

As the meeting was inquorate, no decision could be taken by the Committee. This report is therefore now being taken as a Leader's Key decision.

COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT SUB-COMMITTEE –14 October 2015

Subject:	Key Decision - Voluntary Sector Grant Aid – Area Based and Communities of Identity Grants from 2016 onwards.		
Corporate Director(s)/ Director(s):	Katy Ball – Director of Procurement and Children's Commissioning Candida Brudenell – Assistant Chief Executive		
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Alex Norris		
Report author and contact details:	Louise Graham - Tel: 876 2177 Acting Market Development and Strategy Manager		
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reasons:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital	
Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Total value of the decision:	£2,024,761		
Wards affected:	All	Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s):	9 th September, 1 st October 2015
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:			
Cutting unemployment by a quarter			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre			<input type="checkbox"/>
Help keep your energy bills down			<input type="checkbox"/>
Good access to public transport			<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham has a good mix of housing			<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs			<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events			<input type="checkbox"/>
Support early intervention activities			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of Issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
Over the last three years there has been £2M of grants to the VCS per year through two routes of Area Based and Communities Of Identity Grants. The current arrangements will end in March 2016. Consultation has been undertaken in order to influence the model from April 2016. During the three years that the arrangement have been in place, demographics and need have changed which have been factored into the consultation. This paper outlines recommendations to enable the next set of arrangements to be put into place and the timescale of stages.			
Exempt information:			
State 'None' or complete the following. None			
Recommendation(s):			
1 To delegate approval of the final specifications for the Area Based and Communities of Identity grant programmes to the Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive.			

2	To delegate approval of the grants process and allocation of funding for the grants programmes to successful applicants to the Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive.
3	To delegate approval of the re-allocation of 20% of the funding available within Area Based Grant based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and Equality Impact Assessment to the Portfolio Holder and Assistant Chief Executive.
4	To delegate approval of the re-allocation of up to £150,000 of funding available within the Communities of Identity Grant to better match needs within the priority communities based upon consultation and Equality Impact Assessment to the Portfolio Holder and Assistant Chief Executive.

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1** The current Area Based Grants (ABG) and Communities of Identity Grants (COI) were developed as part of the streamlining investment in the voluntary sector programme and run until 31st March 2016. The existing specifications for Area Based Grants (ABG) are based upon previous delivery outcomes of employment and skills activity, activities for children and young people and support for the management of Nottingham City Council community centres. The existing specifications for Communities of Identity Grants (COI) are based upon previous delivery outcomes of information, advice and guidance, building skills and confidence and supporting Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations in managing space within buildings.
- 1.2** Demographic changes and consultation have identified additional needs and themes to consider. Examples include:
- Supporting isolated elderly individuals
 - Higher numbers of refugees
 - Emerging new communities
 - Strengthening leadership around combating child sexual exploitation
 - VCS support services
- 1.3** A transparent and robust grants process will be undertaken based upon standard good practice for grants management. This will follow Nottingham City Council's agreement with the VCS through the Nottingham Compact Plus, which sets out the way in which the Local Authority works with the VCS.
- 1.4** Funding between 2013 and 2016 was based upon historical allocations. Funding will not move between the ABG and COI programmes but amongst the priorities within each programme. Re-allocation of funding is required to ensure that Nottingham City Council spending is reflective of the needs of priority groups and areas within the City.
- 1.5** In ABG this will be based upon the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, a nationally recognised statistical tool that considers seven measures of deprivation (eg employment, health, education), population numbers and an equality impact assessment (EIA).
- 1.6** The re-distribution of funding within COI grants will be based upon an equality impact assessment and will consider changes to the citizens of Nottingham, for example an increase in the number of refugees and greater numbers of citizens from new and emerging communities.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The Grant Funding process was agreed by Executive Board Commissioning Sub-Committee in July 2013. This followed an extensive consultation process with the VCS, internal colleagues and key stakeholders. The current agreements will come to an end on 31st March 2016. The funding identified within this report will form the second round of this funding programme from April 2016 to March 2019 with potential to extend to March 2021 based upon priorities for future years.
- 2.2 Further consultation has been undertaken prior to the second round to identify changes in key needs in each Area of the city for ABG, and in each priority community in COI. This consultation has involved a series of events with the VCS across the city, where organisations could highlight the issues affecting their community and provide evidence of the need. Consultation has been undertaken to determine grant priorities with discussions scheduled with internal colleagues to help frame and define the outcomes required to help meet the needs of citizens.
- 2.3 Investment in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) has enabled the delivery of services at a local level within citizen's communities and continues to strengthen Nottingham City Councils relationship with the VCS. The grants programmes will be advertised widely through a specification and be open to application from all VCS organisations in Nottingham. Organisations will need to follow the current model of delivering in partnership with a Lead Organisation with whom Nottingham City Council will liaise with regard to monitoring and performance, based against the specification and a Service Level Agreement.
- 2.4 Funding amongst the ABG and COI grant programmes has previously been allocated on historical spend, re-distribution of the available budget within each programme based on figures contained within the Indices of Multiple Deprivation and an equality impact assessment will ensure that the funding is matched to the needs of citizens across the city.

Timetable of stages

Consultation with VCS	September 2015
Consultation with internal departments	October 2015
Commissioning and Procurement Sub-Committee to agree sign off route	October 2015
Completion of specification	October 2015
Launch of six week application period	November 2015
Closing date for applications	December 2015
Decision making panels	January 2016
Negotiation of Service Level Agreements	January / February 2106
New arrangements implemented	April 1 st 2016

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Roll forward the current grant arrangements for a further period. This was discounted as it does not reflect the changes in local need since the last grant programme.

4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 Finance – The proposed re-allocation of funding is within the existing budgets for the Area Based and Communities of Identity grants programmes. These proposals relate to the 2016-17 budget which is still to be approved and these budgets may be reduced as part of the Strategic Choice savings process.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND INCLUDING LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 Procurement – the proposed grant process for the allocation of funding should be open and transparent. The Procurement team will support the development and implementation of this process to ensure fairness and transparency.
- 5.2 Legal – the City Council must ensure the grant agreements provide for grant funding and are not contracts for the provision of services which would be subject to the EU Procurement Regulations. The legal Services Team can provide assistance as necessary with the development of the grant agreements. The delegated decisions to reallocate funding should be taken on the basis of the existing grant programme terms.

6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 These proposals support Nottingham City Council's approach to social and environmental well-being in connection with public service contracts for the VCS by requiring community groups to share space and work in partnership or to form consortia. This work will contribute to an increase and improvement in social and community cohesion and will help to foster a greater understanding and respect between communities and cultures.
- 6.2 Priorities for each grant programme have been identified in partnership with the VCS through a series of consultation events. Successful applicants will be required to engage with Area Committee's to help direct service outcomes and Nottingham City Council initiatives such as and the Employers Hub to support local citizens.

7 REGARD TO THE NHS CONSTITUTION

NA

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Has the equality impact been assessed? No.

Discussions are currently being undertaken with Nottingham City Council Equality and Community Relations to support an EIA which will inform the financial spend within the grants programme. This will form part of the decision making process with the Portfolio Holder and Assistant Chief Executive.

**9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT
(NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT
INFORMATION)**

NA


10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

None

11 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT

Andrew James – Team Leader, Commercial and Contracts Legal Services
Steve Lynk – Finance Analyst, Children and Adults Departmental Finance Support
Jo Pettifor – Procurement Team Manager, Contracting and Procurement

Leader's Key Decision

Name	Signature	Date
		01/11/15

Last date for call-in:

01/12/2015

 20/11/15

(This Leader's Key Decision is being signed by Councillor Graham Chapman, as Councillor Jon Collins has a potential conflict of interest)