

KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 22nd April 2008

GRANTS TO COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION PROJECTS

Report by the Interim Assistant to the Chief Executive

1. Introduction

At its meeting on 22nd April the Council resolved, inter alia, that **subject to the approval of the Wiltshire County Council**

- (1) a supplementary capital estimate of £3 million be approved for the purpose of funding education-related community projects within the Kennet District Council area;**
- (2) the Grants to Community Bodies Sub Committee be re-convened with delegated authority to decide on individual applications.**

The County Council has approved this programme and the first meeting of the Grants to Community Bodies Sub Committee met on 10th June and approved applications for funding totalling £2,027,000. This included approvals for schemes in Devizes, Ludgershall, Marlborough, Pewsey and Rowde.

The second meeting of the Sub Committee is to take place on 15th July and schemes totalling £1,386,000 are to be considered, and if approved the £3m budget would be exceeded by £441,000. These schemes are located in Ludgershall, Tidworth, Netheravon, West Lavington, Avebury, Broad Hinton, Great Cheverell and Devizes.

There are a further five schemes that could potentially be considered, with a total cost of some £800,000, situated at Marlborough, Devizes, Broad Hinton, Tidworth and Great Cheverell.

The purpose of this report is to seek a further £441,000 for education-related community projects, bringing the total funding available to £3,441,000 in place of the original £3m.

2. Financial Implications

If the recommendations made in this report are approved, then a supplementary capital budget of £441,000 would be required.

If all the projects currently included in the Kennet District Council capital programme were to be completed as planned, the balance of useable capital receipts at the end of March 2009 would be some £10m. That figure would be reduced by the amount set aside for education and library projects in

partnership with the County Council. That figure is in addition to the Council's revenue reserves which are planned to be some £4.m at the end of 2008/09.

It is recognised that some of the proposals that have been and might be the subject of detailed consideration would not be capable of delivery by the end of March 2009, and that any sums awarded to fund them in the meantime would have to be ring-fenced for that purpose after the end of Kennet.

3. Staffing Implications

None.

4. Legal and Risk Management Implications

None

5. The Discussions With the Director of the Department for Children and Education (DDCE)

The DDCE has informed me that the County Council would not object to the figure of £3m being increased, but nevertheless one would want a specific agreement to the new figure of £3,441,000 to provide certainty in that respect.

The applications already considered, plus those to be considered on 15th July would represent the limits of this programme.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

It is possible that, working in partnership with the Wiltshire County Council, a number of valuable community projects with a strong education emphasis could be accomplished in the Kennet area that would otherwise be unlikely to occur in the foreseeable future.

It is therefore **RECOMMENDED THAT, subject to the approval of the Wiltshire County Council a supplementary capital estimate of £441,000 be approved for the purpose of funding education-related community projects within the Kennet District Council area, (bringing the total of this programme to £3,441,000).**

Frank Marshall

N.B. If any of the schemes to be considered by the Grants to Community Bodies Sub Committee on 15th July are not approved the figure included in the above recommendation will change.