

CABINET – 18 OCTOBER 2011

BIG SOCIETY FUND – ALLOCATION OF WAVE 2 FUNDING

Report by Head of Strategy and Communications

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to enable Cabinet to make decisions on which bids to fund in the second 'wave' of four of the Big Society Fund.
2. In February 2011 Oxfordshire County Council launched the Big Society Fund. The Fund of £600,000 in 2011/12 is for communities to bid for start-up funding for community projects that would benefit their areas.
3. In July Cabinet allocated funding in the first 'wave' of the Fund. A total of thirteen projects were agreed of which eleven included funding awards. £282,096 was allocated.
4. £317,904 of the Fund remains available for allocation in this and subsequent rounds in 2011/12.
5. In order to be considered for funding, bidders must demonstrate that they meet the following criteria;
 - the project is innovative and creative
 - the project meets a recognised community need
 - the project has a sustainable business case
 - the local community is involved in the project

Wave 2 Bids to the Big Society Fund

6. Response to the Fund has been positive with twenty-two bids submitted in this second 'wave' of applications.
7. A bidder assessment form has been completed for each application. These assessment forms include the project details and are considered by the Local Review Groups of local Councillors with views (where applicable) from service specific officers, all of which are used to inform the assessment against fund criteria.
8. Twenty bids were specific to a locality with 2 bids for countywide projects/projects whose target group is not locality based. The countywide bids have been assessed by officers and have not gone through Locality Review Groups.

9. Annex 1 summarises the bids we have received in this wave.
10. Due to the timescale of locality review meetings it is not possible to include recommendations of which bids meet the criteria in this paper. Full bid assessment forms and an analysis of which bids meet the criteria and those that do not will be provided separately as addenda in advance of the Cabinet meeting.

Asset transfer requests

11. The Asset Transfer Policy was agreed by Cabinet on 21 June 2011.
12. We have received one bid to the Big Society Fund which requests an asset transfer and two bids that relate to requests from Schools for transfers.
13. **1st Faringdon Scouts** have requested to lease the site to the rear of the FAZE young people's centre in the town and have plans to develop the site to accommodate a new scout hut with wider community use.
14. It is proposed to continue discussions with the 1st Faringdon Scouts about their interest in leasing the rear site. It is proposed to do this outside of the Big Society Fund arrangements because the site has not become available as a result of a change in the delivery of youth services. This is what determined which sites were made available for asset transfer under Big Society.
15. Given the interest of the Town Council in the front of site which is leased for the FAZE young people's centre it is proposed to involve them in these discussions.
16. **Thame Young People's Centre** is on the site of Lord Williams' School. The School has been working closely with local partners, including the Town Council, to develop a sustainable proposal for the future of youth provision in Thame.
17. Lord Williams' School has asked the council to transfer ownership of the Thame Young People's Centre to the school. The school has identified an educational need for the building, and this need has been confirmed by the Schools Organisation and Planning Team.
18. Lord Williams' School is developing detailed proposals to maximise use of the building for school use in the day with other community activities both during the day and in the evenings. Local partners are involved in developing proposals and have bid for initial start up funds from the Big Society Fund to get a youth project going.
19. **Sonning Common Young People's Centre** is on the site of Chiltern Edge School. The School has been working closely with local partners to develop a sustainable proposal for the future of youth provision in Thame.

20. Chiltern Edge School has requested the council to transfer ownership of the Sonning Common Young People's Centre to the school. The school has identified an educational need for the building, and this need has been confirmed by the Schools Organisation and Planning Team.
21. Chiltern Edge School is developing detailed proposals to maximise use of the building for school use in the day with other community activities in the evenings. Local partners have bid for initial start up funds from the Big Society Fund to get a youth project going.
22. It is considered that the schools have appropriate financial management processes in place manage the financial implications of an additional function outside of the usual activities of the school.

Financial and Staff Implications

23. The total value of bids received is £366,573. £317,904 of the Fund remains available to allocate over the remainder of 2011/12.
24. There are no staff implications in these proposals.
25. A grant funding agreement will be in place for all successful projects which will set out financial requirements and monitoring arrangements.
26. Young People's Centres that are transferred to schools because of an agreed educational need will receive a small increase in the school budget allocation to reflect the increased floor area of their site.
27. It is likely that a revaluation will be required for any site that is subject to a freehold transfer. Revaluation would give rise to an additional cost which would be managed within existing school budgets.
28. If transfers to schools are agreed, the county council will work closely with the schools to establish appropriate accounting arrangements.

Legal Implications

29. If a Young People's Centre transfers to a school, the County Council retains ownership of the site/building. However should a school change its status, such as becoming an academy or foundation school, ownership of the school site would transfer to the school's governing body. In any transfer of this kind the Young People's Centre building would be treated as part of the school site.
30. The grant funding agreement outlined above will set out all legal requirements including health and safety and safeguarding policy requirements.

Equality and Inclusion implications

31. An equality impact assessment has been carried out on the Big Society Fund. Potential impacts on equality groups have been considered (the [impact assessment](#) was part of the paper to Cabinet in July 2011).
32. In line with the council's responsibilities for equality the grant funding agreement with successful bidders will set out requirements for equality policies to be in place.

Risk implications

33. There is a risk to the county council that projects are not sustainable and are not able to continue in the future due to a lack of resources. This would have an impact on the viability of a project in a community and may lead to further requests for funding from the county council. To mitigate this, the application form for the Fund requires a business case and ongoing costs information.
34. It is proposed that funding will only be paid to successful bidders with a robust business case in place.

RECOMMENDATION

35. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to

- (a) **Approve those bids which meet the assessment criteria**
- (b) **In accordance with the Asset Transfer Policy to agree the transfer of buildings to the school on the following sites;**
 - (1) **Lord Williams' School, Thame**
 - (2) **Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common**

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Background papers:

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September 2011

Annex 1 Summary of bids received

Project Name	Organisation	Description	Locality	Amount
Abingdon Lido Enhancement Scheme	FOAMOP (Friends of Abbey Meadow Outdoor Pool)	Carry out a condition survey of the pool, publicity and advertising, mural at the pool entrance	Abingdon	£ 8,600
Mediazone	The Hill Youth and Community Centre	Create a recording studio for use by local residents and young people at the Hill Youth and Community Centre	Banbury	£ 31,082
TS Harvester Sea Cadets	T.S Harvester - Banbury Sea Cadets	Purchase of boats, training equipment and replacement minibus	Banbury	£ 12,675
Fringford Village Hall Cinema	Fringford Village Hall Management Committee	Purchasing cinema equipment to provide a cinema to the people in Fringford and surrounding villages	Bicester	£ 4,956
Winter Weather	Woodstock Town Council	Preparing roads and pavements for severe winter weather	Chipping Norton - Charlbury - Woodstock	£ 1,180
SAFE! Supporting Young People Affected by Crime	SAFE! Supporting Young People Affected by Crime Limited	Providing counselling and care for young victims of sexual crime	Countywide	£ 8,400
StingRadio	Oxfordshire My Life My Choice Association	Fortnightly radio programme run by young people with learning disabilities	Countywide	£ 9,500
Phoenix Youth Club	The Phoenix Youth Club, Cholsey	Youth provision	Didcot	£ 4,000
Re-Start - Helping young offenders turn their lives around	Didcot TRAIN Youth Project	Rehabilitating 10 young offenders being released from custody for 1 year to enable them to find work	Didcot	£ 18,216
Headquarters	1st Faringdon Scouts	Asset transfer of land to be used for Scout activities, and funding requested for site assessments and	Faringdon	£ 51,000

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Project Name	Organisation	Description	Locality	Amount
		landscaping costs		
Grounds Refurbishment	Shrivenham Primary School	Refurbishment, landscaping and equipment of school grounds upon 150 th Anniversary of school	Faringdon	£ 39,000
The Edge Youth Centre	The Edge Youth Centre	To provide youth sessions for young people in Sonning Common and the surrounding area from the young people's centre at Chiltern Edge School.	Henley - Goring	£ 24,350
Teenagers and Parents together	Nomad Youth & Community Project	To develop initiatives for working jointly with parents and their children in order to strengthen family relationships through structured programmes and positive activities	Henley - Goring	£ 14,000
Kidlington Youth Programme	Lifehouse Community Church	To provide weekly youth sessions from the Forum Centre	Kidlington	£ 10,295
Indoor training	Greater Leys Under 10s FC	Funding to provide indoor training for children's football club during winter months	Oxford	£ 387
Oxford Wheels Project	Oxford Wheels Project	Improving a skate board and BMX facility in East Oxford	Oxford	£ 45,000
Rose Hill Youth & Community Project	Rose Hill Tenants & Residents Association	The Association is requesting free access to Rose Hill Youth Centre, and use of the unit's equipment, to deliver a centre-based programme of activities during term-time and the school holiday period. The Association also requests free	Oxford	£ 28,220

CA7

Project Name	Organisation	Description	Locality	Amount
		access to the Rose Hill/Littlemore Family Centre during the school holidays to support the delivery of a centre based and outreach holiday project.		
Youth Worker Recruitment	Chalgrove Parish Council	To hire two qualified youth workers to run two sessions a week	Thame - Wheatley - Watlington - Chalgrove	£ 6,000
Wheatley Youth Club	Wheatley Parish Council	To provide youth club sessions on 2 nights/week at the Wheatley Young People's Centre now managed by the Maple Tree Children's Centre	Thame - Wheatley - Watlington - Chalgrove	£ 7,120
Thame Youth Worker	Town Council	Youth worker to provide youth work in Thame and run youth club sessions from the young people's centre at Lord Williams' School	Thame - Wheatley - Watlington - Chalgrove	£ 16,550
Wigod Centre	Wallingford Town Council	Project to purchase and refurbish an unused church to create a new youth centre in Wallingford	Wallingford - Benson - Berinsfield	£ 20,042
West Oxfordshire Cycle Track	Bike Safe, West Oxfordshire	Feasibility study into cycle path between Eynsham and Dean Court (Botley)	Witney - Eynsham	£ 6,000
			Total	£ 366,573