



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

TOPIC – COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS OCTOBER 2008

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director (Governance), the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Principal Scrutiny Committee and all Members of the relevant Scrutiny Panel (individual Ward Members are consulted separately where appropriate). In addition, all Members are notified.

Five or more of these consulted Members can require that the matter be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

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Committee Administrator:

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SUMMARY

The allocation of grants from the Small Grants Funding scheme which includes Biodiversity, Carbon Reduction, Community Chest, Community Planning, and Twinning, from the approved budget.

DECISION

1. That all applicants being awarded a grant from the Small Grants Funding Scheme in Round 3 and 4 be given six months from the date of approval in which to spend their grant. Currently all grants must be spent by 31st March, 2009, and this deadline does not allow applicants in the later rounds sufficient time in which to spend their grant and complete their projects. This will necessitate a small proportion of grant funding from this scheme to be rolled forward into the financial year 2009-2010.

2. It is recommended that the following grants be awarded from the **Carbon Reduction Scheme**:

2.1 Durley Memorial Hall Management Committee

Amount Requested: £500

Amount Awarded: £500

Funding is recommended towards the cost of insulation of the village hall. The committee had funds set aside towards the cost of insulating the ceiling and this grant will enable the walls to be insulated at the same time. This project will lead to a reduction in carbon emissions from the Hall's heating.

3. It is recommended that the following grants be awarded from the **Community Chest scheme** (please note that, due to the number of applications received and the total amount of grant requested, not all groups have been awarded the full amount requested):

3.1. Cherry Tree Pre-School

Amount Requested: £405

Amount Awarded: £300

Funding recommended towards the cost of installing radiator covers at Cheriton Village Hall. The radiators get very hot and this will permit the children attending this pre-school full use of the hall and ensure their safety. The total cost of this project is £810 and the Cheriton Village Hall Committee is willing to pay half of the costs (£405). The request was not fully awarded as it was felt reasonable to expect the group to put some of their own funding towards this cost, particularly in view of the number of applications received and the total amount of grant requested in this round.

3.2. Micheldever & Stratton Pre-School

Amount Requested: £484

Amount Awarded: £400

Funding recommended towards the cost of mats and mobile storage units. This group is relocating from East Stratton Village Hall to Warren Hall at Micheldever Station whilst East Stratton Village Hall is being rebuilt. The equipment requested is needed as a result of their relocation, however it will continue to be used once they return to East Stratton. The request was not fully awarded as it was felt reasonable to expect the group to put some of their own funding towards this cost, particularly in view of the number of applications received and the total amount of grant requested in this round.

3.3. South Stanmore Residents Association

Amount Requested: £500
Amount Awarded: £500

Funding recommended towards establishing this new group in Stanmore which is identified as a priority area for the Community Chest scheme.

3.4. Waltham Chase Village Hall

Amount Requested: £500
Amount Awarded: £500

Funding recommended towards the cost of work to sand and seal the hall floor which will cost in excess of £3,000. This work is needed to ensure the safety of the hall users as well as prolonging the life of the floor.

3.5. Winchester Seed Swap

Amount Requested: £500
Amount Awarded: £500

Funding recommended towards the cost of a "Seed Swap and Educational Day" to be held in Itchen Abbas Village Hall. The purpose of this event is to explain how to save seeds as well as promoting the benefits of growing food for the family. This project meets Health and Wellbeing priorities as well as the themes of the Cultural Olympiad.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Grants from the Small Grants Scheme are made four times per year. All applications for grants were considered by the relevant Portfolio Holder who received advice from the Partnership and External Funding Officer and other relevant officers as appropriate.

The decision on the following application for a **Community Chest Grant** was deferred:

Winchester Live at Home Scheme requested £464 towards the purchase of a laptop computer in order to offer computer training at the various clubs attended by older people in the Winchester District. As WCC has two laptops available for loan the group will be encouraged to investigate the option of using one of these for their project. However if this does not prove to be a viable option this application will be reconsidered during the next round of grant applications due to be held early in 2009.

The decision on the following application for a **Community Planning Grant** was refused:

Boarhunt Parish Council requested grant towards the cost of obtaining planning permission for a new village hall. Grant was refused as the Community Planning

Grants are not intended to be used for this purpose and therefore it is not eligible for this scheme. Questions were also raised as to why the Boarhunt Memorial Hall and Planning Committee were not using some of the £28,000 Capital Grant awarded to them for this purpose.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

Following publication of the Draft Notice, Councillor Allgood indicated that he was willing to award a grant of £398 to Wickham Youth Club from his Hampshire County Council Devolved Budget. Therefore a grant will not be awarded to this group from Winchester City Council (as had been proposed in the Draft Notice).

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety declared a Personal (and Prejudicial) interest in the application from Boarhunt Parish Council for a Community Planning Grant. This application was therefore referred by the leader to the Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and Sport.

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

N/A

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision

Councillor John Cooper – Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety

Councillor Patricia Stallard – Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and Sport