
REPORT TO:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	12th September 2012	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	Director of Operations	DELEGATED OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	I Hey ext 8741	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Funded Voluntary Organisation Review	REF: HCS 07
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Members agree the proposals for a scheme to distribute the £100,000 of revenue funding identified during the Funded Voluntary Organisation Review.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To review the use of the £100,000 revenue funding identified within the Funded Voluntary Organisations Review.

2.2 To recommend a scheme for the distribution of the identified funding.

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 A proposal for a scheme to distribute £100,000 of funding to the Voluntary Sector has been developed.

3.2 Criteria have been based upon the need to address the Councils aims and objectives as well as locally identified needs within the community.

3.3 It is proposed to use an amended version of the existing mechanisms to assess applications and administer grant payments

4.0 Detail

4.1 The Funded Voluntary Organisations Review recently undertaken by Scrutiny Committee identified that £100,000 set aside as a result of an earlier review of Voluntary Sector support by the District had not been distributed. This is a one-off sum in addition to the Council's existing support for the Sector.

4.2 As part of the report to the Housing and Leisure Committee the Overview and Scrutiny Committee offered to investigate potential criteria and method for the distribution of these funds. This offer was accepted.

- 4.3 The value that can be offered through funding work undertaken by organisations within the Voluntary Sector was identified as a result of the Funded Voluntary Organisations review.
- 4.4 Review of funding still offered by other Local Authorities makes it clear that a key criteria for all is the achievement of the Authority's own core objectives. This has been adopted within the proposals for a funding Scheme for South Derbyshire.
- 4.5 The proposal also recognises within the criteria:
- That, as a key partner of The South Derbyshire Partnership (Previously South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership, LSP), many of the Council's aspirations regarding community development are incorporated within the partnership's Community Strategy 2009-2029.
 - Clear evidence of need will have to be provided.
 - In order to achieve added value it will be necessary to be able to demonstrate community support for any proposal.
 - Organisations will have to demonstrate that they have the capacity to undertake the proposed actions.
- 4.6 In order to maximise potential for the scheme and applicants it will be possible to apply for funding for periods of up to 36 months. For larger projects this will allow development time. It will also allow organisations a chance to develop a track record and the potential to approach other funders to continue to develop the work or the option to offer tapered funding as projects become self-sustaining.
- 4.7 The recommendation for potential size of grant is based on a number of factors:
- The overall size of the fund available.
 - Existing sources of alternative, local, funding for small projects.
 - The desire to make a real impact
 - Support to be offered to a range of potential applicants
- Based upon this a grant range of £2,500-£20,000 is included within the proposal. While it recognises that larger projects may still need to attract additional funding, this level has the capacity to make a significant impact locally.
- 4.8 The aim has been to develop a scheme that has enough detail to ensure that it will address Council aims and objectives while remaining as open as possible to groups providing services within the District.
- 4.9 With regard to the application process it is proposed to adopt an adapted version of the mechanism used for applying to Community Partnership Scheme Capital Fund that commenced operating in 2002/3. This ensures that each applicant will have the opportunity to meet / speak informally with the Community Partnership Officer to discuss and develop proposals. Applications will then be reviewed by a panel of Members who will make recommendations about grants to be made to be ratified by the Housing and Leisure Committee. As part of our drive to deliver clarity applicants have access to a copy of the assessment criteria at the same time as the application form.
- 4.10 The Community Partnership Officer is responsible for current grant payments to Voluntary Sector Organisations and it is proposed to include this scheme within the current process.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Funding already identified and allocated will be distributed to the Voluntary Sector.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 Grants will support corporate priorities.

7.0 Community Implications

7.1 Grants will support corporate priorities.

9.0 Background Papers

9.1 Community Partnership Revenue Grant - general information and criteria

9.2 Community Partnership Revenue Grant - Assessment Criteria

9.3 Community Partnership Revenue Grant - Application Form

9.4 Community Partnership Revenue Grant - Guidance Notes

9.5 South Derbyshire Partnership Community Strategy summary