

BULWELL & BULWELL FOREST (AREA 1) COMMITTEE
20TH FEBRUARY 2013

Title of paper:	Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary and Community Sector: Update on Applications for Area Grants	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Candida Brudenell, Acting Corporate Director for Children and Families, NCC	Wards affected: BULWELL & BULWELL FOREST
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Other colleagues who have provided input:	Steve Oakley, Head of Service for Quality and Efficiency Geoff Walker, Head of Departmental Finance Sarah Bibby, Senior Solicitor	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority: (you must mark X in the relevant boxes below)		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham	X	
Safer Nottingham	X	
Neighbourhood Nottingham	X	
Family Nottingham	X	
Healthy Nottingham	X	
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report summarises progress on Phase One of Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary and Community Sector. The report describes the development of Area Based Specifications which identify detailed outcomes for each Area of the City. The report describes the role of Area Committees in making recommendations to Executive Board Commissioning Sub Committee on grant funding in their Area.</p> <p>Following the release of the Area Grant Funding application process and specification on 30th November 2012 a number of organisations have worked together in Areas to put forward applications for grant funding. Area Grant Panels are scheduled to meet on 14th, 18th and 19th February 2013 to assess and make recommendations on which applications should be successful; representatives from each Area Committee are part of these panels. The Area Committee is asked to comment on those recommendations so that its views can be reported to the Executive Board Commissioning Sub Committee, where final decisions will be taken about grant applications on 27 March.</p>		
Recommendation(s): The Area Committee is asked to :		
1	Note the progress made on Phase One of Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary and Community sector	
2	Review and comment on the recommendation made by the Area Grant Panel	

1. BACKGROUND

Nottingham City Council is committed to supporting a thriving local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), indicated through the Nottingham Plan and the Corporate Commissioning Framework. Approximately £31.1m has been invested in the Voluntary

and Community Sector this year most of this (£29.3m) is through City-wide arrangements and £1.79m is through Area based funding.

Historically, a number of different grant programmes were administered across the Council. Over the past year work has commenced to streamline this approach in order to make investment simpler, more transparent and easier to understand for the Sector.

During 2011, a review took place of support services to the Voluntary and Community Sector, which were funded under the Voluntary Sector Investment Programme that was due to end in March 2012. A new contract was awarded and came into effect on April 1st 2012.

On 14th March 2012, the Executive Board Commissioning Sub-Committee agreed to move to a more streamlined approach to allocating funding to replace existing grant programmes. The main components of this streamlined model are (i) Councillors' individual budgets (ii) Small grant programme to be disseminated through Area Committee (iii) Through commissioned services let on a geographical or a Citywide basis. It was also agreed that a range of existing grant arrangements should be extended whilst this programme of work was undertaken.

On 19th September 2012, Executive Board Commissioning Sub-Committee agreed a new Area Grant Aid Process. This work resulted in an Area Specification being written that detailed the outcomes the Area Grant Funding needs to achieve. The Area Specification was published on 30th November 2012. As part of this process Voluntary and Community Sector organisations were asked to work in partnership to deliver these outcomes. Each partnership would have a Lead Organisation, and so organisations were asked to register an expression of interest if they were interested in becoming a Lead.

The Lead Organisation will be the provider that will have the relationship with NCC and the Area Committee, and will be responsible for ensuring that all outcomes in an Area are delivered. The smaller organisations will report directly to the Lead Organisation, therefore eliminating the need for organisations to have several reporting lines in to the NCC, thus creating a streamlined approach to investment.

The final date for applications, for Area Grant Funding, was 12th February 2013, following which the applications were reviewed by Area Grant Panels. Recommendations from these will go to each Area Committee for comments and then to Executive Board Commissioning Sub-Committee for final agreement on 27th March 2013. Successful partnerships will be notified by 28th March 2013 and contracts will commence on 1st July 2013.

Grant Panels

Applications were assessed by an Area Grant Panel, which consisted of

- A non-voting Chair (Director of Quality and Commissioning to keep the process moving and provide consistency across all eight Area Grant Panels)
- A non-voting Voluntary and Community Sector Advocate (to ensure the process is fair and transparent)
- A non-voting Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Officer (to keep the process safe and record the process)
- Non-voting Expert Officers (to offer advice and contextual information)
 - Director of Family Community Teams

- Director of Economic Development
 - Director of Sports, Culture & Parks
 - Locality Managers
- Portfolio holder for Housing, Adults and Community Sector
 - Chair of Area Committees
 - Area Committee representatives (a councillor from each Ward and Area Committee Reps)

The panel consists of up to fifteen members, including up to seven voting members all of whom had equal voting rights. The applications were opened by NCC's Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Team who checked eligibility against the set criteria and scored the applications in the first instance.

At the Area Grant Panel, members discussed applications to make recommendations to Area Committee in readiness for submission to Executive Board Commissioning Sub-Committee to agree on 27th March 2013.

It is the intention that successful applicants will be monitored quarterly by Quality and Commissioning and a bi-yearly report presented to Area Committee.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

The agreed grants process must be completed by 31 March 2013. Formal decisions are to be made by the Executive Board Commissioning Sub Committee on 27 March 2013 and applicants notified on 28 March 2013. Consultation with each Area Committee is an important phase within the process and their views will inform the decisions made by the Executive Board Commissioning Sub Committee.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

Continuing the historic model of separate grants would not enable a fair and open system of funding between Areas.

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

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report, the reviews referred to in this report will be the subject of future reports that will contain the financial impact of the reviews.

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

NCC's Legal Department will provide support in the overall process of grant funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector and draw up suitable terms and conditions for the contracts to be entered into with the successful grant applicants in order to protect the Council's position.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

- (a) not needed (report does not contain proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions, financial decisions or decisions about implementation of policies development outside the Council)
- (b) No
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.
- (c) Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

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

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

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