

Appendix A

Approvals, Recommendations and Comments received from Area Committees and Community Scrutiny Committee

South East Area Committee - 08/09 Grant Budget Allocation £33,998	Officer Response
<p><u>The following points are from SEAC;</u></p> <p>It was observed that some groups were recommended for zero funding on the assumption, perhaps erroneous, that they would receive funding from Sport England – could that be clarified?</p> <p>Councillor Bance observed that the Advice Centres in the City did a good job and deserved support from the Council. She noticed that there was £44,720 unallocated (in the advice allocations), and wondered if this could be shared between the advice centres?</p> <p>Some concern was expressed about the Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB). Its premises were not readily accessible, especially for wheelchair users, and they were costly to rent as well. They also had a rather expensive phone number for callers. This often led to the other advice centres receiving more visits and requests.</p> <p>Councillor Craft expressed reservations about the amount allocated for arts grants – he felt that there were more pressing and deserving causes that the Council could support.</p> <p>The Chair added that some groups, in particular Modern Art Oxford, had done some work in Rose Hill that had been well received and highly rated, and that this should be acknowledged.</p> <p>Councillor Craft expressed opposition to grants being allocated along ethnic or religious lines, since he did not feel they benefited the whole community. He also felt that it was inappropriate for the Council to offer extra help to the Black Minority Ethnic (BME) groups to enable them to make more grant applications. He also noted that the Area Committee had previously expressed support for the Falcon Rowing Club, but could see no mention of this group receiving a grant.</p> <p>Councillor Bance felt that the suggested sum of £59,486 to OCVA was too much.</p>	<p>Sport England funding had been confirmed - £255,000 over 3 years</p> <p>Welfare advice provision had been the subject of a number of reviews, and all monitoring information was considered most carefully.</p> <p>Some of the larger arts organisations were involved in outreach work within the City that had been well received, and arts grants had to meet certain criteria in order to be considered for an award.</p> <p>It is being proposed that Oxford Council Voluntary Action (OCVA) receive funding to assist it advise to help voluntary groups on making better applications for grant aid.</p>

Councillor Bance thought it important to note that not every member of the Committee felt it inappropriate to support groups along ethnic or religious lines. She felt that providing extra assistance with the grant-giving process helped many groups for the elderly, including lunch clubs.

Councillor Cole noted that the application from the Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Support Service was not to be considered because it had arrived too late. However, there was some doubt about this, and he felt that because there was doubt, the application should be included for consideration. He also observed that some groups, such as Asylum Welcome, were more suitable for support from central Government.

The Area Committee had previously given a grant to Blackbird Leys Boys and Girls Football Club, but had not yet followed up concerns about the condition of their premises. Councillor Cole was also concerned to note that the Blackbird Leys Pre-School was not recommended for a grant.

Councillor Cole also thought that the shops in Cowley Road should be asked to help meet the costs of the Carnival, rather than relying on East Oxford Action.

South East Area Committee Recommend the following to Executive Board:-

That the £44,720 unallocated amount in advice allocations be divided between the Rose Hill and Donnington Advice Centre, the Agnes Smith Advice Centre, and the Chinese Advice Centre;

That the application for the Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Support Service be considered;

South East Area Committee Approved the following Recommendations:-

Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground - £18,700

Blackbird Leys Pre School would be eligible for funding from Oxfordshire County Council

N/A

<p>Blackbird Leys Boys & Girls FC - £0 Blackbird Leys Credit Union - £5,000 Blackbird Leys Pre School - £0 Leys CDI - £3,537 Leys Fair - £2,000 Leys Youth Open Network - £2,500 Rose Hill Community Association - £0 Rose Hill & Donnington AC (top up) - £0 Total approved £31,737</p> <p>That the remaining £2,261 of the 08/09 grants budget for the SEAC is used to support local organisation/groups in the SEAC area, during the remainder of the financial year.</p>	
<p>Cowley Area Committee - 08/09 Grant Budget Allocation £14,423</p>	
<p><u>Cowley Area Committee Recommend the following to Executive Board;</u></p> <p>That the £20,000 unallocated from the £44,720 in the grants budget for Advice Centres commissioning be transferred for further support to the application from Rose Hill & Donnington Advice Centre.</p> <p><u>Cowley Area Committee Approved the following Recommendations;</u></p> <p>Barracks Lane Garden Project - £1,250 Open Door - £5,000 Oxfordshire Bangladeshi Association - £1,370 West Indian Day Centre - £0 Total approved £7,620</p> <p>That the remaining £6,803 of the 08/09 grants budget for the Cowley Area Committee is used to support local organisation/groups in the Cowley Area, during the remainder of the financial year.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

North Area Committee - 08/09 Grant Budget Allocation £2,061											
<p><u>North Area Committee Approved the following Recommendations;</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Cotteslowe Community Association</td> <td>- £5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cotteslowe Seniors Group</td> <td>- £850</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Oxford Associaiton</td> <td>- £0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Summertown Stars AFC</td> <td>- £0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total approved £5,850</td> </tr> </table> <p>North Area Committee agreed to provide top up funding of £3,790 to cover the shortfall.</p>	Cotteslowe Community Association	- £5,000	Cotteslowe Seniors Group	- £850	North Oxford Associaiton	- £0	Summertown Stars AFC	- £0	Total approved £5,850		N/A
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Central, South & West Area Committee - 08/09 Grant Budget Allocation £13,393											
<p><u>The following comment is are from CSW Area Committee;</u></p> <p>That the following cost of rent incurred by Lake Street Playgroup should not be funded from the Committee's general community grants allocation but through specific provision within the grants budget.</p> <p><u>Central, South & West Area Committee Recommend the following to Executive Board;</u></p> <p>That the £44,720 unallocated in the commissioning budget for Advice Centres is used to provide financial assistance to Rose Hill & Donnington AC, Agnes Smith AC & Oxford Community Work Agency at Barton.</p>	<p><u>Lake St Playgroup Rent.</u></p> <p>At Executive Board on the 08.08.05 it was agreed that the rent for this group should be paid until 2010 from the grants budget, it was also agreed that the grants budget should be increased by £6000 to fund this.</p> <p>Finance confirms the increase has been done.</p> <p>Executive Board can either agree to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the grant allocated to area committees by the £14900, and then have officers re-calculate the amount to each area committee. 2. Code the £14900 to the unallocated amount in the grants budget, see table 1 in the main report. <p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>										

<p><u>Central, South & West Area Committee approved the following recommendations:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>St Lukes Youth & Community Centre</td> <td>- £1,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Oxford Adventure Playground</td> <td>- £6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lake Street Playgroup – toys</td> <td>- £0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Oxford Community Association – furniture</td> <td>- £0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total approved</td> <td>- £7,600</td> </tr> </table> <p>That the remaining £5,793 of the 08/09 grants budget for the Central, South & West Area Committee is used to support local organisation/groups in the CSW Area during the remainder of the financial year.</p>	St Lukes Youth & Community Centre	- £1,600	South Oxford Adventure Playground	- £6,000	Lake Street Playgroup – toys	- £0	South Oxford Community Association – furniture	- £0	Total approved	- £7,600							
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<p>North East Area Committee - 08/09 Grant Budget Allocation £19,574</p>																	
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<p>East Area Parliament - 08/09 Budget Allocation £19,574</p>	
<p>Approvals, Recommendations and Comments not yet available and will follow.</p>	
<p>Community Scrutiny Committee</p>	
<p><u>The following points are from Community Scrutiny Committee</u></p> <p>Some area committees may wish to discuss grant applications without press or public being present.</p> <p>The process was more transparent now but there had been some confusion due to short notice of meetings – this is expected to improve next year.</p> <p>No applications had been turned down purely on the grounds of poorly completed applications forms. If financial information was missing officers had called the applicants and given them extra time to submit the information.</p> <p>There appeared to be too many BME applications turned down. In some cases this was due to lack of correct insurance for festivals and celebrations.</p> <p><u>Community Scrutiny Agreed;</u></p> <p>To support the 2008/09 grant recommendations and the way forward with older people and small BME groups.</p> <p>Recommend to the Executive Board that the unallocated £44720 be held in abeyance until the situation with OREC is clearer. When resolved the £44720 should be divided between the advice centres (£24,720) and equalities work (£20,000).</p> <p><u>Comment received from Councillor Williams</u></p> <p>The grant to Modern Art Oxford and the Playhouse is too much; he would rather see more funding going to International Exchange.</p>	<p>During 2008/09 the Councillor Grants Panel will continue to meet and keep the involvement of this group in the grants process. Future dates have been circulated</p>

