



To: East Area Committee  
Report by: Head of Community Development  
Relevant committee: East Area Committee 25 July 13  
Wards affected: Romsey, Petersfield, Coleridge, Abbey

## **Community Development Capital Projects in the East Area Funding Application from Barnwell Baptist Church and Programme Update**

### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 This report gives an update of the East Area Committee Capital programme for improving community facilities. It also recommends a small grant to improve community facilities at Barnwell Baptist Church.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Area Committee is recommended:

- 2.1 To award a capital grant of £3,500 for the improvement of kitchen facilities at Barnwell Baptist Church, subject to the completion of the Council's Agreement for small capital grants.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 In August 2010, following consideration by the East Area Committee, the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health approved a Capital Programme for the East of the City to improve community facilities. The budget for the programme, which has come from S106 contributions from developers, was set at £800,000 with £400,000 being reserved for 5 named projects. The remainder of the funding was allocated to each ward in proportion to the contributions received as a result of developments in the four wards. All applications are subject

to a project appraisal process before a recommendation is made. Appendix B gives an update on the programme.

- 3.2 The August 2010 report stated that all schemes should either be completed by 2013 or have established an implementation plan within an agreed timescale.
- 3.3 There has been good progress with the programme. To date £755,000 has been spent or committed to projects to improve community facilities within East Area. The remaining £45,000 is allocated to Abbey ward. This report recommends funding for a small improvement project at Barnwell Baptist Church costing £3,500 which, if approved, would leave £41,500.

### **Potential projects in Abbey ward**

- 3.4 Officers are actively involved in the East Barnwell Community Centre project in Abbey, led by the County Council, which is looking at options to improve or redevelop the Centre into a multi-use centre for local residents. This had been highlighted as a possible scheme in the original East Area programme but it has only recently gained momentum again and County have now employed a dedicated project manager.
- 3.5 Officers have also been in discussion with Cambridge Past Present and Future regarding possible improvements to the Leper Chapel and are waiting to see if proposals come forward.
- 3.6 There have also been early discussions with Abbey Church on Newmarket Road about the possibility of improving the building so it could be used for community activities. Again, we are waiting to see if any proposals come forward.
- 3.7 In the autumn, as part of the devolved decision making process, area committees will be asked to prioritise further capital projects for funding from developer contributions. It is proposed that any funds in the East Area Capital Grants Programme that have not been allocated by the autumn are retained by East Area Committee for use in Abbey ward but

integrated into the East Area Committee's devolved developer contributions budgets.

#### **4. Barnwell Baptist Church**

4.1 This venue is well used by a variety of groups including fitness classes, money advice and toddler groups as well as by general hire and as a base for Abbey people (formally Abbey Action). The equipment they have to support this use is very old and sparse and not really suitable larger events. The improved facilities would enable a wider range of activities to be held at the church.

4.2 The minister, Stuart Wood, has tentative plans for major improvements in a few years but has asked for some financial help to make interim improvements to the kitchen facilities. This would include adding:

- A dishwasher
- Commercial oven
- Fridge
- Water heater
- Fridge / freezer

4.3 Whilst Mr Wood and his colleagues would do most of the labouring and carpentry work required to accommodate the equipment, they would also need to employ an electrician. Most of the equipment would be suitable for use if and when the church undergoes major improvements in the future.

4.4 The total amount of grant applied for is £3,500. If approved, Mr Wood expects to complete the work in a couple of months. The grant would be subject to completion of the Council's Agreement for small capital grants.

4.5 Mr Wood met Councillor Hart and Bridget Keady from Community Development on site on 25<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the proposals.

#### **6. Implications**

6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report that have not been covered in the body of the report. Capital

grants are released on receipt of an architect's interim certificate and/or copy invoices from contractors. No money is released in advance of work being done. There are no revenue implications for the Council.

- 6.2 Briefings on progress with other potential applications are being sent to members on a regular basis. Also meetings to discuss ward issues are taking place with Ward Councillors, as required.

## **5. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

## **6. Appendices**

- 6.1 Appendix A – Update on East Area Committee's Capital Grant Programme

## **7. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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