

Title of meeting: Cabinet Member for Resources

Date of meeting: 8th March 2018

Subject: Portsmouth City Priority Standard

Report by: Louise Wilders, Director of Community and Communications

Wards affected: n/a

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the implementation of the Portsmouth City Priority Standard to support colleagues in the voluntary and community sector with applications they make for external funds.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the Portsmouth City Priority Standard (the Standard)**
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member requests that the Director of Community and Communications ensures that the Standard is communicated to colleagues in the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) and statutory partners**

3. Background

- 3.1 The concept of a City Priority Standard has been mooted several times in the past, but recently it was raised as a request for consideration by the Chair of Portsmouth Voluntary and Community Network (PVCN).
- 3.2 The concept is a simple one - the Council ratifies a set of specific priorities from across the City where it believes the valuable resources of external funders can be directed and used to serve the best interests of the people of Portsmouth.
- 3.3 The aim of the Standard will be to endorse applications made for external funding by the VCS. It is hoped that this endorsement will add weight to any application thus improving chances of success. Endorsement will be given on the basis that an application is made against an identified priority for which there is insufficient or no funding.
- 3.4 The City Priority Standard can be used as a tool by the City Council, other statutory partners and the VCS to achieve the following benefits:

1. Improved outcomes for people across Portsmouth by attracting external funding that targets specific identified priorities across the City
 2. Improved communications between the City Council, statutory partners and the VCS– highlighting to elected members and senior officers the external funds generated to support targeted priorities that support their work
 3. Improved collaborative working across the City Council, statutory partners and the VCS – working together to identify specific targeted areas that need support
- 3.5 It is proposed that the Standard will be implemented in the first instance using the City Council's priorities as the basis for more detailed priorities to be agreed with PCVN. This will allow the Standard to be rolled out from April 2018.
- 3.6 The proposed application criteria, application form and PCC Endorsement document are attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.7 Following on from this a consultation exercise will take place with statutory partners and colleagues in the VCS to sense check the agreed priorities and add to or amend them as relevant.

Areas for consultation may include :

Health and well-being – priorities of NHS, CCG, PCC, VCS and local people

Education, Employment and Training – priorities of PCC, FE and HE, business, VCS and local people

Crime and Safety – priorities of PCC, Police, Fire, Ambulance and local people

Housing and welfare support – priorities of PCC, landlords, VCS and local people

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The value of the work undertaken by the voluntary and community sector in Portsmouth should not be under-estimated. As the funding of public services continues to reduce, so does the funding from statutory partners to our colleagues in the VCS. This results in more organisations competing against each other nationally for external funding opportunities such as the lottery and government department funding.
- 4.2 It is hoped that the introduction of the Portsmouth City Priority Standard will give greater weight to applications from VCS partners in Portsmouth.
- 4.3 The Portsmouth City Priority Standard attempts to channel external resources to those clearly identified issues that will have the maximum impact on people's lives. In addition it will highlight Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) bids that are duplicating effort and will also help to identify gaps.

5. Equality impact assessment

An equality impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the specific protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010 for the following reasons:

- The Priority Standard will only aid the voluntary and community groups in applying for funding to ensure money that is sourced externally will improve the lives of Portsmouth people and channelled where needed
- Any groups that represent people that hold a protected characteristics have the same opportunity to apply for the priority standard as those who do not
- This priority standard will work towards the aims of the Equality Act 2010 by advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not as well as fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- This will help the voluntary sector and community groups work together with statutory agencies to secure funding and work together to reach the same end goal regardless of age, gender, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or pregnancy or maternity

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 Given the limited direct connection (support) the liability for Portsmouth City Council is very limited in that whilst support can be given it is the position that beyond that PCC is not involved in any direct application that may or may not be dealt with.

7. Director of Finance's comments

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Application Criteria, Application Form and PCC endorsement

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: