

**Report of:** Strategy and Review Business Manager

**To:** Executive Board

**Date:** 3 April 2006

**Item No:**

**Title of Report :** OX1 and Oxford Inspires – direct financial support



### Summary and Recommendations



**Purpose of report:** To gain approval for arrangements to support the work of OX1 and Oxford Inspires.

**Key decision:** No

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Christian

**Scrutiny Responsibility:** Finance

**Area(s) affected:** All

**Report Approved by:** Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Finance and Asset Management Business Manager

**Policy Framework:** Cultural strategy (Strategic Aims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9)

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Make awards of finance to OX1 (£65,000) and Oxford Inspires (£100,000) to allow city centre improvements and cultural development activities to be undertaken.

2. Delegate authority for completion of these payments to the Strategic Director, Physical Environment, subject to her being satisfied as to the terms under which the financial support is made.



## **Introduction**

1. Budgetary provision is available for funds to support the work of Oxford Inspires and OX1. Proper arrangements are necessary to ensure that funds (£200,000 to Oxford Inspires 2006-08 and £185,000 to OX1 2006-09) released relate to defined outputs.
2. OX1 and Oxford Inspires support the Council's "Vision" statement by helping to Improve the environments where we live and work, Create local prosperity and sustain full employment, and Provide more and improved affordable leisure activities.

## **Service specific matters**

3. Oxford Inspires' request relates to £50,000 each year towards core funding and £50,000 towards programme development and marketing leading up to a year of festivals in 2007. In more detail
  - £15,000 towards Faces of Oxfordshire
  - £15,000 towards Go with the Flow
  - £10,000 towards Oxford Unmasked: the Big Picnic
  - £10,000 towards Summer Saturdays
  - Representation on Oxford Inspires' Board
  - Effective support and capacity building with selected Oxford cultural organisations
  - Establishment of a regular programme of high profile speakers at Cultural Platform events
  - Continued work within the 2007 Festival programme to establish new collaborations and more sustainable ways of working within local cultural organisations.
  - Work with OX1 and the Oxford Marketing Group to establish improved communications and to identify common objectives and opportunities for collaboration and synergy.
  - Development of the Sustainable Institutions Group
4. OX1's request relates to £65,000 in 2006/07, £60,000 in 2007/08 and £60,000 in 2008/09. OX1's aims are:
  - To improve Oxford City Centre
  - To promote Oxford City Centre – particularly as a retail venue
  - To establish a Business Improvement District
  - Work with Oxford Inspires and the Oxford Marketing Group to establish improved communications and to identify common objectives and opportunities for collaboration and synergy.
5. The Strategic Director for Physical Environment is a Board member of both Oxford Inspires and OX1. Delegating authority to the Strategic

Director will allow the funds to be made available at the beginning of the financial year.

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**Background papers: none**

