

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

18 JANUARY 2006.

COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2006/07

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

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

CAB826 Community Grants – Revenue Awards 2004/05 3 March 2004.

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

WTF42 Community Grants – Revenue Awards 2005/06 6 January 2005

CAB1125 Community Revenue Grants – Review of Priorities for 2006/07 12 October 2005.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Town Forum is requested to consider revenue funding for four applications to be met from the Town Charge. This is further to the Town Forum's agreement to undertake this role from 2004/05 onwards.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Forum recommend to Cabinet that:

- 1 The amount to be awarded to each of the applicants for a revenue grant should be as follows:
 - i. Carroll Youth Centre £5,000
 - ii. King Alfred Youth Activity Centre £5,000

iii.	Winnall Community Centre Playschemes	£5,000
iv.	Winnall Rock School	£5,000

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the revenue grant applications made by organisations serving the Winchester Town area alone. The Town Forum is asked to make a recommendation to Cabinet for the grant to be awarded to the organisations from the Winchester Town Account.
- 1.2 The original application forms and supporting documents are held in the Community Development Team of the Communities Directorate. 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 The Budget

- 2.1 A number of difficult decisions have had to be made in order to reconcile supply and demand for revenue grants. The Town Account has a notional budget of £25,000 for grants in 2006/07 (which has to cover both the revenue and capital awards) and is considering its budget elsewhere on this agenda.
- 2.2 Due to the Town Forum increasing revenue grants to a number of organisations last financial year (due to having sufficient funding resources in reserves), the requests received for 2006/07 far exceed budget availability even though for many they have requested a 'standstill' grant – that is one at the same level as last year. As a result the recommendations of the assessment panel include the reduction in grant to one organisation and the removal temporarily of another from this budget (details below).
- 2.3 In relation to 2006/07, if the Town Forum wishes to increase any of the recommended grant levels this will have to be accommodated by a compensatory reduction elsewhere, either within this report or the capital applicants (WTF65). Any such amendments to the recommendations must be clearly identified for inclusion in the Cabinet approval report.
- 2.4 In relation to future years, if the Town Forum anticipate the wish or need to increase any of the grants to current organisations or have the capacity to consider new applications this needs to be part of the budget setting process for the Town Account.

3 The Assessment Process

- 3.1 The recommendations in this report represent the outcome of a robust evaluation process. Each application, as outlined in Appendix I, has been considered against the assessment matrix by an assessment panel comprising of the Head of

Community Development, the Community Development Manager, the Policy Officer and the Partnership & External Funding Officer. The Chief Executive of Winchester Area Community Action also sat on the panel as an observer. A copy of the assessment matrix 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. This process forms the basis of the recommendations outlined in this report and made in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport (who holds the remit for grants) and the Portfolio Holder for Healthy and Inclusive Communities.

4 Revenue Grants

- 4.1 In accordance with the agreement for 2004/05 onwards it is recommended that the Town Forum approves grant awards to four organisations which investigation suggests serve mainly the town area and which it was agreed to grant aid in 2004/05 and in 2005/06. For the majority of the applications the level of grant recommended is at a standstill level with that awarded last year. This reflects and is consistent with the treatment of all applications to be recommended for funded through the main revenue grant budget.
- 4.2 These organisations are outlined briefly below. If further information is required please contact the Community Development Team.
- a) *Carroll Youth Centre*: Funding to support the school holiday playschemes at the Centre. Whilst a request was made for additional funding it was not felt possible to increase the grant in the current and limited budget situation. As the additional grant was for extensions to the provision this should not have a significant impact on the continuation of service provision.
 - b) *King Alfred Youth Activity Centre (KAYAC)*: Funding to support the general youth work activities at the Centre in Winnall which attracts young people from across the City. Again whilst a request for additional grant has been made for additional elements of work it was not felt possible to recommend the increase in light of the budget situation. Indeed, in light of the limited available budget it is recommended that the grant is cut to £5,000. This puts the award on an equal level to the other youth providers supported in the town area and back to a level similar to that of 2004/05 before the significant increase which was awarded last year. Any grant award to this organisation is subject to the provision of accounts for the period up to March 2005. Without these the grant will not be awarded.
 - c) *Winnall Community Centre*: Funding to support the school holiday playschemes which attract children from both Winnall and Highcliffe. A grant at the same level as last year has been requested and is recommended.
 - d) *Winnall Rock School*: Funding to support this music project working with young people from the area. A grant at the same level as last year is requested and recommended. Any grant award is subject to the following conditions – the provision of a business plan for 2006/07 and evidence of other funding support for the project (sustainable funding for the financial year). If these conditions cannot be satisfied the grant will not be awarded.
 - e) *Winnall Junior Youth Club*: For the last two financial years this organisation, which provides a weekly club for young people aged 8 – 13 years, has been

supported by the Town Account. The current budget situation means that the Town Account is unable to meet this request in addition to the others detailed above. It is therefore proposed to transfer this application to the main revenue grant budget for 2006/07 only. Please note that this is a temporary measure and is not sustainable. If the Town Account lacks sufficient resources to support the organisation in 2007/08 it is likely that no grant award will be possible.

- 4.3 No new applications have been received which affect the town area only.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

5 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 5.1 In 2005/06 the priority areas for the revenue grant funding was reviewed resulting in nine new priority areas being agreed by Cabinet in October 2005. These priority areas were developed from both the Community Strategy theme areas and the Corporate Priorities. A copy of the new priority areas is available on request from the Partnership & External Funding Officer.
- 5.2 In particular the community grants scheme is of direct relevance to a number of key objectives and priority areas around the Social Inclusion theme and the cross cutting aims relating to accessibility and young people.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix I Revenue Grant Applications