

CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Hugh Mason, at his meeting held on Thursday 22 March 2012 at 9.00 am in Executive Meeting Room, the Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Present

Councillor Hugh Mason (Cabinet Member)
Councillor Donna Jones (Opposition Spokesperson)
Councillor David Horne

Officers

Ms Mandy Lindley, Third Sector Partnerships &
Commissioning Manager
Ms Delyth Horsley, Voluntary &
Community Support Officer
James Fitzgerald, Group Accountant
Peter Smith-Parkyn, Local Democracy Assistant

Councillor Hugh Mason welcomed Opposition Spokespersons and officers to the meeting.

6 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

7 Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no prejudicial declarations of interest.

8 Twinning Matters (AI 3)

The Local Democracy Assistant advised that at the meeting of the Twinning Advisory Group on 21 March 2012, two grant requests had been discussed and it had been agreed to put these forward for consideration by the Resources portfolio holder.

The first request was for a grant of £500 to Caen Committee for the purposes of hosting a delegation from Caen to attend Portsmouth's D-Day commemorations.

The second request was for a grant of £500 each to Caen Committee, Duisburg Committee and Haifa Committee in support of hosting delegations during and after Portsmouth's Mayor Making on 15 May 2012.

The Twinning Advisory Group had also agreed to put forward a request to the portfolio holder for Resources to give the Head of Customer, Community & Democratic Services and the Local Democracy Manager delegated authority to approve grants, if necessary, for twinning related activities during the purdah period.

The portfolio holder for Resources said that there was enough money set aside in the budget for the requested grants and agreed them. He also agreed to grant delegated authority to the Head of Customer Community and Democratic Services during the purdah period .

DECISION:

that the Cabinet Member for Resources decided

- (1) To formally approve a grant of £500 to Caen Committee for the purposes of hosting a delegation from Caen to attend Portsmouth's D-Day commemorations**
- (2) To formally approve a grant of £500 each to Caen Committee, Duisburg Committee and Haifa Committee in support of hosting delegations during and after Portsmouth's Mayor Making on 15 May 2012.**
- (3) To give the Head of Customer, Community and Democratic Services and the Local Democracy Manager delegated authority to approve grants, if necessary, for twinning related activities during the purdah period.**

9 Support for the Voluntary & Community Sector 2012/2013 (TAKE IN REPORT)

The Third Sector Partnerships & Commissioning Manager introduced the report and explained that the council had set aside transition funding to help support organisations who had been in receipt of council funding where this was being reduced. She explained that a report on the impact of the transition funding will be brought to the Resources portfolio in the next municipal year.

The purpose of the report is to make recommendations on the allocation of funding for the Voluntary & Community Sector in the grant year 2012/13.

During discussion the following points were made

- The burden falling on the local authority would be much greater without the work done by the voluntary sector
- Although some voluntary groups may downsize or disappear, others were becoming more efficient

The portfolio holder considered individually all the appendices concerning the allocation of funding for the Voluntary & Community sector in the grant year 2012/13 and invited comments and questions from the opposition spokespersons. It was noted that Appendix 6 – social care and HIDS awards would be by contract not grants.

The Third Sector Partnerships and Commissioning Manager agreed to advise Councillor Hugh Mason about counselling services outside the meeting.

The Third Sector Partnerships and Commissioning Manager said that it was difficult to quantify the total voluntary sector grant for this year as so much of it is not centralised. It is likely that the new Oracle system will enable this information to be available in future.

The Cabinet Member for Resources suggested that in future, it would be useful to present, as part of the report, the total amount of money allocated via grants and the total amount allocated via contracts.

DECISION that the Cabinet Member for Resources

(1) Agrees the allocation of funding for 2012/2013 in appendices 1-5 and

(2).Suggests that Directorates who have reduced levels of funding to Voluntary & Community Organisations should meet with him to discuss other funding sources and monitor the impact of reduction in services, following the principles of the Portsmouth Compact and best value guidance issued by the Department of Local Government and Communities.

**10 Update on Portsmouth Area Rape Crisis Service (PARCS)
(TAKE IN REPORT)**

The Third Sector Partnerships and Commissioning Manager introduced the PARCS Annual Report for 2010 - 2011 and said that information in the report had been sent by the organisation to the Head of Customer Community and Democratic Services. Having read the report she wished to bring to the attention of members the good work being undertaken in the city by PARCS.

The Third Sector Partnerships and Commissioning Manager explained that PARCS provides specialist services addressing sexual violation and aims to reduce the incidence of sexual violation, promote healthy relationships and alleviate the physical, emotional and psychological distress associated with rape and sexual abuse/exploitation. They work with women and men aged 13 and over and provide free specialist support, counselling and psychotherapy to survivors of sexual abuse. They also raise awareness of the issues surrounding sexual exploitation through local campaigns and the provision of education, consultation and training. Their work is undertaken by a small team of paid staff and over 50 volunteers.

PARCS provides quarterly monitoring reports to the Voluntary Sector Team to evidence the level and quality of the service they provide. They consistently exceed the level of service required by their contract with PCC, providing excellent value for money. For example in spite of a funding reduction of 15% last year, the organisation has managed to increase the number of counselling hours offered.

The Cabinet Member for Resources noted the report and said PARCS was a very worthy recipient of PCC funds and provided a very important service.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 5 July 2012.

The meeting ended at 9.40am

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Councillor Hugh Mason
Cabinet Member for Resources

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