

Report of: Head of Community Housing and Community Development

To: Executive Board

Date: 4th February 2008

Item No:

Title of Report : Grant Allocations to Community and Voluntary Organisations (CVO's) 2008/2009.



Summary and Recommendations



Purpose of report: For Executive Board to make decision on the allocation of grants to Community & Voluntary Organisations for 2008/2009.



decision: Yes

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Altaf - Khan

Scrutiny Responsibility: Community



Area(s) affected: All

Report Approved by

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Altaf-Khan

Legal: Jeremy Thomas

Finance: Andy Collett

Executive Director: Michael Crofton-Briggs



Policy Framework: Oxford Community Strategy



Recommendation(s):

1. Inviting Full Council agree the grants budget as proposed, see table 1, the following recommendations are made:-



2. To note Area Committee grant approvals for 2008/2009 and comments received from Area Committees and Community Scrutiny – Appendix A



3. To approve the City Wide recommendations for 2008/2009 as set out in Appendix B



3. To approve for officers to take forward the commissioning to fruition, for the period 2008/09, 2009/10 & 2010/11

4. To approve the recommendation that the Community Soup Kitchen is moved into the homelessness commissioning process, commencing 2009/10.

5. To approve the recommendation that Community Safety objective fall under the commissioning umbrella and starts 2009/10.

6. To approve the recommendation that any savings made through the commissioning process the funding is kept within the grants budgets for activities/projects falling within the same area where the saving was found. For example any saving made within the homelessness allocations is kept specifically for other homelessness related grants.

7. Executive Board approve the allocation of £5000 from the £20,526 unallocated in the grants budget, see table 1, to increase the small grants budget. The balance of £15,526 is held back as a contingency to look into Advice.

8. Executive Board are asked to approve the permanent transfer of £95,000 from the grants budget into Community Housing Business Unit to go towards the costs of the Lord Mayor's Deposit Guarantee Scheme.

9 Executive Board are asked to approve officers to commission with Oxford Inspires through the Arts commissioning process.

Introduction

1. Local community and voluntary organisations were invited to apply to Oxford City Council grants for the 2008/2009 financial year. The process started earlier this year, in October, with a closing date of 9th November 2007. This change was done to fall in with Oxford City Council's budget setting process and so that decisions can be given to groups / organisations earlier, in February, helping them plan more effectively

Grants Budgets

2. At Executive Board on 10th September 2007 the total budget suggested for grants was £1,627,063. However the total budget available for grants, as currently proposed, for 2008/2009 is set out below.

Table 1

	Budget (£)
Partnership / Commissioning Grants See table 2	1,292,221
Area Committee agreed grants & other City Wide grants (open bidding) See appendix b	249,042
Set aside for Small grants in 08/09	5,000
Set aside for Emergency Grants in 08/09	15,000
Set aside for Arts Development Grants in 08/09	10,000
Unallocated grant funding	20,526
Unallocated inflation	21,970
Total	1,613,759

Applications Received to the Open Bidding Section

3. A total of 84 applications were received to the open bidding section by the closing date 9th November 2007, with a total amount requested of £991,762. The total amount available from this section is £249,042.
4. Two applications were received after the closing date, legal advice was taken and the recommendation was not to accept them. The Councillor Grant Panel supports this recommendation.

Assessment of these Applications

- 5 Oxford City Council officers appraised applications to the open bidding section over four days. Each application was firstly screened for eligibility (application must show that they are a constituted CVO run by a committee, that they have provided annual accounts and a bank statement and an equal opportunities statement). All applications are read and then evaluated against criteria relating to evidence of need, who the project is targeting, what risks are associated with the project, how the application meets the Council's aims, how the group will monitor and evaluate the impact of the grant, whether the group received any other subsidy from the City Council, if the group is financially competent, if the application demonstrates a financial need and if the grant would be value for money. A recommendation is arrived at after considering these factors for each application.
6. There has also been a Councillor Grants Panel meeting held with representation from Area Committees and Community Scrutiny. This panel has approved the recommendations listed in this report.
- 7 A change this year as agreed at Executive Board on 10th September 2007 was that any applications to the open bidding section that are specifically area based should go to the appropriate Area Committee for approval. Appendix A sets out comments, approvals and recommendations from Area Committees (except East Area Parliament which will be available at the Board meeting) together with recommendations and comments from the Community Scrutiny Committee.
- 8 All those applications that are City Wide based have been listed in Appendix B and are for Executive Board approval.
- 9 A précis for each application is included at Appendix C, giving more detail on the rationale for the recommendations. If members would like to see copies of any of the full applications, this can be arranged on request.
- 10 Some applications received to the open bidding included organisations that focus on community safety issues. The assessment panel felt that for some of these organisations it would be more appropriate for them to be part of the commissioning process. The Community Safety section in Community Housing and Community Development would

carry out the commissioning. A recommendation to Executive Board is requesting approval for this to start 2009/10.

- 11 An application from Community Soup Kitchen was submitted to the open bidding section. This project provides food to the homelessness and the officer evaluation panel felt that this would benefit more if Oxford City Council committed support by commissioning with this project. Approval is requested from Executive Board to allow officers to commission with this project through the homelessness commissioning process, commencing 2009/2010.

Rents

- 12 The following applications included requests from organisations that occupy Oxford City Council premises for grants towards rent.

Table 3

Organisation	2008/2009 Rent (£)	Grant for rent recommended for 2008/09 (£)	Comments
Phoenix Sports Association	4,600	2,300	50% of request recommended – see Appendix A
Falcon Rowing & Canoe Club	4,250	0	Application did not provide sufficient evidence of need
Florence Park Bowls Club	8,220	0	No grant recommended because officers already working with this group and poor value for money
Oxford Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Centre	5,000	5,000	Total grant recommended £8000 – additional funding to go towards helpline costs
Lake Street Playgroup	11,000	11,000	£14,900 approved by EB on 08.08.05, the balance of £3,900 is for other running costs
Hinksey Sculling Club	1,020	1,020	This is in line with the Executive Board decision made on 08.08.05 that agreed support until 2009/10
Oxford British Sub Aqua Club	11,900	11,900	This is in line with the Executive Board decision made on 08.08.05 that agreed

			support until 2009/10
The Story Museum	2,350	0	Not a priority of Oxford City Council

The following organisations occupy Oxford City Council premises, and fall within the commissioning process; arrangements to pay rent due will form part of that process.

Table 4

Organisation	2008/2009 Rent (£)	Grant for rent recommended for 2008/09 (£)	Comments
Agnes Smith Advice Centre	7,250	7,250	Through commissioning
Modern Art Oxford	41,000	41,000	Through commissioning
Oxford Community Work Agency	8,100	8,100	Through commissioning
Oxford Film & Video Makers	5,000	5,000	Through commissioning
Oxfordshire Chinese Community & Advice Centre	18,000	18,000	Through commissioning

Older People / Small BME Groups

- 13 Applications received from some older people groups and Black & Minority Ethnic community groups who do not have the same capacity as larger organisations were competing with much larger applications and this was to the detriment of these activities.
- 14 The community development officer responsible for working with older people is linking in with other organisations to give this support for their activities. Also the community cohesion officer will be looking as ways to support the small BME groups.
- 15 To support all smaller groups who were unsuccessful it is recommended that Executive Board approve the allocation of £5000 from the £20,526 unallocated in the grants budget, see table 1, to increase the small grants budget. By providing some capacity building to these groups they will then have the opportunity to apply for a small grant through the small grant process next financial year.

Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Services (Agnes Smith Advice Centre)

16. On the 3rd December 2007 it came to my attention that an application from Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Support Service (Agnes Smith Advice Centre) was hand delivered and left at reception. This application, made to the open bidding section, was for a top up to the amount recommended through the commissioning process. Unfortunately the Grants Officer has still not received the application hand delivered, although a second copy has now been received.

Officially it has missed the deadline and officer recommendation is that it cannot be considered.

Commissioning

17. In a report to Executive Board on the 10th September 2007 it was agreed to commit a large percentage of the grants, over a 3-year period, through commissioning.
18. The current allocations are being looked at within the context of value for money and ensuring that services commissioned are in line with our strategic objectives. Where feasible the commissioning and monitoring procedures will be done jointly with other major funding organisations.
19. Officers are at present in the process of negotiating the details and we are asking for approval from Executive Board for officers to take forward the commissioning process to fruition

Listed below are the organisations proposed to commission with.


Table 2

Commission with	Organisation
Advice Centres Total amount available £479,721	Oxford CAB Oxford Community Work Agency Rose Hill & Donnington Advice Centre Agnes Smith Advice Centre Oxford Chinese Community & Advice Centre Oxford Credit Union
Homelessness Total amount available £537,279 Less £95,000 for LMDGS	The homelessness allocation is still under negotiation. A further report will be submitted to Executive Board on 17.03.08.
Arts Total amount available £305,735 This has increased by £55,735 for Oxford Inspires	Modern Art Oxford Fusion Oxford Playhouse Pegasus Theatre Oxford Film & Video Makers Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company ITHACA Oxford Contemporary Music Oxon Visual Arts Development Agency Oxford Inspires
Twinning Total amount available £5,000	Oxford International Links (OIL)
Infrastructure (including capacity building and support to CVO's) Total amount available £59,486	Oxford Community & Voluntary Action

- 20 The Lord Mayor's Deposit Guarantee Scheme will not fall into the commissioning process because the project is now located within Community Housing & Community Development Business Unit. Executive Board are asked to approve the permanent transfer of £95,000 from the grants budget into Community Housing & Community Development Business Unit to go towards the costs of this project.
- 21 Recently the cost centre for Partnership grants (KH11) was increased by £55,735. This was a transfer from Strategy & Review Business Unit for Oxford Inspires and is a permanent budget. Executive Board are asked to give approval for officers to commission with Oxford Inspires through the Arts commissioning process.



Recommendations to Executive Board

Providing Full Council agree the grants budget as proposed, Executive Board are recommended to:-

1. To note Area Committee grant approvals for 2008/2009 and comments received from Area Committees and Community Scrutiny – Appendix A (to be circulated separately)
2. To approve the City Wide recommendations for 2008/2009 as set out in Appendix B
3. To approve for officers to take forward the commissioning to fruition, for the period 2008/09, 2009/10 & 2010/11
4. To approve the recommendation that the Community Soup Kitchen is moved into the homelessness commissioning process, commencing 2009/10.
5. To approve the recommendation that Community Safety objective fall under the commissioning umbrella and starts 2009/10.
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the costs of the Lord Mayor's Deposit Guarantee Scheme.

9 Executive Board are asked to approve officers to commission with Oxford Inspires through the Arts commissioning process.

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Background papers:

Application forms.

APPENDIX B

City Wide Based Projects

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Amount Recommended</u>
ACCAN	£0.00
Anjuman-e-Adab (Oxford)	£0.00
Archway Foundation	£2,500.00
Ark T Centre - cowley feast	£2,250.00
Artweeks	£0.00
Asylum Welcome	£7,500.00
Cheney Over 50's Club	£0.00
Church of God of Prophecy - soup kitchen	£5,000.00
City of Oxford Rowing Club	£0.00
Creation Theatre Company	£0.00
Donnington Doorstep Family Centre	£0.00
East Oxford Action - Cowley Road Carnival	£13,500.00
Ethnic Minority Business Service	£7,500.00
Falcon Rowing & Canoeing Charitable Trust	£0.00
Falcon Rowing & Canoeing Charitable Trust	£0.00
Falcon Trust	£0.00
Full Circle	£0.00
Hinksey Sculling Club	£1,020.00
Indian Union, Oxford	£0.00
KEEN	£4,000.00
My Life My Choice	£3,538.00
Oxford Adaptive Rowing Club	£0.00
Oxford African Refugees & Families Development Community	£0.00
Oxford Association of Neighbourhood Watches	£0.00
Oxford Blues Skater Hockey Club	£0.00
Oxford CAB - BIP project	£17,250.00
Oxford Conservation Volunteers (OCV)	£0.00
Oxford Contemporary Music	£3,500.00
Oxford Friend	£4,000.00
Oxford International Womens Festival	£0.00
Oxford Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Centre	£8,000.00
Oxford Urban Wildlife Group	£0.00
Oxfordshire Afghan Community (OAC)	£0.00
Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	£5,510.00
Oxfordshire Play Association	£0.00
Oxfordshire Racial Equality Council	£0.00
Oxfordshire Social Enterprise Forum	£0.00
Oxfordshire Womens Aid	£14,000.00
OXPIP	£0.00
OXRAD	£9,600.00
OYAP Trust	£4,400.00
Relate	£5,000.00
SHOUT	£18,300.50
Social Welfare Network	£0.00
South Oxford Adventure Playground	£4,650.00
The Baby Café Bus	£0.00
The Oxford Hub	£0.00
The Story Museum - for rent	£0.00
The Story Museum - Alice's Day	£0.00
TRAX	£5,000.00
Volunteer Reading Help	£0.00

