

Decision maker: Resources Portfolio Decision Making Meeting

Subject: Support for the Voluntary & Community Sector 2011/2012

Date: 24th March 2011

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

Wards affected: ALL

Key decision: NO

Budget & policy framework decision: NO

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 2011/2012

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Resources Portfolio Decision Making Meeting

- Agree the allocation of funding for 2011/2012 in appendices 1-6
- 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

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 has traditionally delivered a wide range of services within the city and the “Big Society” agenda will provide opportunity to explore the role of the VCS in public service further.

3.2 As part of its support to the Voluntary & Community Sector, Portsmouth City Council normally operates an annual grant programme. In line with the previous year organisations currently receiving funding were invited to re-apply for grant funding for 2011/12. 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 2010

- 3.3 The criteria for grant aid from portfolios are attached to this report (Appendix 7) and support each department's recommendations. All applications are held by the Customer, Community and Democratic Service and recorded on the central grants database.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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, and also to refer organisations to the Funding Advisor at Community First for Portsmouth.
- 3.7 This has been a challenging year; the council has been faced with a cut of 10.7% to its funding and has had to find savings totalling 15%. Inevitably this has impacted upon funding to the VCS. The Leader of the Council has met regularly with representatives of the VCS and has held question and answer sessions at briefing events arranged by Community First for Portsmouth. PCC finance staff have also attended seminars to explain the budget process. All organisations receiving grant funding from PCC were asked to complete an Impact Assessment explaining the effect a reduction in services would have upon their services and these were taken into account when decisions regarding allocation of funding were made. In addition, a Transition Fund totalling £100,000 has been established to help organisations affected by cuts to their funding. The criteria and timescales can be found at appendix 8.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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 11 – March 12	Allocation April – June 11 (3 months)
Resources (including contracts)	656,696.00	623,309.00	619,584.00	3,725.00
Culture & Leisure	8,900.00	4,900.00	3,675.00	1,225.00
Environment & Community Safety	128,850.00	100,900.00	96,775.00	4,125.00

(including contracts)				
Housing (including contracts)	33,083.00	30,583.00	22,937.25	7,645.75
Education, children & young people	279,641.00	36,100.00	27,075.00	9,025.00
Health & Social Care	23,609.00	14,700.00	11,025.00	3,675.00
Totals	1,112,779.00	810,492.00	781071.25	29,420.75

4. Reasons for recommendations

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

5 Options considered and rejected

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

6. Duty to involve

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

7. Implications

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

8. Corporate priorities

- 8.1 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

9.1 Equality impact assessment (EIA)

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

9. Legal implications

There are no legal implications at this time. As with any cuts/changes to funding a legal challenge is possible but minimised so long as the proper processes, including consultation, have been followed before making these proposals.

10. 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.

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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**
- Appendix 7 Criteria and timescales for Transition Fund**

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 _____

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Signed by: