



**8REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY GROUP MANAGER  
SAFER AND ENGAGED COMMUNITIES**

**INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT AID 2013 TO 2015**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to agree a two-year (2013-2015) grant aid agreement that contributes to a range of infrastructure services supporting the community and voluntary sector of Nottinghamshire.

**Information and Advice**

2. As part of the Corporate Grant Aid Strategy, funding for Infrastructure groups was recommended and agreed by the Members Reference Group in March 2012, it was also agreed that any grant aid funding, applied for and awarded post 2013 would be allocated on a 2 year basis, therefore aligning with, the 3 year grant aid agreements for the majority of groups which are in place up to 2015.
3. At the September 2012 Grant Aid Sub-Committee members agreed that a consortium/partnership approach to delivery of infrastructure support should be encouraged.
4. Appendix 1 is a copy of the invitation to apply. This was advertised on the County Council website and shared across community and voluntary sector networks. The application window ran from 15 October 2012 to 7 December 2012. In addition to the advertised material an open event for any potential applicants was held on 31 October 2012.
5. As a result of this approach a single application was received by the closing date. This application came from Networking Action for Voluntary Organisations (NAVO) acting as the lead organisation with the following 10 member organisations:-
  - NAVO – Lead Body
  - Northern Infrastructure partnership - (Ashfield Voluntary Action, Bassetlaw CVS, Voluntary Action Broxtowe & Mansfield CVS)
  - Southern Alliance Infrastructure partnership – (Gedling CVS, Newark & Sherwood CVS & Rushcliffe CVS)
  - Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
  - Community Accounting Plus

6. The application submitted sought to describe how the partners would contribute to the following 8 areas:-

- Supporting Nottinghamshire County Council priorities
- Increase the number & quality of Volunteering Opportunities
- Support collaborative working & communication
- To support and manage consultation with the local VCS
- To provide professional financial and legal support to the sector
- Build the capacity of the sector through information and training
- To provide support to the isolated and Rural CVS
- To identify gaps in provision and help shape and deliver local services

7. The application has been assessed by officers in the Community and Voluntary Sector Team and from Adult Social Care and Health and is considered to be of good quality, describing both how services will be delivered and how they will be measured.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. Delivery of this service was sought through an open application process, no other applications were made, therefore no other options have been considered.

### **Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)**

9. Since the application sought a lead body that required them to establish partnership arrangements, we are satisfied that the proposed consortium is an appropriate mechanism for delivering Infrastructure support.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

11. That Members:

- Approve a post application discussion with the lead body (NAVO) to agree a set of priority outcomes/performance measures.
- Approve a grant aid agreement to the value of £185,000 from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, and a second year of £165,000 for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

**Chris Walker**  
**Temporary Group Manager, Safer and Engaged Communities**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (NAB 9.01.13)**

The Grant Aid Sub-Committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference

### **Financial Comments (DJK 10.01.2013)**

The contents of this report are duly noted; the financial agreements within Paragraph 11 are contained within the revenue budget.

### **Background Papers**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Corporate Grant Aid Strategy 2011 - 15

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

ALL

## **Nottinghamshire Voluntary & Community Sector Infrastructure Grant Aid 2013/15**

Nottinghamshire County Council is inviting applications for grant aid funding from Voluntary and Community Infrastructure Organisations. This grant aid is available to contribute to the provision of effective and targeted support for the wider voluntary & community sector of Nottinghamshire.

The Council has provided £185,000 in grant aid to Infrastructure groups for 2012/13 and wishes to continue to support infrastructure groups by making up to £350,000 available for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (£185,000 in 2013/14 and £165,000 in 2014/15)

We are looking for collaborative/partnership bids that cover the period 2013/15 that can deliver countywide services contributing to outcomes against the following criteria.

- To support the County Council's strategic priorities  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/plans/councilplansandpolicies/strategicplan](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/plans/councilplansandpolicies/strategicplan)
- To help increase the number and quality of volunteering opportunities in Nottinghamshire
- To enable communication and collaboration by encouraging sharing of resources to create more effective ways of working. This includes providing forums and networks to share good practice and expertise to be able to, for example, bid for public service commissioned contracts
- To represent the diverse views of local groups to statutory agencies and promoting two way communication on policy developments, service redesign and working in partnership
- To provide support to voluntary and community groups to manage their finances effectively
- To raise standards by providing access to information on governance, funding, legal advice, training and quality assurance, so enabling many groups to acquire and maintain the knowledge, skills and resources they need to support the local community
- To provide developmental support to voluntary and community groups working in rural areas
- To identify any gaps in service provision and fill them by working with new groups to address unmet need and ensure that existing groups are equipped to tailor their services to changing needs

We are looking for applications from a **Lead Organisation** that can demonstrate partnership arrangements that will see the above criteria delivered consistently across the county.

They will work with partners to develop an application and be responsible for working with the County Council and partners to develop appropriate proportionate monitoring arrangements.

You are eligible to be a **Lead Organisation** if you meet the following criteria:

You are an infrastructure organisation. By infrastructure organisation, we mean civil society organisations whose main or only purpose is to support the work of other groups in the voluntary and community sector. This purpose will usually appear in the governing document of your organisation or will be apparent from the work you have carried out. If supporting other organisations is not an explicit purpose in your governing document doing such work must be within the scope of the work your governing document allows you to do.

You are one of the following types of organisations:



- a registered charity
- a voluntary and community unincorporated charitable association
- a community benefit society registered as an industrial and provident society
- a community interest company
- an organisation of another type if you operate as a social enterprise and principally reinvest your surpluses for social benefit.

You are not eligible to apply if you:

- are a statutory organisation such as a school or local authority, including statutory organisations that have charitable status
- are an individual or sole trader
- make a surplus or profit which is not principally reinvested for social benefit
- are applying on behalf of another organisation – a bid writing organisation.

We expect all partners to meet the eligibility criteria above. A partner is defined as an organisation that has some responsibility for delivering the service outcomes.

Applications are invited using the application form ([web link](#)) and the closing date for completed applications is 7th December 2012.

Organisations interested in applying for funding are invited to attend an information session to be held at 2.30pm on Wed 31 October 2012 at Mansfield CVS, Community House, Wood Street Mansfield NG18 1QA. Please email [county.grantaid@nottsgov.uk](mailto:county.grantaid@nottsgov.uk) if you intend attending this session.