

Agenda item:

Decision maker: Resources Portfolio Decision Making Meeting

Subject: Support for the Voluntary & Community Sector 2012/2013

Date 22nd March 2012

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 2012/13

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Resources Portfolio Holder

- Agrees the allocation of funding for 2012/2013 in appendices 1-5
- Suggests that Directorates who have reduced levels of funding to Voluntary & Community Organisations should meet with him to discuss other funding sources & 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.

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 Localism Act 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 2012/13. 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 three 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 29th December 2011

- 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 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 appendices. We will continue to provide information about funding, Lottery Funding & local funding streams, and a link to the Funding Central website.
- 3.6 At its meeting of 8th Feb 2011 council set aside a one off transition fund of £100,000 to be established to help support organisations who were currently in receipt of council funding and were facing a reduction in funding. 23 organizations and voluntary groups applied to the fund and 14 groups received grant funding of between £15,000 and £2,500 during May 2011. A report about the fund will be produced and circulated at the end of the funding period (May 2012).
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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 2012 – March 2013	Allocation April – June 2013 (3 months)
Resources (including contracts)	613,125.00	591,774.00	443,830.50	147,943.50
Culture & Leisure	10,750.00	4,900.00	3,675.00	1,225.00

Environment & Community Safety (including contracts)	130,050.00	112,400.00 (£10,000 to be awarded from budget 2011/12)	97,250.00	5,150.00
Housing (including contracts)	31,099.00	31,083.00	23,312.25	7,770.75
Education, children & young people	105,264.00	36,100.00	27,075.00	9,025.00
Totals	890,288.00	776,257.00	595,142.75	171,114.25

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 All grant holding organisations were asked to complete an impact assessment to enable their grants officers to be aware of the impact that any reduction in funding would have upon the organisation. The Leader held a pre-budget meeting with representatives of VCS organisations and the public on 10th February 2012.

7. Implications

- 7.1 There have appear to have been fewer reductions in funding compared with 2011/12, thus there will be less significant effect on VCS organisations However, other reductions may be identified as part of the transformation programme which are yet to materialise.

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. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

A preliminary EIA has been submitted and no negative impact on any of the protected characteristics has been illustrated.

10. Head of Legal Services Comments

The Best Value Guidance, issued by the secretary of state for Communities and Local Government, states that at least three months' notice of the actual reductions to both the organisation involved and the public/service users should be given and that local authorities should actively engage the organisation and service users as early as possible before making a decision on: the future of the service; any knock-on effect on assets used to provide this service; and the wider impact on the local community.

The Background, above, indicates that pre-decision engagement has taken place, and that three months of actual notice will be given

Under Part 2, Section 3, of the City Council's constitution the Portfolio holder for Resources has the authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report.

11. 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 for grant aid**

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 [title of decision maker] on [insert date of meeting].

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Signed by: [title of decision maker]