

Committee: CABINET

Agenda Item

Date: 26 MARCH 2013

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**Title: GRANTS – THREE YEAR VOLUNTARY
SECTOR FUNDING**

**Portfolio Holder: COUNCILLOR HOWARD ROLFE,
COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS,
01799 510742**

Key decision:No

Summary

1. Previously, the Council has provided funding on a three year basis for a small number of voluntary sector organisations. The funding period came to an end in March 2011. It was decided that those organisations should be funded for a further two years but on the basis of a re-launch of the scheme to ensure an equitable process was followed. A report was submitted to the January Cabinet meeting seeking approval for the Leader of the Council to delegate power to the Community Engagement Portfolio Holder (with support from officers) to assess the grants and award the funding for the first year. The funding for the second and third years will be awarded on the basis of agreed targets and performance indicators being met.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that Members endorse the grant allocations for year one of the three year funding scheme as detailed in this report.

Financial Implications

The grant allocations are within the amount earmarked in the budget.

Background Papers

None.

Impact

- 3.

Communication/Consultation	All organisations are communicated with on a regular basis and utilise other funding streams that enable them to secure additional funding.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	All organisations have an equal opportunities policy and have

	demonstrated compliance with the Council's protected characteristics.
Health and Safety	None.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None.
Sustainability	All organisations contribute towards ensuring a sustainable quality of life is secured/maintained by those accessing their services
Ward-specific impacts	None.
Workforce/Workplace	None.

Situation

4. The Three Year Funding Grants Scheme was originally devised as the Contributions Fund Scheme (with an annual inflationary uplift) and was established to encourage and support the provision of services that might not otherwise be available to the local community.
5. The scheme has been re-launched to ensure that the grants are awarded to those organisations deemed to be providing essential services in accordance with the needs assessment of the district. Also to ensure that the grants are awarded on an equitable basis.
6. The grants have been assessed against previously agreed criteria and funding allocated as follows:

ORGANISATION	ALLOCATED FUNDING YEAR 1 (2013/14)
Catch 22 (Young People's Charity)	£20,000
Council for Voluntary Services, Uttlesford	£27,000
Uttlesford Carers UK	£3,000 *
Uttlesford Community Travel	£36,000
Uttlesford Citizen Advice Bureau	£134,939
Uttlesford Volunteer Bureau	£10,000
Support 4 Sight	£10,000
East Herts Citizens' Advice Bureau	£11,000

Saffron Walden Mencap Society	Nil (Funding requested for social events – not included in assessment criteria). To be advised to apply for a Leisure & Cultural Grant.
Dig it	Nil (Funding requested not in the spirit of the criteria as an essential voluntary sector support service). To be advised to apply for a Leisure & Cultural Grant.
Home-Start Uttlesford	£3,000
Voluntary Sector Training	£5,500
Crossroads Care East Anglia	£11,000 *

*** Must be spent in Uttlesford**

7. Regarding the monitoring arrangements, a balanced scorecard approach will be developed with each of the organisations to establish targets and objectives. Additionally, the funded organisations will be obliged to provide regular update reports and make presentations to the Council in January 2014 to demonstrate the objectives have been met. The feedback and evidence will be evaluated and, subject to satisfactory compliance, the award of the second year's funding will be approved.

8. For information, the Council also funds the following organisations on an annual basis and Members expressed the wish to continue to maintain existing grants:

ORGANISATION	ANNUAL FUNDING 2013/14
Thaxted Festival	£1,146 direct payment
Orchestras Live	£2,554 (which then benefits Thaxted Festival)
Great Dunmow Maltings	£1,000
Great Dunmow Museum Society	£2,750
Uttlesford Community Travel (Capital Funding contribution towards vehicle replacement)	£12,000 requested increase to £13,000

Risk Analysis

9.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
<p>The Council has previously supported key voluntary sector organisations to enable them to provide advice, guidance and specific support services to the local community in the absence of many statutory agencies operating in Uttlesford.</p>	<p>3 Without continued funding from the Council many of the voluntary sector organisations will find it difficult to sustain the current level of service as they have identified there is less access to funding from other organisations in the current financial climate</p>	<p>4 Due to the lower volume of problems experienced by the Uttlesford community there are fewer statutory organisations based in the district to support people. Therefore the role of the voluntary sector is essential and withdrawal of some of those services would have a significant adverse impact on the wellbeing of the local community.</p>	<p>Increasing the funding available to the organisations will result in services continuing to be provided by the Council resourcing more organisations and existing ones being resourced to a higher level..</p>

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.