



**REPORT TO:** Grants Advisory Committee 17 December 2021

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor John Williams Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

**LEAD OFFICER:** Gareth Bell, Service Manager, Communications and Communities

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## **Service Support Grants to the Voluntary Sector: 6-month Update Report**

### **Executive Summary**

1. This paper examines the delivery of a number of Service Support Grants at the 6 month stage of the 2021-22 financial year.
2. 6-monthly reports have been requested from organisations in receipt of sums greater than £15,000 per annum, unless other arrangements have been specifically requested by the Council.
3. The report provides a review of activity for Q1-Q2 only.

### **Key Decision**

4. Is this a Key Decision? – No.

### **Recommendations**

5. The Grants Advisory Committee (GAC) is asked to review the report and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance with regard to Service Support Grants to the voluntary sector. Reports have been requested specifically for those organisations in receipt of £15,000 funding per annum or more, or where a specific request has been made by the Committee members.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

6. All organisations in receipt of funding are on track to deliver the agreed outputs on time and to budget, achieving the objectives of their individual grant agreements.
7. Recipients continue to be actively monitored throughout the year.

## **Details**

8. Q1 and Q2 reports have been requested and received from the following organisations, delivering against the following Service Support Grant themes:
  - Citizens Advice Bureaux (Generalist and specialist advice)
  - Care Network, Community Transport Scheme (Community Transport)
  - CCVS (Support for parishes and communities)
  - Care Network, Open Arms Project (Independent Living)
9. In the past at this point in the year, a report has been requested from the Farmland Museum to monitor their business model. However, this recipient was discussed at length at the GAC meeting of 27 August 2021 where progress was reviewed and funding was agreed until the end of the 2022/23 financial year. An annual performance report will be requested of this and all other recipients of Service Support Grants to the Voluntary Sector at the end of this financial year.
10. A summary report of progress during quarters one and two for these grant programmes is provided in Appendix A. The summary also gives an officer opinion on the status against targets agreed within the grant agreements. Individual organisational reports can be found at Appendix B.
11. Funding agreements for grants provided through the Service Support Grants programme are for three years, subject to satisfactory performance at annual review. This report covers the first two quarters of year 3 for funding agreements for 2019-2022.
12. Following the Grants Advisory Committee meeting in August 2021 it was agreed to extend all existing grants for 1 year to March 2023 to reflect the impacts of COVID-19, numerous lockdowns and social distancing measures which created exceptional economic conditions for the voluntary sector.

13. Monitoring and reporting on grants will therefore continue to take place at six monthly intervals for organisations in receipt of funding sums greater than £15,000 per annum.

14. Monitoring and reporting on grants of less than £15,000 will take place annually unless specifically requested.

## **Options**

15. Grants Advisory Committee could, either:

- a. note and accept the content of the report and appendices as presented, or
- b. note the content of the report and appendices, highlighting any concerns for further investigation or action. Where recommendations to the Lead Member for Finance are required, these will be detailed by the Committee.

## **Implications**

16. There are no significant implications

## **Legal**

17. Funding agreements are in place with grant recipients, which should be followed if a variation or discontinuation of funding is agreed.

## **Effect on Council Priority Areas**

The scheme of Service Support Grants to the Voluntary Sector provides much needed funding to community and voluntary groups that benefit residents of South Cambridgeshire.

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: Officer Report

Appendix B: Individual reports by organisation.

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