

Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
Community Scrutiny 20/02/07	General comment and recommendations	Some concern was expressed about applications that had been rejected on technical grounds.	Not applicable	For audit purposes the Council had to show that it had all the relevant information to hand when it took the decision on a particular grant. The process has to be open and transparent. For next year the guidance notes will include in larger bold print what all applicants must supply by the closing date. Because of lack of resources and the time restraints it is not currently possible to systematically chase each applicant who submit incomplete applications. However if the budgets are set earlier this will create more time to offer this help, but this is dependant on the budget times being brought forward.
Community Scrutiny 20/02/07 and raised at Area Committees	Oxfordshire Chinese Community & Advice Centre	Concern about level of funding to cover their increased rent	36,027	OCCAC have a £30,000 grant committed for 2007/08 which includes a sum of £3,336 towards rent. Estates have set a new rent of £18,000 for the whole premises for 2007/08. Previous to this the rent was £4,500. The officer recommendation was to give an additional grant of £6,027 towards the increased rent by internal transfer. However this would still leave a gap for OCCAC to find. When OCCAC entered into the new arrangement they agreed to pay an additional rent of £5,000 for the new space. At this time they were not informed that the rent for the existing space was being increased. On this basis, we believe the gap is £8,500 (£18,000 full rent, less agreed rent payable by OCCAC of £9,500 (£4,500 for existing space and £5,000 for new space)). <b>If Executive Board wish to increase the grant to cover the gap then an additional £8,500 needs to be found from within the grants budget.</b>

Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
Community Scrutiny 20/02/08	General comments & recommendations	There was also a resource issue involved. Only one officer was available to deal with all the applications made and there was not enough time available to chase up every single applicant. The committee would like to see more resources put in to assisting organisations to make their applications.	N/A	See first point
Community Scrutiny 20/02/09	General comment	Councillor Williams suggested that the grants budget could be divided on a 60/40 basis, with the Area Committees taking responsibility for the smaller portion.	N/A	This is a good suggestion and devolving more of the budget to Areas will be considered during the grants review.

Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
Community Scrutiny 20/02/09	General comment	The City Council is a major funder for many groups. Councillor sargent expressed concern that, because of this, many organisations could become over dependant on the City Council for funding. It would be useful for the City Council to work with them to help them access other funding streams since the level of funding from any single source may not be sustainable forever.	N/A	This point was agreed with but there is a resource issue, also the Council may not be the most appropriate organisation to provide this support. There are proposals to provide OCVA more funding in 2008/09 to provide the support and this will be outlined in the grants prospectus 2008/09. The Neighbourhood Renewal Manager will be raising this at the City Community and Voluntary Forum as a proposal to consider.
Community Scrutiny 20/02/10	Leiden Link	Councillor Sinclair raised a concern about twinning grants	0	The disputes panel relooked at the Leiden Link application as the original appraisal was incorrect. <b>The panel recommends a grant of £1,000 from the small grants budget. This will leave £5,339 balance in the small grants budget.</b>
Community Scrutiny 20/02/12		That the community scrutiny committee should example a sample application to see how the process worked from start to finish working on a template to understand how each application was assessed.		If Councillors wish to look at any of the grants paperwork they are available to view. The grants review will look at how to involve councillors in the assessment criteria.

Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
North East Area Committee 20/02/07	General Comment	Requested that reports on further development of the grants process as well as reports from the Area Coordinator on work with elderly and vulnerable groups would be submitted to future meetings. Councillor van Zyl recalled that several comments were made that were not minuted and raised the Tower Playbase application.		
	Tower Playbase	The original recommendation was for no grant as the application was focused on providing afterschool care and this is the County Councils primary responsibility.		0 Funding for a summer playscheme in Northway will be available via the holiday playscheme budget.
East Area Committee 21/02/07	Donnington Doorstep	East Area Committee are not supportive of the proposal to give Donnington Doorstep a years notice of withdrawal of funding and are concerned that they received no notice of this proposal.	21600	Officers met with Donnington Doorstep to discuss the recommendation. It was agreed to withdraw the reference to withdraw funding from the Executive Board report and work with Doorstep in the forthcoming year to clarify County Council funded activities and review what activities the City may support in the future.

Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
East Area Committee 21/02/07	Falcon Rowing and Canoe Club & Oxford Adaptive Canoe Club	Concern that the reasons for refusal seem vague.		0 There were two applications towards match funding for a community sports coach. One organisation did not submit recent accounts. No new information was received that would change the original recommendation. Officers advised that there is other provision in the local area.
East Area Committee 21/02/07	East Oxford Senior Citizens Club	Concern that small grants were being refused.		0 The Disputes panel agree that there is legitimate concern about small groups competing with better resourced organisations and this will be addressed in the grants review. Officers recommended funding for Age Concern's 'The Corner' which also operates from East Oxford Community centre and suggests that EOOSC Club should work with this project.
North Area Committee 01/03/07	General comment	Would like assistance to be available to groups who might be struggling to complete a grants application.	N/A	See comments above raised by Community Scrutiny
North Area Committee 01/03/07	Councillor van Zyl	Raised the issue that the budgets allocated to each theme were too restrictive and the grant themes were too rigid.	N/A	The budgets allocated to each theme will be reviewed next year and some flexibility would be built into the themes.
North Area Committee 01/03/07	Cuttleslowe Play Scheme	Concern that no grant recommended		0 Small amount of money available from holiday playschemes budget that could be match funded from the Area Committee.

Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
South East Area Committee 05/03/07	Recommendations to Executive Board	Reduce the following grants as shown: African and African Caribbean Kultural Heritage by 2,000, East Oxford Action by 5,000, Oxford Chamber Music by 2,475, Oxford Contemporary Music by 6,952, Oxford Film & Video by 5,000, Oxford Folk Festival by 4,000, Oxford International Women's Festival by 1,875, Oxford Playhouse by 7,400, Oxford Nature Conservation by 1,500, Oxford Story Museum by 2,350, Blackbird Leys 50th Anniversary by 3,000.	Total reduction £39,202 (because Story Museum is an internal transfer and not actual money).	No reasons were provided to explain the rationale for reducing recommendations to the organisations identified.

Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
South East Area Committee 05/03/07		Increase the following grants as shown: BBL Adventure playground to 25,000, BBL Credit Union to 3,000, Dovecote Voluntary Parents Committee to 8,000, Leys Linx to 12,500, Leys News to 2,250, Rose Hill & Donnington Advice centre 21,000.	Total increase proposed 71,750	<p><u>BBL Adventure Playground</u>: Afterschool activities County responsibility. Other adventure Play provision in the City receive less. <u>BBL Credit Union</u>: Recommend to fund City wide Credit Union, suggest that BBL Credit Union work more closely with City wide service.</p> <p><u>Dovecote Voluntary Parents Committee</u>: Request to fund drop in for under 5's and afterschool activities, both primary responsibility of County Council. <u>Leys Linx</u>: no new information received to change recommendation. <u>Leys News</u>: There was some confusion because Leys News did not need to submit a business plan with the application. They have been previously funded to write a business plan / employ worker to ensure that project was sustainable and would not need continued grant from City Council.</p> <p><u>Rose Hill &amp; Donnington Advice centre</u>: £62,233 already committed for 2007/08. Council being asked to replace expired funding from Sure Start (County Council). The Neighbourhood Renewal Manager is having discussions with the County Council about an ongoing strategy for advice centres, there is also a separate paper on the agenda regarding advice agencies.</p>
South East Area Committee 05/03/07		That Executive Board find the shortfall of £13,798 from within the grants budget		None of the decreases or increases were supported by the disputes panel as no new information was provided to justify changing the recommendations. In the original evaluation of the requests all applications were scored and weighted for addressing deprivation.

Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
Cowley Area Committee 07/03/07	Oxford Bonn	To recommend the Executive Board to allocate grant funding for Bonn twinning link who will be celebrating its 60th anniversary.	0	No new information received to change the recommendation therefore panel agree with original nil recommendation. Twinning is included in a value for money review planned in Neighbourhood Renewal.
Cowley Area Committee 07/03/07	Recommendations to Executive Board	To note that Area Coordinators were working with Parks Services on the transitional arrangements for the payment of the increased rents by the various bowls clubs in the city.	10000	Work ongoing
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/07	General comment	Some comments have already been covered so only different points raised will be listed.		
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/08		Councillor Susanna Pressel asked that members see the monitoring report for grants made during 2006/07 referred to in the report.	N/A	The report will be circulated in the May committee cycle.
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/09		Councillor Pressel queried the amount proposed to go to the British Sub Aqua Club.	11900	This is an internal paper transaction which was agreed outside of the grants process and will be reviewed. Area grants and city wide grants will be clearly defined when devolved.



Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/10	West Oxford Community Association	Councillor Pressel expressed concern that the application had been rejected as being ineligible as play schemes were one of the priorities in the City's Children's and Young Peoples Plan.		0 The application was incomplete as no bank statement was provided with the application. The holiday playschemes budget only covers a number of the super output areas and West Oxford falls outside the criteria for the scheme. A small grant will be considered on receipt of the bank statement.
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/11	General comment	Councillor Pressel said that she felt that the County Council should provide more financial assistance to organisations and wondered how much funding it allocated.	N/A	The Neighbourhood Renewal Manager is in discussion with the County via the County Development Partnership on how the City and County can work better together on funding issues.
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/12	General comment	Councillor Bob Price did not feel the approach adopted was a good one as it did not give a clear indication of what groups receiving financial assistance would offer the Council.	N/A	All detailed application information is available to Councillors on request. It is acknowledged that the process can be improved but that it is a step in the right direction. Further improvements are planned as part of the grants review.

Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/12	General comment	Councillor Price suggested financial support be provided through the relevant business units as this would provide a partnership approach and allow for clear outcomes to be agreed the achievement of which could be monitored by officers in the business unit concerned.	N/A	Where appropriate this will be looked at - a number of areas are being considered for partnership arrangements in 2008/09. Currently evaluations are done by panels made up of representatives of the relevant business units so that their individual expertise is utilised. There is also value in officers without specialist knowledge of an application to sit on the panels as they can challenge recommendations and ensure consistency.
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/13	General comment	Councillor Price said the question of efficiency savings by organisations should be part of discussions between officers in the relevant business unit and the organisation concerned.	N/A	The disputes panel felt that value for money was a challenge for all areas of the Council and would continue to be part of discussions with community and voluntary groups.
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/13	St. Luke's Youth & Community Centre	Proposed that St Luke's should in view of the level of deprivation in the area receive 50% of the amount requested.		0 As noted earlier, deprivation is taken into account during the evaluation and the scoring for this is weighted. Officers will look into the issue of the lease to see what other support can be given. Original recommendation to stand.

Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/14	General comment	Councillor Paul Sargent referred to the level of grant aid provided by the Council and said it was uncertain whether the Council would be able to continue to make this level of support in the future. Suggested that it is important that organisations looked to other sources of funding.	N/A	Officers are looking at the levels of grant support provided by comparator authorities and will report back their findings. Support for organisations looking at alternative sources of funding will be looked at in the grants prospectus 2008/09.
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/15	General comment	Councillor Sargent suggested that officers contact Gloucester City and Cheltenham Councils to see how their Neighbourhood Action groups provided support to organisations.	N/A	The panel agreed with this suggestion and it will be looked into as part of the grants review.

Disputes Panel - Summary of Comments Received 2007/08.

Committee	Organisation	Comments Received / Budget identified?	Original Officer Recommendation	Dispute Panels Response
Central, South & West Area Committee 13/03/16	General comment	Andrew Nairn of Modern Art Oxford expressed the view that because the grants review is taking a lot of time organisations are experiencing a five year cash standstill and that the regime proposed was too bureaucratic. He urged members to make increased funding available.	N/A	Organisations were invited to apply for increases for 2007/08 on top of the grant committed. These requests were judged alongside all others. The grants review will consider options for Arts funding.