

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Head of Community Development
and Project and Programme
Executive

REPORT NUMBER: **K110**

TO: **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
(COMMUNITY SERVICES)
COMMITTEE**

DATE OF MEETING: 5 October 2010

REVIEW OF BABERGH'S DISCRETIONARY COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report on activity funded under the Council's Discretionary Community Grant Policy in 2009/2010; the second completed year of operation using the new grants policy. The policy underpins the link between the Babergh Strategic Plan and the allocation of discretionary funding.
- 1.2 To set out the intended approach to funding applications in 2011/12, in particular, to consider the options about the Council's future grant funding options for the Quay Theatre, Sudbury.
- 1.3 The biggest grant recipient this year was the Sudbury and District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). Representatives from the CAB will be attending the meeting to explain their work and how it supports the Council's objectives.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the content of the report be noted.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report, which is a description of activity that was funded within the Council's budgeted expenditure for 2009/2010.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Significant Business Risk No. 9, Management of Major Programmes and Projects. Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Seriousness or Impact	Mitigation Measures
Risks are associated with not having adequate monitoring in place to link funding to strategic planning	LOW	MEDIUM – poor targeting of scarce resources of the Council	Adoption of an adequate policy, keeping tight budget control, monitoring and reporting of activity and outcomes

Risk Description	Likelihood	Seriousness or Impact	Mitigation Measures
The reductions in grant aid to community groups has unintended and serious consequences to the organisations concerned	LOW	MEDIUM	Close consultation with recipients about impact of proposed changes

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on the effects of the reduction in funding levels for Babergh's Community Grants Scheme. It is clear that the most vulnerable groups in the District are affected by the reduction in grant aid. Our work with voluntary and community groups to mitigate against these effects is being developed; this includes providing help about finding other funding sources.

6. KEY INFORMATION

- 6.1 In order to help Members fully scrutinise the Community Grant Scheme a quick reminder is provided here about how the Council's grant policies were developed. The current scheme was launched in 2008/2009. It was significant because, for the first time, the new policy directly linked the allocation of discretionary funding with the Council's Strategic Plan. It also streamlined the application process and simplified the allocation process for recipients, who previously had up to 16 different ways of applying for grant aid in Babergh. In these respects it has been a success. The administration of the new system was also changed with the appointment of one part-time dedicated Grants Officer, who became the main contact point for the whole operation. The function became one of the responsibilities within the newly formed Community Development Division.
- 6.2 The Scheme is a discretionary funding area made up of a wide range of grants from £150 to over £50,000, with over 50 organisations being assisted each year. The recipients are very varied; from a village Community Coffee Centre to the CAB. The arrangements for our grant aid range from a simple small annual donation to three-year funding agreements. Purchasing community activity through grant funding is a cost effective and socially useful way of providing services and Babergh has a strong record on this.
- 6.3 The present grant system had been built on the high probability of budget growth, so the need to reduce expenditure in this service area has been particularly challenging. Last year Members did not find it easy to determine how and where grant cuts should fall. This discretionary area of funding does face the certain prospect of being the subject of further budget reduction in 2011/12.
- 6.4 During May 2010 a questionnaire was issued to 32 organisations that had received a discretionary revenue grant this year. It had been a difficult year and we wanted to find out what recipients thought about the way the whole grant reduction process had been handled. We had a 62% response rate to the questionnaire. An analysis of the completed return is shown in Appendix 6.

- 6.5 The overall picture was that the process was run well with 100% of the respondents giving a “Very Well” or “Well” reply. Groups were also pleased with the way they had been kept informed of impending changes, again with 100% saying “Very Well” or “Well”.
- 6.6 When asked about using the funding advice stream we offered, 47% had used the advisors we had informed them about with £12,000 being sourced by those who had used the funding advisors, other groups preferring to use their own resources.
- 6.7 We asked about the impact on the level of service they would be able to deliver if their grant was cut further next year. 62% stated that there would be “significant impact” on that level of service with 38% stating that there would “no impact” or “limited impact”.

7. AN ANALYSIS OF THE FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

Revenue Funding

- 7.1 A total of £449,966 revenue funding was allocated and spent in 2009/2010. Details of the recipient organisations and the activity for which funding was granted are shown in Appendix 1. This expenditure, matched with other finance raised by the organisations concerned, funded a further £6,370,000 of activity as appears in Appendix 2.
- 7.2 All our funding went towards activity within the Babergh area, provided for the benefit of Babergh residents, though some projects are rolled out over a wider area and also serve residents from other Districts. Much of the revenue funding was for long standing commitments to local agencies and partnerships that continue to deliver activities that support the Council’s Strategic Themes.
- 7.3 The largest revenue grant awarded was £51,900 to the Sudbury and District CAB. The role of the CAB in the current economic climate has been particularly important. Given the size of the grant it is felt that Members would welcome the opportunity to hear from the CAB and representatives from the Bureau will be attending the meeting to explain their work and how it supports the Council’s objectives.

Capital Funding

- 7.4 A total of £127,426 capital funding was allocated during 2009/10. Details of all projects funded are shown in Appendix 1. This expenditure combined with the £2,899,086 of monies raised by the organisations themselves funded a total of £3,026,512 of capital projects in the Babergh area.

Revenue Funding and Strategic Themes

- 7.5 Appendix 1 also shows how the projects funded relate to four of the Council’s Strategic Themes. The fifth theme, “Quality homes that people can afford”, is not shown separately as activities towards this theme are outside the scope of discretionary grant funding. Whilst many projects addressed more than one theme, and allocating their activities to the different areas is not an exact science, the pie chart at Appendix 3 demonstrates that the four areas are all addressed to a substantial degree. The allocation of organisations to themes, which is also not an exact science, can be seen on Appendix 5.

Allocation of Capital Funding and Strategic Priorities

- 7.6 We have continued to make significant efforts to ensure that discretionary capital funding also related to all four Strategic Themes. Appendix 4 shows how the projects funded related to these. This has been achieved by broadening the scope of applications to include projects relating to green spaces and to enable local voluntary organisations to bid, whilst retaining our core purposes of working with Parishes and local management committees on village halls and play areas and with organisations providing sport and leisure opportunities. We have also drawn attention to the economic benefit of capital expenditure where a tourism benefit could be seen. The allocation of capital projects to Strategic Themes is shown on Appendix 1.

A Cleaner, Greener Babergh

Revenue

- 7.7 Under this theme we funded two partnerships that protect Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, two organisations that work for the protection of green spaces and wildlife and several small projects to assist planting of hedges or the preservation of ditches that enhance the countryside. There is Member involvement in all the larger projects. There is also representation on Greenways, an organisation with more limited funding that helps maintain green spaces on the Babergh/lpswich border

Capital

- 7.8 Under this theme we funded two major play area projects that facilitated access to open and green spaces at Great Waldingfield and Hitcham.

A Safer and Healthier Babergh

Revenue

- 7.9 The four major Sports Centres within Babergh were funded and 16 different organisations that work to protect the safety of Babergh residents and/or to increase healthy, active lifestyles, or improved mental well-being, including one racial harassment initiative. There is Member representation on the dual use sports centres. In a broader sense, there are health and safety advantages from all the activities funded as all community involvement increases wellbeing and a sense of safety and belonging.

Capital

- 7.10 Under this theme nine groups were funded that encourage a healthy and active life including three sports groups and two play areas.

A Strong and Sustainable Babergh Economy

Revenue

- 7.11 Under this theme we have funded partnerships, one business advice service, and two county-based advice and funding services for local groups and businesses. In addition, support has been given to several facilities and activities that attract tourists to the Babergh area, including the Quay Theatre.

There are economic advantages to all the revenue activity we fund such as support for employment in voluntary and sporting organisations, keeping people healthy etc. There is Member representation on both the strategic partnerships (i.e. Suffolk Development Agency and Haven Gateway).

Capital

- 7.12 Under this heading we have funded a major sports club and the Sudbury CAB, again both groups provide activities or support that contributes to the local economy.

Vibrant places, strong communities

Revenue

- 7.13 Under this heading we have funded six arts projects, one theatre, two meeting or lunch clubs for the elderly, three umbrella organisations providing funding and development advice to local groups, two CABx, one project providing support for ethnic minorities, and one youth project. Again, all the activities funded could also be seen to support this theme as sports centres and village shops, for example, are also part of a vibrant community. The Quay Theatre and Sudbury Citizens Advice Bureau have Member representation though `Babergh Communities Together` did not.

Capital

- 7.14 Under this theme we funded 12 different parish and community groups to provide better meeting and activity spaces. Half of these were quite small grants that contributed to major repairs or alterations to improve existing facilities.

8. THE QUAY THEATRE

- 8.1 Members will be aware that the Quay Theatre receives the second largest revenue grant given by the Council (£51,500). Discussions have taken place with the Theatre to discuss the impact of any grant cut. Following these discussions, it was concluded that an independent view examining how a funding cut might affect its ability to deliver its work and reviewing the Theatre's current financial position would be helpful. Accordingly, Kate Anderson, Executive Director of the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton was commissioned to undertake the work. Hard copies of her report will be made available at the meeting. The Committee is not being asked to make a decision on this matter as this will be done as part of the SFP process, but a brief outline of the conclusions in the report is provided below.
- 8.2 Kate Anderson's report does not make any recommendations, but it does set out three possible ways forward for the theatre; as follows:

(a) Retrenchment

If Babergh District Council cuts in the region of £5,500 the Quay may be able to continue to operate its current level of programme with a reduced staffing.

Should the cut from Babergh District Council be higher than this level, and should income from other sources not be forthcoming, an option the Quay may wish to explore is to become a wholly amateur operated theatre. In this scenario, it is unlikely that the company would be able to continue to present the current level of work, or to be able to sustain its professional programme. However, it may still be able to open for amateur productions, to continue its youth theatre and hire its space to local groups as a community facility. An example of a successful amateur theatre is The Stables in Hastings. The Stables is open for about 100 shows per annum of which 88% are local amateur productions, 12% are professional work including children's theatre and youth theatre productions. They receive no regular funding and are entirely operated by volunteers except for a part time cleaner.

(b) Standstill

In order to continue to operate with the current level of staffing and programming, the company will need to raise additional monies representing the current shortfall less the potential budget savings and hire fee increases. Clearly, it will not be easy to raise this money in the current climate and the Quay would need to discuss this option with its primary funders.

(c) Expansion

With considerable capital investment in its facilities and a new development plan, incorporating a review of marketing, audience development, programme, staffing and Board, the Quay might expand to become a thriving arts centre and to be able to generate more earned income through box office, bar/catering and possibly sponsorship and trust funds. Again, raising the necessary income to make this change in the current climate would be difficult, but not impossible. After a number of years of financial difficulties, the company would need to convince its funders and potential funders that they have the energy, will and expertise to effect the change needed, but on the positive side, the Quay has a history of survival in difficult circumstances, an asset in its building and location and strong local backing.

8.3 The report was submitted to the Quay's Board of Directors on 28 September at which BDC officers were present. The outcome of the Board's deliberations will be reported to the meeting.

8.4 Subject to any views expressed by Members and the Board of Directors, the Officer view is that option (a) Retrenchment, is the only way forward in the current climate. The Service and Financial Planning Task Group have been asked to take this into account in reaching a conclusion on what overall level of grant funding should be available in 2011/12.

9. **APPROACH TO FUNDING APPLICATIONS IN 2011/12**

9.1 It is now clear that the Service and Financial Planning Task Group will be recommending reductions in the Community Grants Revenue Budget for 2011/12. All current revenue grant recipients have been advised of this.

- 9.2 Even grant funding to those organisations to which we have indicated a three-year funding commitment could be affected. Whilst care will be taken to try and introduce changes with adequate notice and help will be given to seek alternative sources, the need for change is pressing and will be hard hitting.
- 9.3 A draft budget is expected to be developed by December 2010. Grant recipients will be advised again at that time to explain how things are progressing. Despite the reduced funding pot we still need to ensure that the funding that is available is distributed in a fair and equitable manner so, in accordance with the Council's policy, existing and potential recipients will be invited to apply for a Community Grant for next year. This invitation, which will need to be made before Christmas 2010, will explain clearly that the grants budget will be less to avoid building unrealistic expectations.

10. BABERGH AND MID-SUFFOLK DC INTERGRATION

- 10.1 Babergh's Community Grants Scheme was originally based roughly on the Grant Aid Programme operated by Mid-Suffolk District Council (MSDC). The two grant schemes are still broadly similar although MSDC's scheme is more comprehensive and includes the administration of Rate Relief applications, disabled facilities grants (DFG) and housing renewal grants, all of which sit outside Babergh's scheme. However, the key principles are fundamentally the same for both schemes and proposals for integration are currently being developed.

11. APPENDICES

1. Allocation of grants for 2009/10
2. Matched Funding
3. Pie chart for revenue spread across strategic themes 2009/10
4. Pie chart for capital spread across strategic theme 2009/10
5. Pie chart for organisation across strategic themes 2009/10
6. Survey Results

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO

Report to Babergh District Council on the Quay Theatre.

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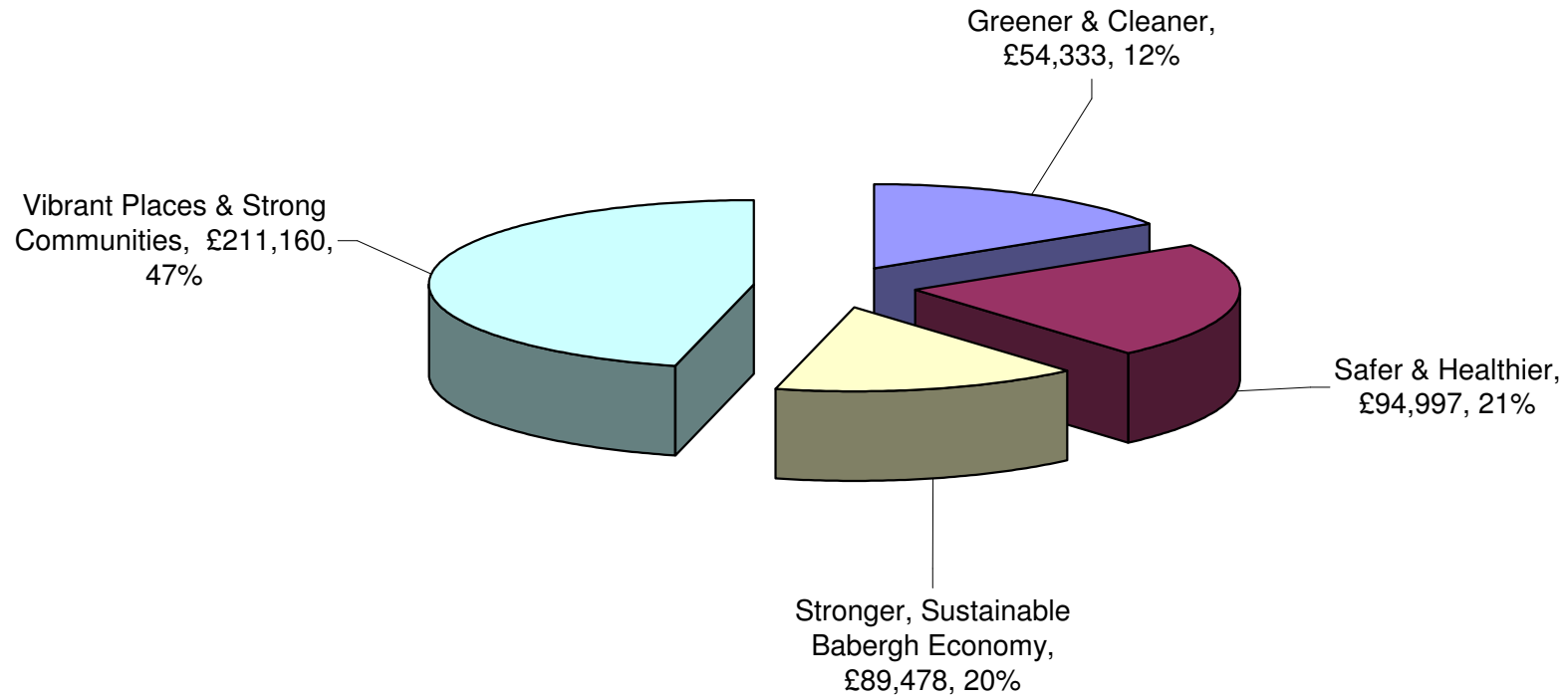
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CAPITAL GRANTS 2009/10							
Organisation Name	Purpose of Grant	Approved grant amount 2009/10	Greener & Cleaner	Safer & Healthier	Stronger, Sustainable Babergh Economy	Vibrant Places & Strong Communities	
Harkstead Village Hall	Insulate Village Hall Roof	£500	£250				£250
Stutton Rickshaw Service	Provide free rickshaw transport service in Stutton	£750	£350				£400
Pinewood Short Mat Bowls Club	Short mat bowls equipment	£750		£350			£400
2470 (Sudbury) Squadron Air Training Corps	Squadron Minibus	£750					£750
Cockfield Community Council	Projector & Screen to improve existing computer circle	£565					£565
Edens Project	Purchase of dishwasher & refrigerator	£746		£373			£373
Kernos Centre	Two computers	£750		£450			£300
Boxford Village Hall	Replace Village Hall Roof, electrical re wiring and refurbishment of lighting	£6,700	£4,000				£2,700
Bures & District Cricket Club	Clubhouse improvements, toilets, shower	£5,000		£2,500			£2,500
East Bergholt Sports Council	Resurfacing of multi-sports area	£5,715		£2,857			£2,858
Great Waldingfield Parish Council	Install new play area equipment	£5,000		£2,500			£2,500
Gt Waldingfield - Village Hall	Major works to Village hall, new ground source heating, new floor, insulation to walls ceiling, replacement UPVC doors and windows, replace kitchen	£25,000	£5,000				£20,000
Hadleigh Floodlit Astro turf	Provide multi sports all weather surface for football, hockey and Rugby	£25,000		£12,500			£12,500
Hitcham Community Play Area	Provision of new village play area and equipment	£10,000		£5,000			£5,000
Sudbury AFC	Building football accommodation and associated changing and community facilities	£25,000	£6,250	£6,250	£6,250		£6,250
Milden Pavilion Fund	Establishment of parking area for sports pavilion	£2,000					£2,000
Lawshall Village Hall Management Committee	Village Hall roof repairs	£3,200					£3,200
Sudbury & District CAB	Work on 3 rooms at Belle Vue House to extend existing CAB accommodation	£10,000		£3,333	£3,333		£3,334
TOTALS		£127,426	£15,850	£36,113	£9,583		£65,880

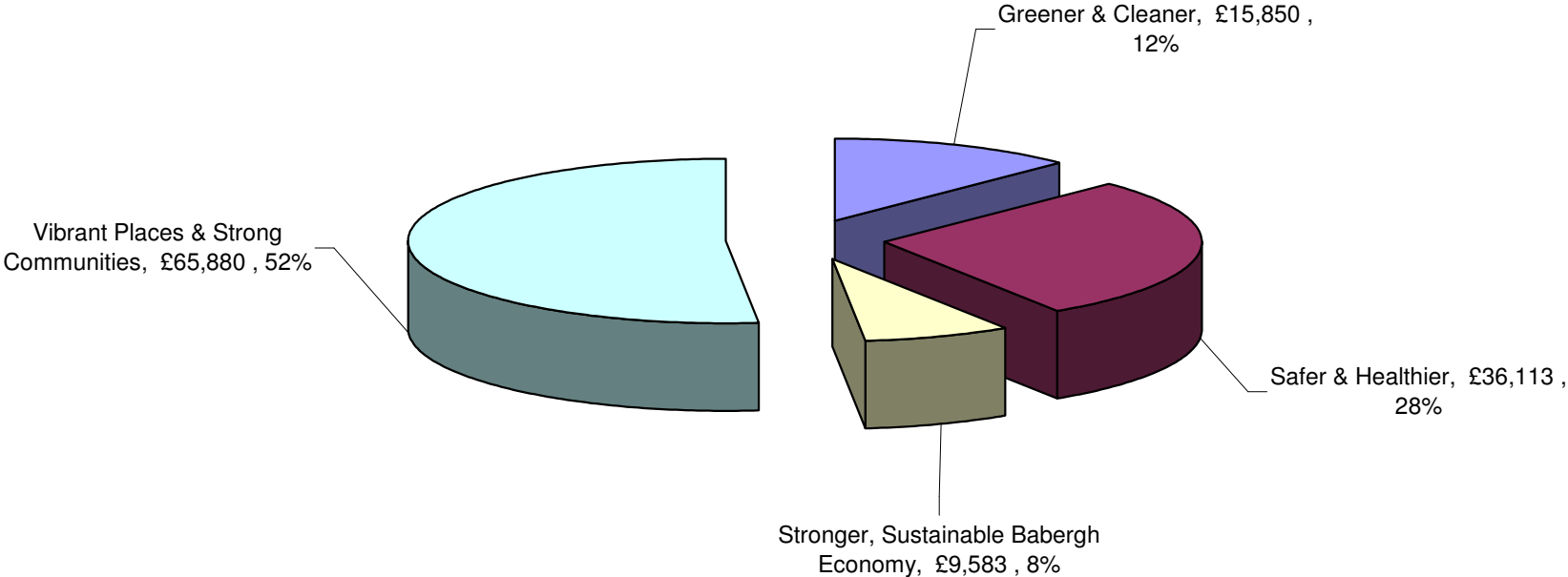
Organisation Name	Purpose of Grant	Approved grant amount 2009/10	Greener & Cleaner	Safer & Healthier	Stronger, Sustainable Babergh Economy	Vibrant Places & Strong Communities
Bildeston Community Coffee Centre	Partial set up costs towards provision of village Coffee Centre	£750				£750
Cruse Bereavement Care - West Suffolk Branch	Core Funding	£1,000				£1,000
DanceEast	Arts project work	£5,500		£2,750		£2,750
East Bergholt High School	Project work, GP referrals, equipment for reduced mobility users,	£16,500		£8,250		£8,250
East Suffolk Branch - Alzheimer's Society	Set up costs for Holbrook based Alzheimers Support Group	£750		£375		£375
Eastern Angles	2 different productions to Babergh at established venues.	£800				£800
Gainsboroughs House Society	Funding for Outreach visits, print workshops, travel and administration	£708				£708
Gatehouse	Re-use and recycling of furniture and household items	£200	£100	£100		
Gt Cornard Sports Centre	Continued Project funding for 5 indentified areas including GP referrals	£17,000		£8,500		£8,500
Hadleigh Community Transport Group	Recruitment & Training Additional drivers for increasing use of vehicles during evenings and weekends	£1,000	£500			£500
Hadleigh High School - Project Funding	GP referral scheme, increased access for wheelchair users, concessionary scheme for retired and unemployed, training staff.	£16,500		£8,250		£8,250
Haven Gateway Partnership	Core Funding	£6,000			£6,000	
NWES	Core funding for business start up	£4,000			£4,000	
Ipswich CAB	Core funding (Ipswich CAB is closest to East Babergh residents)	£7,673				£7,673
Long Melford Street Fair Committee	Street Fair - funding for entertainers, childrens rides & street marshalls	£250				£250
Orchestras Live	Arts project work	£2,900				£2,900
Relate Norfolk & Suffolk	Core funding for relationship counselling	£750		£375		£375
Sudbury Market Town Partnership	Project Officer Funding	£2,500			£1,250	£1,250
Sudbury Sports Centre	Project funding - equipment	£16,500		£8,250		£8,250
Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	Core funding for countywide service	£150		£150		
Suffolk ACRE	Support for village hall advisor Suffolk wide.	£4,500				£4,500
Suffolk Artlink	Delivery of Music Workshops, Intergenerational Digital Photo Project and dance performance and workshops for older people	£5,596		£1,865	£1,865	£1,866
Suffolk CONNECT	Core Funding	£10,476	£2,619	£2,619	£2,619	£2,619
Suffolk Development Agency	Provision of inward development within Babergh includes the Tourism Partnership	£26,028			£26,028	
Suffolk Digital Cinema Network	Core Funding	£500	£250			£250
Suffolk Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group	Core funding	£1,300	£1,300			
Suffolk Rural Economy Scheme	Support for small grants scheme in rural areas - community shops etc	£5,000	£1,666		£1,666	£1,668
Suffolk Chamber of Commerce	Membership	£920			£520	£400
Babergh Communities Together	Core Funding	£40,000				£40,000
Bridge Project	Core Funding	£5,500	£1,375	£1,375	£1,375	£1,375
Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project	Core fund	£23,452	£23,452			
East Bergholt High School	Deficit Funding 2009/10	£11,330		£11,330		
Edens Project	Core Funding	£10,000		£5,000		£5,000
Greenways Countryside Project	Continuation of Project works	£6,470	£6,470			
Gt Cornard Sports Centre - Swimming Pool	Deficit Funding Gt Cornard Swimming Pool	£2,575		£2,575		
Hadleigh Elderly Peoples Welfare Committee	Supporting club with rent payments	£678		£339		£339
Hadleigh High School Leisure Centre	Deficit funding	£11,330		£11,330		
Home Start Babergh	Support for parents of young children through referrals from GP's midwives Health Visitors	£10,000		£3,333	£3,333	£3,334
Ipswich Womens Aid	Core funding	£2,500		£1,250		£1,250
ISCRE	Core Funding	£1,500		£1,500		
Kernos Centre	Core Funding	£3,000		£1,500		£1,500
Quay Theatre	Core Funding	£51,500			£10,000	£41,500
Racial Harrassment Inivative	Core funding	£4,882		£4,882		
Rural Development Managers	Core Funding for rural development staff	£6,000	£3,000			£3,000
Solo Housing	Support for single homeless people within Babergh	£3,570		£3,570		
Sudbury & District CAB	Core Funding	£51,900			£10,000	£41,900
Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Unit	Core Funding	£18,251	£18,251			
Suffolk Museums Partnership	Core funding for museums	£1,000				£1,000
Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board	District Contribution to Countywide board	£10,000		£10,000		
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Core funding	£1,500	£1,500			
Suffolk Biological Records Centre	Core Funding	£7,877	£7,877			
Managing a Mastepeace	Core funding	£3,900	£1,950			£1,950
Sudbury Town Area Rural Transport	Core Funding	£3,000	£1,000	£1,000		£1,000
Harwich Foot Ferry	Core Funding	£2,500	£1,500	£1,000		
TOTALS		£449,966	£72,810	£101,468	£68,656	£207,032

Group Name	Total Suffolk based Funding	Non Suffolk Funding	Variance overall compared to grant application
Bridge Project	£225,833	£54,548	none
Edens Project	£10,675	£3,000	none
Home Start Babergh	£72,458	£10,269	
Kernos Centre	£11,400	£0	none
DanceEast	£9,600	£0	increase
Eastern Angles	£40,134	£230,824	
Suffolk Artlink	£16,831	£700	increase
Managing a Mastepiece	£17,200	£1,027,600	increase of £922,000
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	£8,800	£0	none
Hadleigh Elderly Peoples Welfare	£3,800	£0	none
Harwich Foot Ferry	£16,250	£13,750	none
Hadleigh Community Transport	Not received		
Sudbury Town Area Rural Transport	£27,000	£1,600	
ISCRE	Incomplete		
Solo Housing	£3,360	£78,588	none
Ipswich Womens Aid	£439,986	£0	loss £1,500
Orchestras Live	£7,226	£16,525	increase
Suffolk Digital Cinema Network	Not received		
Suffolk Museums Partnership	£19,600	£32,000	none
Suffolk Chamber of Commerce	Not received		
Babergh Communities Together	Not expected		
Suffolk ACRE	£14,800	£0	decrease of £5,000
Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley	£53,075	£239,078	increase
Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Unit	£125,810	£241,204	none
Greenways Countryside Project	£61,875	£90,000	increase
Suffolk Biological Records Centre	£70,273	£30,000	none
Quay Theatre	£67,820	£0	none
Suffolk Hate Crime	£40,864	£70,000	none
Rural Development Managers	£24,000	£0	none
Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board	£397,074	£0	none
Haven Gateway Partnership	£6,000	£4,291,500	reduced due to other funders reductions
Ipswich CAB	£188,772	£170,522	loss £41,577
Sudbury & District CAB	£111,811	£0	increase
East Bergholt	£10,000		none
Hadleigh High leisure Centre	£10,000		none
Gt Cornard Sports Centre -	£6,575	£0	none
Gt Cornard Sports Centre	£33,312	£0	none
TOTALS	£2,152,214	£6,601,708	

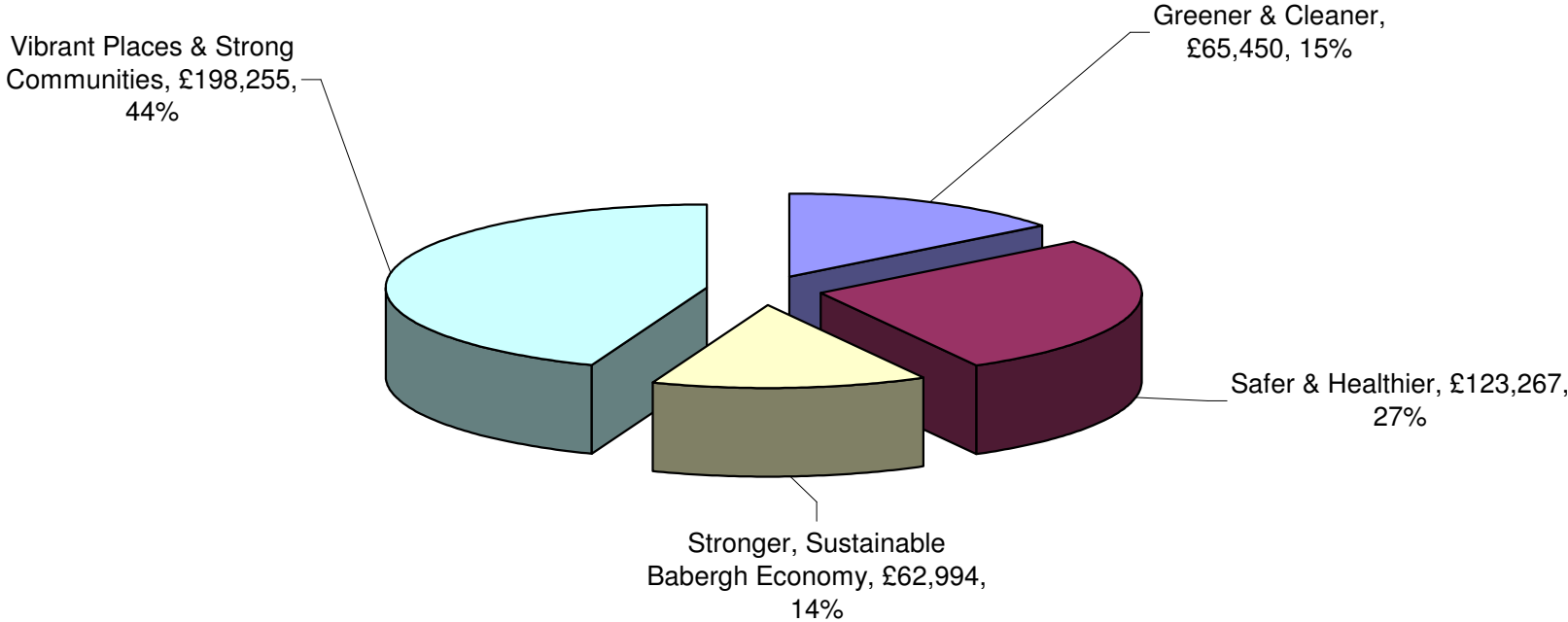
Babergh Grants 2009/10 Allocation of Revenue Grants against Strategic Themes



Babergh Grants 2009/10 capital spread across strategic themes



Babergh Grants 2009/10 Allocation of Organisations to Strategic Themes



Babergh Grants Review

10 Key Questions - Analysis

Survey issued on 6th May 2010 with a closing date of 21 May 2010.

As at 1st June 2010, 20 responses had been received. The analysis of those responses are detailed below.

Number of surveys emailed:	32
Number of surveys sent by post:	4
Number of responses received:	20
Response Rate:	62%

1. **As a result of your direct experience how well do you think Babergh's grant application process runs:**

Base	17
	100%
Very well	10
	59%
Well	7
	41%
Not well	-
	-

2. **Did you use the funding advice streams mentioned in the application form?**

Base	17
	100%
Yes	8
	47%
No	9
	53%

3. **If yes, how well did they work?**

Base	9
	100%
Very well	3
	33%
Well	5
	56%
Not well	1
	11%



and what funding did it produce for you?

Funding Body	Amount of Funding
N/A	
Babergh Communities together	£750
All avenues were asked but no funding came from it.	
Suffolk County Council	£1,150
Babergh District Council Grants	£4,500 and £5,596
We obtained nothing for revenue purposes	

4. How well do you consider you were kept informed of the impending changes in grant levels for 2010/11?

Base	17
	100%
Very well	13
	76%
Well	4
	24%
Not well	-
	-

5. How well do you think you understand Babergh's grant policy?

Base	17
	100%
Very well	5
	29%
Well	11
	65%
Not well	1
	6%

6. If you received a reduced level of grant in 2010/11, what has been or will be the impact on the level of service you are able to provide in the Babergh area:

Base	13
	100%
No impact	2
	15%
Limited impact	3
	23%
Significant impact	8
	62%

Please give details if relevant:

- Our grant remained the same as the previous year which translates to a reduction in real terms, due to the impact of inflation. We are looking at how to reduce our costs (e.g. changing electricity supplier) to reduce the overheads.
- The grant is towards our core costs and so naturally we have to pull our horns in and find other pots to top the loss. Given the nature of our business and the economic climate we have to continually fund raise to provide needed community services.
- If our grant was to be reduced for the current year it would have a dramatic effect on the level of our core funding (which is always so difficult to source) and would impact on the level of help we could give to the local community
- A reduction in grant would have a significant impact on Babergh DCs own statutory duty to have regard to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB (CRoW Act 2000). The AONB Unit discharges Babergh's statutory duties in return for the grant.
- We are delighted that we did not receive a reduced grant
- If reduced all projects would have to be down sized or even stop. Redundancies would occur for staff.
- The slight reduction in the subscription to Orchestras Live means there is a corresponding reduction in the amount available to support professional orchestral activity in Babergh.
- DanceEast's annual grant from Babergh District Council part funds the Boys In Babergh project. This project allows schools in the Babergh district to receive a series of high quality dance sessions with male dance professionals and culminates in a professional performance, which from 2010 has taken place in the Jerwood DanceHouse. In 2010, 5 schools took part in the project, alongside Boyz United, DanceEast's boys-only youth dance company. This allowed over 130 boys to take part and for the majority of them, it will have been their first experience of dance. However, as a result of DanceEast's grant from Babergh District Council being reduced, next year we will only be able to involve a maximum of four schools, meaning the number of boys benefiting from the project will reduce to 100 at the most.
- The revenue grant provided by Babergh last year helped with salaries of two part time drivers operating the Dial R Ride service. Our present forecasts indicate a shortfall within three months and this will lead to a reduction in services.
- The Partnership the grant funds draws in resources from elsewhere and, at present, these other funds are holding up. The Babergh grant enables us to provide benefits to people in Babergh that otherwise would not be possible because they would not be part of a county wide Partnership. Keeping paying something is better than nothing. Any further reduction however may mean we can't take this approach.



- In the past 2 to 3 years the committee has not used 100% of grant and should be able to work within the reduced figure.
- When booking future tours priority will have to be given to those areas providing the highest levels of funding, so there may be a reduction in the number of performances we give in Babergh
- We have received the same level of grant in 2010/11 promised to us but if this was cut then it would endanger the stability of Eden's as a viable charity.

7. How aware do you think you are of Babergh's corporate priorities?

Base	17
	100%
Fully aware	10
	59%
Quite aware	7
	41%
Not very aware	0
	0%

8. Are there any changes you would like to be made which could improve the grant application process, ie. timing, payment arrangements, monitoring etc?

- I find the application and monitoring process to run extremely smoothly at the right level, not being too time consuming. All staff have been extremely helpful, friendly and shown a huge depth of understanding and appreciation of the service we provide. I find this an extremely positive experience of partnership working - the best we have.
- It would be helpful if the grant decisions were made a little earlier than at present (I understand that this may not be possible) however, it would enable the bureau to plan more effectively before the start of our financial year at the beginning of April.
- No
- No - the process does seem to be effective and in comparison with some works very well
- None
- None
- Agreeing grant before the year starts. Last few years we have not known until the last minute that we have it leaving little time to make full use of the year long project. The less admin the better, no time is budgeted for the admin so drains other resources.

- The application process is time consuming and not ideally suited to the way Orchestras Live operates, although if it means the long-standing partnership between us can continue then we are happy to continue with the process.
- This year it would have been useful to find out the confirmed results of the application earlier (this was only confirmed to me yesterday) as the longer it takes to hear the decision, the longer we have to wait before we can start preparing for the project.
- 3 year funding agreements would save money for Babergh and give organisations more stability.
- Babergh could decide on who they really wanted to support (Active not re-active)
- Our financial year runs to same dates as County and District Councils. This invariably leaves us running very close to the edge in March. It would be of enormous help if we knew when and if we could expect a grant AND if this was based on an application submitted in say November. This would enable us to plan and budget more effectively
- To be brought in line with other district and borough's timing and processes and for a 'return' to be the same for all, bearing in mind district/borough specific information needs to be provided too. A 3 year funding agreement that then only has to be applied for once, and reported on annually.
- I thought having to submit a three year business plan was good as I think the money should go only to places who can show they are supporting communities for the long haul and not flash in the pan projects.

9. How would you like to be kept informed about Baberghs' grant budget proposals as they evolve over the next few months?

Base	19
	100%
Email	16
	84%
Website	-
	-
Letter	3
	16%

10. Would you be interested in attending a one-off meeting for all grant aided organisations if this was felt appropriate later in the year?

Base	17
	100%
Yes	15
	88%
No	2
	12%

Updated 1st June 2010

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