

Decision maker: Resources Portfolio Decision Making Meeting

Subject: Support for the Voluntary & Community Sector 2010/2011

Report by: Mandy Lindley, Third Sector Partnerships & Commissioning Manager

Wards affected: ALL

Key decision: YES

Budget & policy framework decision: YES

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to make recommendations on the allocation of funding for the Voluntary & Community Sector in the grant year 2010/2011.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Resources Portfolio Decision Making Meeting

- Agree the allocation of funding for 2010-11
- Suggest that Directorates who have reduced levels of funding to Voluntary & Community Organisations should meet with them to discuss other funding sources & monitor the impact of reduction in services

2.2 In 2006 the grant year was moved to start at 1st July each year to allow the process to be Compact compliant. The change of the grant year means there is a commitment of 3 months funding on the following year budget allocation but also allows for 3 months notice of withdrawal of funding for any particular organisation post budget.

2.3 Whilst the information presented in the following table is presented by service all voluntary grant applications are made to the Portsmouth City Council rather than to separate services within the city council. The applications are allocated to a service portfolio that is considered to be the best fit and then assessed accordingly.

Service	Total Requested	Total Recommended	Allocation April 10 – March 11	Allocation April – June 11 (3 months)
Resources (including contracts)	664,984.60	640,309.04	636,434.04	3,875.00
Culture & Leisure	7,600.00	7,550.00	5,662.50	1,887.50
Environment & Community Safety (including contracts)	131,814.00	106,404.00	103,278.00	3,126.00
Housing (including contracts)	84,326.50	33,083.00	26,337.00	6,746.00
Education, children & young people	397,278.18	132,600.00	99,450.00	33,150.00
Health & Social Care	225,260.75	144,673.00	108,504.75	36,168.25
Totals	1,511,264.03	1,064,619.04	979,666.29	84,952.75

3. Background

- 3.1 The council has a long standing good relationship with the VCS in the city and is well regarded by organisations within the city. The VCS is often able to provide better quality locally based services to Portsmouth residents and the Local Area Agreement for 2008-2011 includes two National Indicators (NI) which recognise the value and importance of the relationship between the city and the VCS, NI 6 (participation in regular volunteering) and NI7 (Environment for a thriving third sector).
- 3.2 In line with the previous year organisations currently receiving funding were invited to re-apply for grant funding for 2010/11 & whilst the council would not advertise an open to all grants programme organisations enquiring about funding would be sent an application pack & considered by portfolio holders.
- 3.3 As part of its support to the Voluntary & Community Sector, Portsmouth City Council normally operates an annual grant programme. The decision was taken in recognition of the fact that due to budget savings grant funding has been reduced across the board over the past two years. If funding for grants is limited expectations can be raised unfairly by advertising an “open for all” programme. The closing date for applications for funding was 30th December 2009.
- 3.4 The criteria for grant aid from portfolios is attached to this report (Appendix 7) and supports each department’s recommendations. All applications are held by the Customer, Community and Democratic Service and recorded on the central grants database.
- 3.5 The application form requires that bids support the themes of the LSP’s Vision for Portsmouth and a monitoring form will be sent to ensure spending of the grant and progress towards targets and outcomes at the end of the year. All applicants are

required to provide accounts, evidenced organisational status and reserves policy in order to be eligible to receive a grant.

- 3.6 A list of grants awarded will be posted on the Portsmouth City Council Website, together with a link to this report and the accompanying appendixes. We will continue to provide information about funding, Lottery Funding & local funding streams, including Grassroots Grants, a funding programme for small voluntary and community organisations & to the Funding Advisor at Community First for Portsmouth.
- 3.7 The next few years will be difficult, as public sector efficiencies will potentially have an impact on funding to the Voluntary & Community Sector. A paper was tabled at the LSP in January 2010 to look at principles to guide funding decisions by LSP Organisations in Portsmouth in accordance with the Portsmouth Compact. Portsmouth City Council is participating in the IDeA's Partnership Improvement Programme: the four principles objectives of the programme are: -
- To build trust and mutual understanding across sectoral divides
 - To enable senior staff in the public sector and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to take the lead in responding to the challenges of working across VCS/statutory boundaries and in VCS/ public sector partnerships
 - To develop and implement local improvement plans for more effective engagement and partnership working across sectoral divides
 - To share models of effective cross-sector partnership working and areas of best practice.
- 3.8 The Action plan produced will look to develop a framework to ensure effective partnership working when looking at efficiencies & the impact on services for local people.

5. Reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 Recommendations are supported by portfolio holders in consultation with directorate grants officers.

6. Options considered and rejected

- 6.1 No alternatives the corporate grants programme is the process for grant funding to Voluntary & Community Organisations.

7. Duty to involve

- 7.1 The Leader has held meetings with third sector organisations to discuss the city council budget.

8. Implications

- 8.1 The reduction in levels of funding recommended in this report will have a significant effect on a number of Voluntary & Community Sector organisations.

9. Corporate priorities

9.1 This report and the project it refers to contribute to the following Corporate Priorities:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime
- Increase availability and quality of housing
- Protect and support our most vulnerable residents
- Improve efficiency and encourage involvement
- Raise standards in English and maths
- Regenerate the city
- Cleaner and greener city

10. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

A preliminary equalities impact assessment has been carried out on this report, and has been forwarded to the Equality & Diversity Team.

11. Legal implications

The report has been considered and approved by Legal Services.

12. Head of finance's comments

The financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report and appendices. The proposed grants are included within the approved Budget.

.....
Signed by:

Louise Wilders
customer, community & democratic services

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Resources**
- Appendix 2 Culture and Leisure**
- Appendix 3 Environment & Community Safety**
- Appendix 4 Housing**
- Appendix 5 Education Children & Young People**
- Appendix 6 Health & Social Care**

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
1	Grant Application Forms	CCDS Team
2	Grant Application Criteria	CCDS Team
3	Conditions of Use	CCDS Team

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

.....
 Signed by: