

Appendix 1

Grant Aid 2012/15 Strategy

In November 2011, the County Council adopted a Corporate Grant Aid Strategy to cover the 2012/15 Grant Aid programme. The key drivers and features of the strategy were as follows:

Strategy Features:

- Member Led – ensuring that members take a strategic lead on decision making
- Corporate approach – decisions aligned to the council's priorities
- Recognition of the VCS – valuing the enormous contribution made across the county
- Centralised administration – a streamlined process for the administration of grant aid across the council
- Proportionate at all stages – simple application, 1 or 2 payments each year, monitoring simplified
- Making better use of IT – application & monitoring processes
- Longer agreements – where possible, approve awards for a three year period to enable the VCS to forward plan
- Grants to make a contribution towards provision, not to directly purchase key services – making Grant Aid distinct from commissioning.

Strategy Drivers:

The Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS):

- Harnesses the time, talents and ambitions of local residents who wish to volunteer
- Reaches excluded or isolated people and communities that the statutory sector sometimes cannot
- Attracts additional resources to Nottinghamshire through grant funding
- Is a significant employer of people and as such is an important part of our mixed economy (State of the Sector - SOS report)
- Assists the Council to improve the quality and accessibility of our own services
- Provides a local Community Voice – advocates for vulnerable people and provides valuable feedback on community consultation