

CABINET

7 FEBRUARY 2006

COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2006/07

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

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

CAB1013 'Community Grants – Revenue Awards 2005/06' 08 February 2005

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report seeks approval for the level of revenue grants to be awarded to voluntary and community sector applicants in 2006/07.

This report was inadvertently omitted from the Forward Plan of Key Decisions and the Chairman of Principal Scrutiny Committee has been informed accordingly.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet: -

1 Approves the following revenue grant awards to key clients from the proposed revenue grants budget for 2006/07 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 Winchester	£86,100
(v)	Hatfair	£33,825

2 Approves the following revenue grant awards for 2006/07, 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	£12,000
(iii)	Homestart Winchester & Districts	£5,000
(iv)	Relate	£5,000
(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)	Wickham Youth Club	£1,000
(xiii)	Winchester and District Savers	£15,000
(xiv)	Winchester Carer Centre	£1,100
(xv)	Winchester Churches Housing Group Ltd	£4,500

(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 Live at Home Scheme	£5,000
(xxii)	Winchester Rent Deposit Scheme	£2,400
(xxiii)	Winchester Young Carers	£2,100
(xxiv)	Winchester Youth Counselling	£2,500
(xxv)	Winnall Junior Youth Club	£1,000

3 Approves the recommendations of the Town Forum for grant awards from the Town Account on condition that each organisation enters into clearly defined service level agreement with appropriate performance targets to:

(i)	Carroll Youth Centre	£5,000
(ii)	King Alfred Youth Activity Centre	£5,000
(iii)	Winnall Community Centre Playscheme	£5,000
(iv)	Winnall Rock School	£5,000

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

- (i) ROCC
- (ii) Chrysalis
- (iii) Hampshire Riding Therapy Centre
- (iv) The Society of St James
- (v) Wickham Youth Club
- (vi) Winchester Youth Counselling
- (vii) YMCA Fairthorne Manor
- (viii) WACA (Voluntary Sector Housing Forum)

5 Approves the allocation from the revenue grant budget of £10,147 for 2006/07 for the Community Chest programme.

CABINET7 FEBRUARY 2006COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2006/07REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIESDETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the formal requests for revenue grant assistance from the City Council in 2006/07 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 2006/07 budget 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 the last two years 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 Community Development Team in 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 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 £792,418 outstrips the resources available by over £278,518. 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 4.
- 2.2 Appendix I shows the details of past grant awards as well as the requested grant and the recommended approval amount for 2006/07. Any issues requiring note have been specified in the 'Comments' column. This column of the table also shows the variation in the 2006/07 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 significant growth from any of the key or current clients, which with salary increases applicable for employees means a grant reduction in real terms.
- 2.3 It should also be noted that the proportion of funds in 2006/07 allocated to support the five 'key' clients, i.e. Winchester Area Community Action, Winchester Citizens

Advice Bureau, Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau, Trinity Winchester and the Hatfair, represents 76.5% of the total available budget for revenue grants. No increase in grant is proposed for the key clients in 2006/07. The apportionment of the available budget (including the Town Account element) between 'arts', 'community' and 'housing' organisations is 12.5%, 79.5% and 6% respectively. A separate calculation shows that across all the grants (again including the Town Account contribution) 6.7% of the grants are awarded to organisations providing direct service delivery to young people.

- 2.4 The grants for 2006/07 have been assessed under the new policies and process, as approved by Cabinet on 12 October 2005. The new priorities, which can be viewed in Appendix II, relate directly to the theme areas and priorities of the Community Strategy as well as the delivery of the social inclusion aspects of the Corporate Strategy. The revised assessment panel for the applications included a representative from the Policy Team (Chief Executive's Department) and, in the role of an observer, the Chief Executive of Winchester Area Community Action. A further check of the applications has been completed by the Assistant Director of Finance.

3 Resource Issues

- 3.1 The available budget for the revenue grants in 2006/07 is £513,900, with no increase on last financial year. The standstill nature of the budget has prevented any increase in grants to the five 'key' clients or significant increases to any existing clients. Grants for two new applicants are also recommended.
- 3.2 Prior to allocating the revenue grants it was anticipated that £10,000 of the budget would be set aside for the Community Chest grant scheme. This funding provides very small grants of up to £500 for one-off items of expenditure and to date (2004/05 and 2005/06) 104 grants have been awarded to a wide range of smaller community and voluntary organisations. This has been possible with a total of £10,147 available for the Community Chest in 2006/07. This allocation represents less than 2% of the revenue grants budget.
- 3.3 As Cabinet will appreciate the revenue grants scheme is highly over-subscribed with a total of 34 existing and 8 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 Assessment Process

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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 it is acknowledged that 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 only been possible for two organisations this financial year.

- 4.3 In addition to the grant proposed for Winchester Area Community Action, an additional £2,000 will be made available 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.
- 4.4 It is recommended that grant support is withdrawn from one existing client, ROCC. On the basis of the assessment panel views on the ROCC application it is felt that, whilst very supportive of the work undertaken in supporting housing organisations, no direct additional benefit is received for the residents of Winchester in comparison with the majority of applications, especially in light of pressures on the budget.
- 4.5 It has also been agreed that the funding towards the costs of Winchester Area Community Action administering the Voluntary Sector Housing / Inclusive Housing Forums will, from 2005/06, be financed from alternative revenue budgets within Housing. There has been a concern that the work, whilst essential and highly valued, is actually a commissioned service rather than ongoing organisational costs and that this made it vulnerable under the grant priorities. This new arrangement directly between WACA and the Housing Department may also allow for greater dialogue each year in relation to delivery, costs and budgets for the service.
- 4.6 It is further recommended that the grant award to one organisation is reduced. Due to the financial circumstances of the Winchester Rent Deposit Scheme, they have applied for a reduced grant for 2006/07 and the recommendation is to fund the grant at the full requested level.
- 4.7 Of the grants recommended two have previously been funded from the Town Account and are transferred to the main grants budget, one temporarily. This has been necessary due to limitations to the Town Account grants budget. It is recommended that both the Winchester Live at Home Scheme, which has wider than purely local significance, and the Winnall Junior Youth Club are funded from the main budget. In relation to the Winnall Junior Youth Club this will only be agreed for one financial year and will return to the responsibility of the Town Account in future years.
- 4.8 It is also proposed that grant to two organisations is increased – Homestart Meon Valley and Winchester Churches Housing Trust (Keystone Housing).
- Homestart Meon Valley has consistently provided an essential service to the Southern Parishes despite the standstill status of the grant. Whilst unable to meet the full extent of the funding requirement, it was felt important to increase the financial support from the City Council for this service. This increase has only been possible due to the withdrawal of grant for the Housing Forum as outlined in 4.4. Keystone Housing provides housing provision for vulnerably housed residents. Following a rent review on the premises (owned by the City Council) there is a risk to the sustainability of the service due to the additional financial pressures of increased rent which cannot be passed on the residents. The grant increase is to address the deficit in budget as a direct result of the rent review.
- 4.9 Two new applications are recommended grant for the first time – Wickham Youth Club and Winchester Youth Counselling. This has only been possible as a result of

the withdrawal of the Housing Forum grant as outlined in 4.4 and reflects the positive outcomes for these applications from the assessment process.

5 The Town Forum.

- 5.1 Further to the agreement of the Town Forum to the following arrangements as of 2004/05, a number of grants have been recommended for consideration from the Town Charge. The Town Forum considers any revenue applications that are of relevance to the Town Area only and performs 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. Parish Councils make contributions to a number of the applications shown in Appendix 1 however unlike the capital grant scheme Members should note that parish council support is not a condition of revenue grant from the City Council as applications tend to be of wider than purely local significance e.g. Bishops Waltham CAB.
- 5.2 Applications affecting the Town Area only were considered by the Town Forum on 18 January 2006 and the recommendations are outlined above. It should be noted that the recommended levels of grant have been limited by the budget available from the Town Account (£25,000 for both revenue and capital in comparison with in excess of £35,000 in 2005/06). As a result two organisations previously funded from the Town Account have been recommended funding from the main budget – see paragraph 4.7 above. This position is not sustainable and limitations to the Town Account grants budget will in future years result in further cuts to the organisations funded through this mechanism.
- 5.3 The recommendations from the Town Forum include a cut to one organisation – King Alfred Youth Activity Centre (KAYAC). This cut puts the level of grant received by the youth providers through the Town Account on an equal level and back to a similar to previous level following a significant increase last financial year which has not been sustainable.

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. Following a review of the priorities and policies of the revenue grant schemes, agreed by Cabinet in October 2005, all organisations approved funding will be contributing to both the Community Strategy and the Corporate Strategy. A copy of the priorities can be found at Appendix II.
- 6.2 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 e.g. 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 2006/07

Appendix II Policy Criteria and Assessment Matrix 2006/07