

WEST AREA COMMITTEE – 22 MAY 2013

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| Title of paper: | Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary Sector: Area Based Grant Monitoring | |
| Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s): | Katy Ball - Joint Interim Director, Quality and Commissioning / Head of Early Intervention and Market Development | Wards affected: Aspley, Bilborough, Leen Valley |
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| Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority: | | |
| World Class Nottingham | | |
| Work in Nottingham | | ✓ |
| Safer Nottingham | | ✓ |
| Neighbourhood Nottingham | | ✓ |
| Family Nottingham | | ✓ |
| Healthy Nottingham | | ✓ |
| Leading Nottingham | | |
| Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users): | | |
| This report summarises the progress on Phase One of Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary and Community Sector. The report gives an overview of the Area Based Grant award process. It sets out the monitoring arrangements that are being recommended across the Area Based Grant programme that outlines the relationship the Lead Organisation will have with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Grants Team, the Market Development Team, current budget holders and Area Committees. | | |
| Recommendation(s): | | |
| 1 | To note the proposed monitoring process for Area Based Grant. | |
| 2 | To approve the twice annual reporting of the Lead Organisation to Area Committee. | |
| 3 | To note the routes for discussion and challenge with regard to Area Based Grant monitoring. | |

1. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 1.1 Historically, a number of different grant programmes were administered across the Council. Over the past year work has been undertaken to streamline this approach in order to make investment simpler, more transparent and easier to understand for the Sector.
- 1.2 On 19 September 2012, Executive Board Commissioning Sub-committee agreed a new Area Grant Fund Process. Area service specifications were published on 30 November 2012 with a deadline for receipt of applications of 12 February 2013. Following Area Grant Panels in February, recommendations were taken to each Area Committee for comment and to Executive Board Commissioning Sub-committee on 27 March for agreement. Groundwork were approved as the Lead Organisation for the Area Based Grant in Area 3.

- 1.3 Contracts are currently being negotiated and will commence on 1 July 2013. Monitoring of the contracts will be compiled by the VCS Grants Team with support and input from the other key stakeholders. (See Appendix 1).

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The VCS Grants Team, Market Development Team and current budget holders have worked together to develop and implement robust monitoring arrangements for the Area Based Grant. This will ensure that Lead Organisations are held accountable for the delivery of the outcomes as per the contract, for each Area. The monitoring arrangements will consist of a four way monitoring model, which will ensure that the Lead Organisations:

- are supported in their role as a lead organisation
- are held accountable for the delivery of outcomes
- are contractually compliant
- are held accountable to Area Committee

- 2.2 It is expected that Lead Organisations will report directly to Area Committee at six-monthly intervals, to update Committee Members of the progress to date and priorities for the next six-months. This will allow Area Committees an opportunity to feedback directly to the Lead Organisation and influence future priorities. If Councillors or Area Committees have concerns these can be raised directly with the VCS Grants Team, which will be addressed via the suggested monitoring process.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 NCC's Legal Department have provided support in the overall process of grant funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector. The Legal Department have drawn up suitable terms and conditions for the contracts with Lead Organisations in order to protect the Council's position.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out as this report does not include proposals for new or changing policies
- 6.2 Where there have been reviews on some elements of this funding some EIAs have been undertaken. The next stage of this programme will include further EIA work.

7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 7.1 None

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

8.1 Various:

- Executive Board Commissioning Sub Committee Strategic Commissioning Intentions Report – July 2011.
- Executive Board Commissioning Sub Committee Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary and Community Sector – Progress July 2012.
- Executive Board Commissioning Sub Committee Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary and Community Sector – Progress September 2012.
- Area Committee Report: Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary Community Sector September 2012.
- Executive Board Commissioning Sub Committee Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary and Community Sector – Progress November 2012.
- The Nottingham Plan to 2020.
- The Commissioning Framework, Nottingham City Council – 2010.

Partners

Lead Organisation

Appendix 1 – Proposed Monitoring and Relationship with Lead Organisations and Partners

