

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER

CORPORATE GRANT AID STRATEGY 2011-2015 – WORKING WITH THE VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval of the Corporate Grant Aid Strategy 2011-15, which details the future plans and priorities for Grant Aid funding and strategic engagement with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) (**Appendix 1**).

Information and Advice

2. As part of the Service Improvement Programme, the grant aid review identified the need to develop a more cohesive and connected approach to Grant Aid funding across the County Council.
3. To facilitate a more cohesive approach a cross party Grant Aid Member Reference Group was established with the following membership.

Cllr. Martin Suthers OBE – Chair & Deputy Leader
Cllr. Richard Butler – Cabinet Member – Environment & Sustainability
Cllr. Lynn Sykes – Deputy Cabinet Member Youth Services
Cllr. John Cottee – Cabinet Member Culture and Community
Cllr. Mick Murphy – Cabinet Member Community Safety
Cllr. Stuart Wallace – Deputy Cabinet Member Adult Social Care & Health
Cllr. Richard Jackson – Cabinet Member – Transport & Highways
Cllr. June Stendall – Independent Group representative
Cllr. Joyce Bosnjak – Labour Group representative
Cllr. Ken Rigby – Liberal Democrat representative

4. A key role for this group was to develop and agree a draft Corporate Grant Aid Strategy which would detail the County Councils future plans and priorities with regard to funding and engagement with the VCS.
5. A consultation process on the draft Strategy commenced on 15th August 2011 and continued until 19th September 2011. The consultation consisted of an on-line questionnaire and focus groups in each of the seven boroughs and districts of the county.

6. A total of 62 on-line responses were received and over 100 people attended the focus groups. A full analysis of the consultation feedback was undertaken and details of the key themes and responses along with recommendations are available as a background paper.
7. The Grant Aid Members Reference Group, at their meeting on 23rd September 2011, considered responses to the feedback and agreed the final version to be considered for approval by the Full County Council.

Other Options Considered

8. Previous longstanding grant aid arrangements, which included Grant Aid funding priorities and decisions being agreed at a Departmental and Portfolio level, could have been maintained. However it was considered that a corporate process for agreeing priorities and funding decisions, through a cross party member reference group, was a more effective and productive way of maximising the impact from the Grant Aid budget and working with the VCS.

Reasons for Recommendations

9. The new Grant Aid Strategy seeks to acknowledge the role that the VCS play in the lives of the people of Nottinghamshire. The Strategy also sets out clearly the priorities and decision making process the County Council will follow when considering Grant Aid applications. These points coupled with the 4 year term of the Strategy means the County Council will have a stronger and more effective relationship with the VCS of Nottinghamshire.
10. The second recommendation, that the Strategy is reviewed after 12 months, is proposed to ensure that it meets the purpose it has been developed to deliver.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. 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

- a) The Council approve the Corporate Grant Aid Strategy at the meeting on 3rd November 2011
- b) The Grant Aid Member Reference Group reviews the Grant Aid Strategy in 12 months.

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Constitutional Comments (NAB 18/10/11)

12. Council has authority to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

Financial Comments ([DD 20/11/2011])

13. There are no additional resource implications as result of adopting this Strategy.

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.

Grant Aid Strategy – Action Plan

Grant Aid – Equality Impact Assessment

Online responses to consultation

Focus Group responses

Analysis and response to Consultation feedback

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All Nottinghamshire Divisions.