

Agenda item: 

**Title of meeting:** Resources Portfolio Decision Making Meeting

**Date of meeting:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Subject:** Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector 2014/2015

**Report by:** Preeti Sheth, Head of Integrated Commissioning Unit

**Wards affected:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Full Council decision:** No

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### 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 2014/15

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Resources Portfolio Holder
- Agrees the allocation of funding for 2014/2015 in appendices 1- 4

### 3. Background

- 3.1 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 2014/15. 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 four 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 27<sup>th</sup> December 2013
- 3.2 The criteria for grant aid from portfolios are attached to this report (Appendix 5) and support each department’s recommendations. All applications are held by the Voluntary Sector Team in the Integrated Commissioning Unit and recorded on the central grants database.
- 3.3 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.

3.4 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 alternative sources of funding, including Lottery Funding and local funding streams, and a link to the Funding Central website.

3.5 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 Grants Requested	Total Recommended
Resources	£19,408.00	£7,900.00
City Development & Cultural Services	£5,150.00	£4,150.00
Environment & Community Safety	£14,000.00	£13,500
Housing	£27,814.00	£2,318.00
Totals	£66,372.00	£27,868.00

#### 4. Reasons for recommendations

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

#### 5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

5.1 An equality impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010.

**6. Legal comments**

6.1 Although these grants are made under the Council's general power to promote wellbeing they also need to comply with the relevant standing orders and procedures. This covers both the financial regulations and, as the agreements are in the form of a contract, the Contract Procedure Rules. However in the light of the low level of the grants to be made the CPRs will not be onerous and can be dealt with through a general exemption.

**7. Finance comments**

7.1 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:

**Appendices:**

- Appendices:**
- Appendix 1 Resources**
- Appendix 2 City Development and Cultural Services**
- Appendix 3 Environment & Community Safety**
- Appendix 4 Housing**
- Appendix 5 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:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>
Grant Application Form	Voluntary Sector Team

Grant Application Criteria	Voluntary Sector Team
Conditions of Use	Voluntary Sector Team

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

.....  
Signed by: