to be made in order to reconcile supply and demand for the capital grants. The recommendations in this report represent the outcome of a robust evaluation process. Considerable effort has been made to ensure that each application has been subjected to a fair and objective process. This process forms the basis of the recommendations outlined in this report.

3 Capital Grants

- 3.1 A summary of each application relating exclusively to the Town area has been set out in Appendix I. As Members will be aware, capital grant applications usually require an element of 'match' funding from either the relevant Parish Council or the Town Account. The agreed policy is that the grant from the City Council's distinct general fund can be no more than twice the amount agreed by the relevant local Council. Applicants unsuccessful in securing a Town Forum contribution will therefore not be eligible to receive the City Council element of the award.
- 3.2 Cabinet considered the District element of the grant on 8 February 2005 and this report reflects the minimum requirements for match funding needed to support the approvals. Three applications were considered relating exclusively to the Town area, two of which received recommendations for approval.
- 3.3 One of the applications – that of the Colour Factory - requires financial support over two years. The Colour Factory was formed in 1994 and is a collaborative workshop managed by four local artists. The project moved to Keepers Cottage in Winchester last October and has secured a long-term lease from the City Council for the building. In order to develop the community aspect of their work, The Colour Factory has applied to the capital grants programme for financial support to refurbish and extend the current building. This will provide disabled access and facilities to the property as

well as a public education area, a public gallery, studio space and facilities for a live-in artist. A sculpture garden / area is also proposed. The development work planned by The Colour Factory in relation to a wider range of artistic and educational activities is supported under the City Council Arts Strategy 2004-07 which emphasises the need to create a sustainable centre for the arts in Winchester. To enable the planned works to take place it is proposed that grant support is staggered over two financial years, with a request to the Town Forum for £5,000 in 2005/06 and £5,000 in 2006/07 as match funding to the main City Council capital grant.

- 3.4 Funding is also requested by the Winchester Lido Sports Association. Located on Worthy Lane, the organisation provides facilities for both badminton and a dojo for martial arts. The application requests funding towards physical changes necessary to the building to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and involves moving the current entrance to provide ramped access as well as provision of a disabled toilet. In assessing the application consideration had to be given to the relatively small number of users and the role of the facility within the community in comparison to other facilities applying for grant. As a result of this assessment it was felt not be appropriate to fund the organisation at levels higher than some others demonstrating a wider community role and remit both in this and previous years. In agreeing the application, conditions were also considered appropriate and have been imposed in relation to the marketing of the facilities available and liaison with the City Council's Sport Development Officer (further details are provided in Appendix I). A contribution of £1,500 is requested from the Town Forum as match funding to the City Council capital grant.
- 3.5 It is recommended that the application from Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau is rejected. Whilst the valuable work of the bureau is acknowledged the proposed works are not considered a priority under the City Council's capital grant programme.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 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
- 4.2 The applications contained in this report also contribute to the Community Strategy and in particular the Leisure and Recreation theme.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix I Capital Grant Applications