

COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT SUB-COMMITTEE– 11/12/18

Subject:	Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid 2019 onwards		
Corporate Director(s)/ Director(s):	Andy Vaughan – Corporate Director of Commercial and Operations Andrew Errington – Director of Community Protection		
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Toby Neal – Portfolio Holder Community Protection		
Report author and contact details:	Louise Graham – VCS Partnerships Manager louise.graham@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 07885 790195		
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: £2,200,000 per annum			
Wards affected: All		Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): 29 October 2018	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:			
Strategic Regeneration and Development			<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools			<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing			<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services			<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer			<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector			<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture			<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration			<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users): Over the last three years there has been £2m of grants to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) per year through the two routes of Area Based (ABG) and Communities Of Identity (COI) Grants. The current arrangements will end in March 2019. Consultation has been undertaken in order to understand changes in community need across the City to influence the model moving forward in April 2019. Budget reductions will also impact on funding allocation across the City as we continue to move to a fair distribution across each area based on need and population.			
Exempt information: None			
Recommendation(s):			
1 To delegate approval of the re-allocation of the funding available within Area Based Grant based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and population numbers using a 'Fairer Funding Formula' to the Portfolio Holder for Community Protection			
2 To delegate approval of the final criteria and specifications for the Area Based and Communities of Identity grant programmes to the Portfolio Holder for Community Protection			
3 To delegate approval of the grants process and the allocation of funding from the grants programmes to successful applicants to the Portfolio Holder for Community Protection, following recommendations from Grants Panels made up of representatives from local Councillors and Officers.			

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 (VCS) programme in 2013. The second round of these two grant programmes comes to an end in March 2019 and as such the criteria is being updated to ensure that current needs within communities are addressed. The existing specifications for 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 COI are based upon previous delivery outcomes of information, advice and guidance, building skills and confidence and supporting VCS organisations in managing space within buildings.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Funding will not move between the ABG and COI programmes. There will be re-allocation of funding to ensure that Nottingham City Council spending is reflective of areas within the City. In ABG this is based upon the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, a nationally recognised statistical tool that considers seven measures of deprivation (employment, health, education, crime, income, living environment and barriers to housing and services) and population numbers.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The Grant Funding model and process was originally 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 were agreed by key decision in October 2015 following an inquorate committee and will end on 31st March 2019. Substantial consultation had taken place during 2015. The annual funding identified within this report will form the third round of this funding programme from April 2019 to March 2022, consultation has once again taken place with both organisations currently receiving funding and the wider voluntary sector. Discussions have also taken place with internal colleagues delivering services alongside these grant programmes.
- 2.2 Investment in the VCS has enabled the delivery of services at a local level within 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 a 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.

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 and available budget since the last grant programme.

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

- 4.1 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 2019-20 budget which is yet to be approved, these budgets may be reduced as part of the Strategic Choice savings process.

Michelle Pullen, Finance Partner – Finance and Commercial, 13th November 2018

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

5.1 Procurement Comments

The proposed grants application process should be open and transparent and accessible to all eligible Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in the City. The funding criteria should be clear and transparent and there should be a robust, fair process for the assessment of bids and allocation of funding. The Procurement Team can provide support with the development and implementation of this process as needed to ensure fairness and transparency.

Jo Pettifor, Category Manager – Strategy and People, 9th November 2018

5.2 Legal Comments

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/UK procurement rules. In addition the City Council must ensure that when it provides grant funding the provision of the grant is not unlawful state aid. It is advised that the Partnerships Manager should discuss with the Legal Services Team the options and exemptions available to ensure the funding is not unlawful state and the Legal Services Team can provide assistance as necessary with the development of the grant agreements.

Andrew James, Team Leader – Commercial, Employment and Education 14th November 2018.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (FOR DECISIONS RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (STRATEGIC REGENERATION COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 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 consultations. 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.

8 REGARD TO THE NHS CONSTITUTION

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

- 9.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

X

An EIA is not required because: These proposals contain no significant changes to policies or practices.

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

- 10.1 None

11 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

- 11.1 None