

Division(s): Moreton, Grove & Wantage,  
Wychwood, East Oxford, Eynsham,  
Deddington

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES  
3 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE GRANTS 2012/2013**

**Report by Head of Law and Culture**

**Introduction**

1. The County Council's grant scheme for the improvement of village halls and other community buildings is administered by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC). This Report summarises the applications received and recommends allocations from the grant fund for 2012/13.

**Applications Received**

2. Six applications were received and were checked against the established eligibility criteria of the scheme (**Annex 1**).
3. Notes of each application are in the Members' Resource Centre.

**ORCC Grant Recommendations**

4. ORCC's grant recommendations are attached in the table at (**Annex 2**). These have been discussed with ORCC's Village Halls Advisory Group consisting of representatives of village hall committees countywide.

**Third Party Funding as a trigger for Landfill Tax Credit support for projects**

5. It is possible that in a few cases part of a grant recommended for a project will be needed as Third Party Funding in order to trigger a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment. This is a productive use of the Council's financial support in order to lever in other funds. A note about Third Party Funding is included in the Guide to the application notes in the Members' Resource Centre.

## **Progress on grants allocated in previous years.**

6. Fifteen grants were allocated in 2011/12. Of these, four projects, totalling £19,680, are still in progress (Ducklington, Kingston Lisle, Over Norton, Tetsworth) and two projects have made part claims, balance remaining for those is £5,992.50 (Claydon and Drayton). It is expected that the majority of these grants will be claimed before 31 March 2013.

## **Financial Implications**

7. The annual budget for the grants in 2012/13 is £59,137. The grants recommended for allocation in this report total £35,400. It is recommended that the allocation of the balance, £23,737, be deferred to the Delegated Decision meeting for the Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities on 21 January 2013 to allow for the development work necessary on other applications to be completed.
8. Funds from 2011/12 budget have been carried forward to meet the commitments made to projects approved in that financial year.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9. **The Cabinet member for Safer and Stronger Communities is RECOMMENDED to:**
  - a) **approve the grants proposed in Annex 2 to this report; and**
  - b) **agree that the allocation of the balance of £23,737 from 2012/13 be deferred to the Delegated Decision meeting for the Cabinet member for Safer and Stronger Communities on 21 January 2013.**

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Head of Law and Culture

Background papers: Notes on Applications

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