

REPORT TO: Grants Advisory Committee

30/06/2023

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr John Williams

LEAD OFFICER: Gareth Bell

Service Support Grants: end of year progress report 2022/23

Executive Summary

1. This report reviews the delivery of Service Support Grants to the Voluntary and Community Sector as funded by the Council in the financial year 2022-2023

Key Decision

2. No. This is not a key decision because it reviews expenditure within the 2022-2023 budget.

Recommendations

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

Reasons for Recommendations

4. 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 2022 to March 2023.
5. 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 2019-2022 grant agreements between the Council and recipient organisations would be extended by one year until 31 March 2023 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.

6. In Autumn 2022, the Council invited applications again and on 25 November 2022 the Grants Advisory Committee awarded 11 organisations new three-year Service Support Grant scheme agreements for the period April 2023-March 2026.
7. 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.
8. The grant funding in 2022-23 was allocated under 8 categories to the following organisations:

Category 1: Independent Living

- Arts & Minds
- Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise (COPE)

Category 2: Advice Services

- Citizens Advice¹
- Disability Cambridgeshire
- Disability Huntingdon (DISH)
- REACH Community Projects

Category 3: Community Transport

- Royston & District Community Transport (RDCT)
- The Voluntary Network

Category 4: Fit to Learn

- Home Start Royston

Category 5: Support for VCS

- Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS)

Category 6: Combined community transport and independent living

- Care Network Cambridgeshire

Category 7: Planning and Economic Development

- Farmland Museum²

Category 8: Housing and Homelessness

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

¹ See Appendix B for detailed information from Citizens Advice.

² Information relating to The Farmland Museum's grant for 2022-23 has not been included in this report. In making their application to the Service Support Grant Scheme for 2023-26, officers and Councillors reviewed their bid for 2023-26 along with additional financial information. This gave the Council confidence that they are operating well and have used the Council's grant to best effect to create a sustainable business model.

9. The organisations funded in 2022-23 have in the main recovered from the effects of the Covid pandemic as can be seen in the summary reports in Appendix A, which also gives an officer view on whether the agreed deliverables were achieved.

Options

The Grants Advisory Committee could:

1. Note the delivery of all grant schemes within the scope of this report; and/or
2. Highlight any concerns for further investigation or action, giving reasons, and request that a follow up report be returned to GAC within appropriate timescales.

Implications

10. 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

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

Consultation responses

12. All schemes have been asked to report on service delivery over the last year.

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

Appendix B: Detailed report and case studies from CAB.

Report Author:

Emma Dyer - Development Officer

emma.dyer@scambs.gov.uk

01954 713344