



REPORT TO: Grants Advisory Committee

24/06/2022

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr John Williams

LEAD OFFICER: Gareth Bell, Service Manager, Comms and Communities

Service Support Grants: end of year report 2021/22

Executive Summary

1. To examine the delivery of Service Support Grants to the Voluntary and Community Sector as funded by the Council in the financial year 2021/22.

Key Decision

2. No

This is not a key decision because it reviews expenditure within current budgets.

Recommendations

3. The Grants Advisory Committee is asked to review the report and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance to inform his decision-making in respect of concerns, if any, for future investigation or action.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. All organisations receiving grants are making best efforts to deliver the agreed outputs and outcomes to time and to budget. Where this has not been possible, the unavoidable effects of the Covid pandemic are largely the cause.

Details

5. Funding agreements for grants provided through the Service Support Grants to the Voluntary and Community Sector are for three years, subject to satisfactory performance at annual review. This report is for the 12 months covering the period April 2021 to March 2022.

6. Following a review of the existing Service Support Grant Agreements with members of our Grants Advisory Committee in Summer 2021, it was recommended to the Lead Member for Finance that the existing grant agreements between the Council and recipient organisations would be extended by one year with no alterations to the terms and conditions. It was felt that the prior eighteen months had been exceptional and turbulent for the voluntary sector and that it would not be the right time to ask organisations to forecast future business projections and performance in an environment of ongoing economic uncertainty.
7. The Service Support grant scheme will be reviewed again this year with the plan to invite applications for new three-year agreements from September 2022 for the period April 2023-March 2026.
8. Organisations are beginning to recover from the effects of the Covid pandemic but its impact is clear from the reports in Appendix A.
9. Organisations in receipt of annual grants greater than £10,000 are required to submit performance reports at 6-monthly intervals; those in receipt of funding of less than £10,000 are required to submit performance reports annually.
10. This report covers grant funding within 8 categories to the following organisations:

Category 1: Independent Living

- Arts & Minds
- COPE

Category 2: Advice Services

- Citizens Advice
- Disability Cambridgeshire
- Disability Huntingdon (DISH)
- Reach

Category 3: Community Transport

- RDCT
- The Voluntary Network

Category 4: Fit to Learn

- Home Start Royston

Category 5: Support for VCS

- CCVS

Category 6: Combined community transport and independent living

- Care Network

Category 7: Planning and Economic Development

- Farmland Museum

Category 8: Housing and Homelessness

- Cambridge Cyrenians
- Cambridge Reuse
- Cambridge Women's Aid

Appendix A: Comprises a summary report of progress for the year. The summary gives an officer view on the status against deliverables within grant agreements.

Options

The Grants Advisory Committee could:

1. note the delivery of all grant programmes within the scope of this report, and agree that all are on track as per officer opinion; and/or
2. highlight any concerns for further investigation or action within or outside the scope of the forthcoming Service Support Grants review, giving reasons, and request that a follow up report be returned to GAC within appropriate timescales.

Implications

11. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

Legal

12. Arrangements are in place with grant recipients, which should be followed should a variation or discontinuation of funding be proposed and agreed.

Consultation responses

13. None

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

A modern and caring Council

Ensure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for our residents: the grant programmes promote a good quality of life for all residents, assisting directly or indirectly through voluntary organisations schemes which help overcome the challenges faced by residents imposed by age, infirmity, disability, low income or rurality.

Appendices

Appendix A: Summary report of progress with officer comments

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