

CABINET

7 FEBRUARY 2006

COMMUNITY GRANTS – CAPITAL 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.

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

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

CAB1014 'Community Grants – Capital Awards 2005/06' – 8 February 2005

WTF46 'Community Grants – Capital Awards 2005/06' – 3 March 2005.

WTF65 'Community Grants – Capital Awards 2006/07' – 18 January 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report contains details of applications for capital grant aid in 2006/07 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:-

- (i) Alresford & District Community Association £6,000

(ii)	Denmead Tennis Club	£15,000
(iii)	Denmead War Memorial Hall	£5,397
(iv)	Easton Village Hall	£6,500
(vi)	St Faiths Parish Hall	£3,000
(vii)	St Matthews Church Community Room	£3,625
(viii)	The Kings Royal Hussars Museum	£5,400
(ix)	The Meon Hall	£2,700
(x)	Weeke Community Association	£7,000
(xi)	Wickham Community Association	£1,200
(xii)	Wickham Cricket Club	£15,000
(xiii)	Winchester Judo & Martial Arts Club	£6,000

2 That the following grants are made from the Winchester Town Account:

(i)	St Faiths Parish Hall	£1,500
(ii)	Weeke Community Association	£3,500

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

- (i) Bishops Waltham Museum Trust
- (ii) Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau

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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 2006/07 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 Community Development Team of Communities. 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 £100,000 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 in the current year, the anticipated balance at the 1 April 2006 is approximately £13,000.
- 2.3 Fourteen applications for capital grant were received and the total amount of grant requested for 2006/07 was in excess of the budget at approximately £154,000. The number of applications has increased on the previous financial year and this may reflect the impact of the amended timescales for applications this year. This report recommends grant awards totalling £76,822 for 2006/07, 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 four 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 2005/06 for two projects which received 2 year awards in 2005/06. The commitments are £4,000 for Swanmore Methodist Church and £10,000 for The Colour Factory. Combined with the new recommendations for approval the majority of the budget for 2006/07 will have been allocated, with just £9,178 of the budget remaining.
- 3.5 It should be noted that a financial commitment from the Town Forum / Account is required for organisations based in the town area. Due to limits in the budget available from the Town Account for both capital and revenue grants (£25,000) it has not been possible to make extensive awards to these organisations and only two applications are recommended for funding under this system.
- 3.6 The applications submitted by two organisations based in the town area are considered to have wider than purely local significance which eliminates the requirements for matched funding contributions from the Town Account. The same approach would be adopted should a similar situation arise within a parish based organisation. It is therefore recommended that the applications from the Kings Royal Hussar's Museum and the Winchester Judo & Martial Arts Club are funded from the capital grants budget.
- 3.7 Two applications have not been recommended for support, Bishops Waltham Museum Trust and Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau. Whilst the works proposed may be worthwhile and beneficial they are not a key priority when assessed against the criteria applied to the capital grants scheme. Specifically in relation to Bishops Waltham Museum Trust, it was felt that the project did meet the criteria for the Community Chest scheme and should be referred accordingly. Appendix I outlines details of these applications and reasons for not funding.

4 Other Capital Projects for Consideration

- 4.1 Cabinet may recall from previous capital grant reports that there are a number of larger scale projects which may require capital support from the City Council in the future. Any such project / requests will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration as and when details become apparent.
- 4.2 The capital grant reports for 2005/06 and 2004/05 highlighted the needs of Bishops Waltham & Meon Valley Citizen's Advice Bureau, which 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). Whilst the building project had been significantly delayed the need for new premises continues and the Bureau still considers the project a viable option. As a result it is likely that the Bureau will require a capital contribution from the City Council at some stage, although the timescales have yet to be clarified. If and when further details, in particular financial details, become apparent a report will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration. However, Members should note that no specific budgetary allocation has been earmarked for this project at this time.

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 access to services and cultural opportunities under the heading of Healthy and Inclusive Communities in the Corporate Strategy 2006-09. 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 adopted Cultural Strategy for the District.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 Resource issues are identified in the body of the report.
- 6.2 In summary:

Total level of grants requested	in excess of £154,000
Total level of grants recommended for 2006/07	£76,822
Budget available to support requests	£100,000
Commitment transferring 2005/06 to 2006/07	£14,000
Reserve funds required	£0
Balance to transfer to reserves	£9,178

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Completed grant application forms and supporting documentation held in the Community Development Team files.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Capital grant application details