

CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES 5 JULY 2010

VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE GRANTS 2010/2011

Report by Head of Community Services

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 2010/11.

Applications Received

2. Sixteen 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. Ten grants were allocated in 2007/08 totalling £57,100. Of these, only two remain outstanding. One project, Charney Bassett, has already made a part claim and is expected to claim the balance in 2010/11. The second, North East Abingdon, was awarded £9,000 in principle with the final grant decision being deferred until the outcome of applications to other funding organisations was known. Owing to these applications for match funding being unsuccessful, the North East Abingdon project has been reduced dramatically and it is recommended that this grant is withdrawn. ORCC are awaiting

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further information with regard to new proposals from this applicant and others before making any recommendation on the reallocation of this sum.

7. All grants allocated in 2008/09 have now been claimed.
8. Twenty two grants were allocated in 2009/10 totalling £58,843. Of these six projects totalling grants of £18,500 are still in progress: Brownes Hall Carterton, Chesterton, Fencott, Hornton, Merton, and Upper Heyford.

Financial Implications

9. The annual budget for these grants in 2010/11 is £59,137. The grants recommended in this report total £58,000. It is proposed that use of the balance of £1,137 be discussed with ORCC and allocated under delegated powers by the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities.
10. Funds from 2007/08 and 2009/10 budgets have been carried forward to meet the commitments made to projects approved in those financial years.

RECOMMENDATION

11. **The Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - (a) **approve the grants proposed in Annex 2 to this report; and**
 - (b) **delegate the allocation of the balance of £9,000 from 2007/08 and £1,137 from 2010/11 to the Head of Community Services, following consultation with the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and the Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities.**

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Background papers: Notes on Applications
 Grant Summary 2010-2011

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