

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader's Portfolio Holder Meeting 31 March 2011
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Corporate Manager, Community & Customer Services

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS - UPDATE

Purpose

1. To present an update of grant funding to the voluntary sector and details of the applications received from the voluntary sector for grant funding for 2011/12.

Recommendation

2. To note the contents of the report.

Background

3. The South Cambridgeshire District Council scheme of grants to the voluntary sector was publicised in October 2010 and closed for applications on 17 December 2010.
4. The Leader's Portfolio Holder Meeting on 2 July 2009 agreed a number of themed headings under which organisations could apply for funding. These headings were as follows:
 - (a) Citizens Advice and Guidance (3 year funding)
 - (b) Infrastructure Support (3 year funding)
 - (c) Specialist Services, including Community Transport (3 year funding)
 - (d) Specialist Services (annual grants of under £1,000)
5. A number of grants were made in 2010/11 under the first 3 of these headings (i.e. under 3 year funding agreements). The coming year, 2011/12, represents the second of these three years. Details of this funding for 2011/12 is given in the table overleaf.
6. In terms of funding under heading (d) annual grants, a panel of officers met on 27 January to discuss and review all applications. Decisions have been made regarding those requesting less than £5,000 in accordance with current decision thresholds and are presented for information only in section 4 of the table.

Considerations

7. According to Cambridge Council for Voluntary services, the infrastructure support organisation covering the South Cambridgeshire district, there are approximately 800 small voluntary and community organisations in South Cambridgeshire.
8. Of the organisations in South Cambridgeshire that have applied for grant funding, some are in greater need than others. Officer decisions regarding grants under £5,000 are made taking into account factors such as council priorities, annual turnover, reserve levels, other sources of funding sought, policies and procedures followed, organisation sustainability, value for money, accessibility of service.

Additionally, officers also gave priority to organisations/projects that support the ageing nature of the South Cambridgeshire population.

9. Local Authorities were previously assessed against National Indicator 7: the creation of an environment for a thriving Third Sector. The Office of the Third Sector surveyed voluntary and community organisations about a number of factors that contributed to the overall assessment, including whether and to what extent they are dependent on public sector funding and whether they feel supported and valued. Although National Indicators have been abolished in 2010/11, one of the many benefits of running this scheme of grants is the impact it will have on the perception organisations have of their local Council and how the authority is responding to the localism/Big Society agenda.
10. All funded organisations will be asked to demonstrate their commitment to quality and to use the South Cambridgeshire District Council logo in any publicity associated with the funded project. Some will have further conditions placed on their grant as per the details shown in the table.
11. It should be noted that officers are currently reviewing the existing grants framework. This includes mapping all current grants that the authority provides, assessing how these grants are allocated, ensuring that they support the Council's 3 A's and provide value for money and developing a robust, comprehensive and sustainable framework for the future.
12. The attached table details the organisations that applied for funding in 2010/11 and are currently moving into year 2 of a 3 year agreement (Sections 1-3). It should be noted that three year grants are subject to available budget each year, however, as per the Cambridgeshire Compact the Council will be required to give organisations at least three months notice of termination of a grant.
13. Section 4 of the table details the organisations that have applied for funding in 2011/12 (i.e. up to £1,000 for one year).

14. Table

	Organisation Name	Grant Requested 2010/11	Grant Agreed 2010/11	Grant Awarded 2011/12	Comments (original assessment)
Section 1: Citizens Advice - 3 Yr Term					
1	North Herts CAB	£17,600.00	£17,974.11	£18,400.00	To be paid in 2 instalments, the first up front and the second after successful monitoring at 6 months.
2	Haverhill CAB	£6,100.00	£5,943.51	£6,150.00	Grant to be made subject to specified monitoring information.
3	Cambridge CAB	£60,880.00	£57,488.85	£58,800.00	To be paid in 2 instalments, the first up front and the second after successful monitoring at 6 months.
4	Uttlesford CAB	£6,090.00	£5,943.51	£6,150.00	Grant to be made subject to specified monitoring information.
	Total	£90,670.00	£87,349.98	£89,500.00	
Section 2: Other Grants Over £5,000 - 3 Yr Term,					
5	Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services	£7,500.00	£7,500.00	£7,670.00	Conditions: funded events to be named in advance, CVS needs to expand membership in S Cambs. £4,500 to be allocated to core costs and £3,000 to representation (incl. planning for growth events).
6	Cambridgeshire ACRE	£9,000.00	£9,000.00	£9,208.00	Condition: ACRE to share parish profile information sheets with SCDC.
7	Care Network Cambridgeshire	£6,000.00	£5,500.00	£5,625.00	Grant reduced from 2009-10. Condition: services to be provided must be specified in advance.
9	Crossroads Care Cambridgeshire (West Anglia Crossroads)	£5,045.00	£3,500.00	£3,580.00	Grant reduced from 2009-10. Funding over-subscribed. High turnover. Condition: this is an ambitious application and might need to be scaled back.
	Total	£27,545.00	£25,500.00	£26,083.00	

	Organisation Name	Grant Requested 2010/11	Grant Agreed 2010/11	Grant Awarded 2011/12	Comments
Section 3: Specialist Services Grants - 3 Yr Term					
12	The Cambridge and District Community Mediation Service	£3,175.00	£2,500.00	£2,558.00	Grant reduced from 2009-10 because of lower referral numbers. Condition: must seek referrals from CDRP.
13	The Connections Bus Project	£4,050.00	£3,095.00	£3,165.00	Funding over-subscribed. Grant reduced from 2009-10. Condition: must visit Haslingfield and Harlton if possible.
14	Cambridge Family Mediation Service	£3,550.00	£2,500.00	£2,558.00	Grant maintained at 2009-10 level. Funding over-subscribed so, despite increased need for family mediation as a result of the current economic climate, cannot increase grant amount.
15	Age Concern Cambridgeshire Core Funding	£4,500.00	£3,155.00	£3,228.00	Grant maintained at 2009-10 level. Condition: presentation and conference themes need to be agreed in conjunction with SCDC.
16	Disability Cambridgeshire & Disability Huntingdonshire (joint application)	£4,500.00	£3,250.00	£3,325.00	Separate grants in 2009-10. Disability Cambridgeshire grant was over 3 years. Disability Huntingdonshire grant was for 1 year. Combined grant is slightly lower but over 3 years to enable medium-term planning.
17	Relate Cambridge	£4,000.00	£2,500.00	£2,558.00	Grant reduced from 2009-10 level. Funding over-subscribed and cannot prioritise given focus on older people. Condition: need to encourage introduction of minimum client charges to increase income.
19	Cambridge Dial-a-Ride	£4,203.00	£3,500.00	£3,580.00	All to be funded at appropriate levels given activity in South Cambs during the last few years and given council priority of Community Transport. Conditions: CRB checks, Insurance, H&S, only charging clients agreed national levels, involvement in CT Strategy.
20	Royston & District Community Transport	£3,500.00	£2,650.00	£2,710.00	
21	3CT	£2,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,535.00	
Total		£33,978.00	£24,650.00	£25,217.00	

	Organisation Name	Grant Requested 2011/12	Grant Proposed 2011/12	Comments
Section 4: Specialist Services Grants - 1 Yr Term, For Information Only				
22	Hearing Dogs for the Deaf	£1,061.00	£0.00	Great scheme, but cannot be prioritised for DC grant funding.
23	Transition Cambridge, Energy Group	£650.00	£0.00	We'll work with them without giving funding - marries with PEP work, can achieve outputs in partnership. With more money we might have but without it, cannot fund.
24	The WAY Project	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	SC has contributed to the new youth building £40k - this is revenue funding to keep the club going.
25	Caldecote & Hardwick Doctor's Run	£550.00	£550.00	Good Scheme, fits to Community Transport Strategy
26	Royston & District Volunteer Centre	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Excellent work - fits with big Society and Localism
27	The Meadows Children & Families Project	£1,000.00	£800.00	Great work with positive outcomes for children and families - great demand for this urban part of South Cambs.
28	SexYOUality	£1,000.00	£500.00	City drop-ins SC YP can go to.
29	Cambridge Joint Playschemes	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Recommended subject to the success of their other current funding bids.
30	Cambridge St Raphael Club	£850.00	£850.00	Day trip to seaside and transport to get clients to and from the Centre.
31	COPE	£1,000.00	£800.00	Older people's work is a priority for next year for SCDC
32	STRADA Cambridgeshire	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Supportive of the work. Advise that they need to contact their local GP clusters for funding asap.
33	Cambridge Cruse Bereavement Care	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Hits priorities, lots of work with volunteers = low costs, good value for money and good referral systems.
34	CAMREAD	£1,000.00	£600.00	Approved - must promote services to more South Cambs residents.

	Organisation Name	Grant Requested 2011/12	Grant Proposed 2011/12	Comments
Section 4: Specialist Services Grants - 1 Yr Term, For Information Only				
35	Cambs & Pboro Assoc of Local Councils	£1,000.00	£0.00	Inundated. Value their work and supportive of them but form not completed in full, no details on reserves or funding from elsewhere.
36	Cam Sight	£1,000.00	£500.00	2 x 6 young men groups of VIP life skills pilot
37	Home-Start Royston & South Cambs	£1,000.00	£0.00	Cannot prioritise - local children's centre would deliver this work.
38	Willingham Youth Trust	£1,000.00	£500.00	New organisation, 14 young people, have researched the need locally and other models of youth work would not suit.
39	Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre	£632.00	£500.00	Contribution - county needs to contribute and they must work with Care Network - we are providing funding already through them.
40	Linton Action for Youth	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Excellent work for young people with no alternative.
41	Red2Green	£1,000.00	£500.00	Transport-based learning for adults with autism spectrum disorders. 12 individuals to learn skills for using Public Transport.
42	The Cog-Wheel Trust	£1,000.00	£0.00	Struggling with finances, redundancy etc. Cannot prioritise as we are already funding CAB and Relate, Mediation for this work.
43	Cambridge Past, Present & Future	£1,000.00	£300.00	Supportive of it but only a small contribution - needs to better fit the Council's priorities.
44	Cambourne Ladies International Club	£990.00	£300.00	Has had funding from Comm Dev £600 so only contributing a small amount
45	Royston Timebank	£1,000.00	£0.00	Fits well with Big Society, admirable but already funding vol centres. COPE, SC magazine, parish newsletters - alternatives to advertise volunteering opportunities.

	Organisation Name	Grant Requested 2011/12	Grant Proposed 2011/12	Comments
Section 4: Specialist Services Grants - 1 Yr Term, For Information Only				
46	Centre 33	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	25% of clients are from S Cambs. They need to work with homelessness team to target services appropriately.
47	Gamlingay Community Centre Ltd	£1,000.00	£0.00	Supportive of the work but expensive shelving, eco hub has had lots of money from SCDC £50k, library access club for homework club and baby rhyme time sessions - not a clear link between the purchase and the clubs.
48	Cambridge & District Volunteer Centre	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	See RDVC
49	Fulbourn Day Centre	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Good project - needs to focus on sustainability.
50	Vitalise	£899.95	£0.00	Too big, high reserves - turned down last year - cannot prioritise
Total		£27,632.95	£15,700.00	

Options

The Leader is asked to note the report.

Implications

15. Financial	Three year grants are subject to sufficient budget being available each year, however, as per the Cambridgeshire Compact the Council will be required to give organisations at least three months notice of termination of a grant.
Legal	Funding agreements with each funded organisation are drawn up, stipulating where possible the detail of project activities and monitoring requirements. Monitoring takes place annually and in person for those awarded three year grants, and once in writing in November 2011 for those awarded a one year sum.
Staffing	None, current staffing capacity is sufficient to manage the scheme.
Risk Management	Some organisations may consider their grant to be insufficient based on previous grants or project costs. It is hoped that the reputation of the Council with respect to related performance indicators will be improved as a result of this scheme, which has been publicised more widely, and received more applications, than in recent years.
Equal Opportunities	It is felt that the spread of awards presented in this paper is fair. It is recommended that thought be given in future to developing a policy regarding niche groups, for example children and young people's services, to which County Council provide dedicated grant funding.

Consultations

16. The panel of officers that met to consider the applications included: Gemma Barron, Partnerships Manager; Kathryn Hawkes, Partnerships Officer; Linda Browne, Community Liaison Support Assistant; Joseph Minutolo, Senior Administration Officer (New Communities) and Richard Hales, Team Leader (Communities).

Effect on Strategic Aims

17.	Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all. Grant funding to the voluntary sector enables the local, community-based provision of a range of high quality services (often heavily subsidised or free of charge) to residents of South Cambridgeshire who otherwise might not be able to access them.
	Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all. Many of the grants proposed are to organisations, which have as their primary or secondary objective the provision of services to those in poor health, the elderly and disabled.
	Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live. This scheme of grants to voluntary organisations demonstrates a commitment to supporting a thriving Third Sector. Many of the grants will enable residents to continue to live in their communities independently.

Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.
The grants being given to the four Citizens Advice Bureaux and the two Volunteer Centres in particular will support the work of these agencies to provide advice about employment, training and volunteering opportunities to those who want and/or need support.
Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.
The grant to Cambridgeshire ACRE will help them support rural communities, including supporting Parish Councils to develop and implement Community-Led Plans.

Conclusions/Summary

18. This scheme of grants to the voluntary sector is vital to the development of a thriving Third Sector, to the maintenance of positive relationships with community-led organisations, to the provision of additional services across the district and to the engagement of communities in the work of the District Council.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Paper to Leader's Portfolio Holder Meeting, 2 July 2009
- Criteria and Guidance Notes for grants to voluntary organisations, 2010-11

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