

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR POLICY, PLANNING &
CORPORATE SERVICES****UPDATE ON GRANT AID ALLOCATION FOR 2012/13 AND OPTIONS FOR
ALLOCATING ADDITIONAL GRANT AID IN 2012/13****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on progress in allocating Grant Aid for 2012/13 and 2013/14 and to consider options for the allocation of unallocated monies in the Grant Aid Budget

Information and Advice

2. As approved by the County Council's Budget Meeting 23rd February 2012, the Corporate Grant Aid Budget for 2012/13 is £2,091,560, this will be maintained at this level for 2013/14 and will reduce by £225,000 in 2014/15 – subject to the annual budget decisions of the Council.
3. The Corporate Grant Aid Strategy states that where possible grant aid agreements should be made for a period of three years. This helps groups with their medium to long term financial planning. However, when awards were recommended for 2012/13 a number of groups offering advice and guidance services were only approved for 1 year. This recommendation was made because colleagues in Adult Social Care and Health were planning a review of advice services in 2012. However this review will now take place during 2013/14 and will form part of the new HealthWatch contract. Therefore members are asked to extend the grant aid agreements for the advice and guidance organisations as outlined in Appdx 1 of this report.
4. 128 Grant Aid agreements have now been issued and all groups receiving grant aid below £5,000 will receive one payment, whilst groups receiving over £5,000 will receive 2 payments, one at the commencement of their agreement and their final payment on the return of their successful monitoring outcomes.
5. As a result of responses to the budget conversation, which was not to reduce grant aid, the introduction of the Corporate Grant Aid Strategy, the emerging Localism agenda and Central Government guidelines in respect of grant aid urging Local Authorities not to reduce budgets, a further £50,000 has been allocated to the grant aid budget.

6. The Grant Aid awards agreed by Members are the maximum grants payable within the financial year. Actual payments may be less and can be adjusted to take into account of: the needs of the group; the monitoring and evaluation information supplied; changes to overall funding of groups; and the viability of the group. Since the 2012/13 awards were agreed the Community and Voluntary Sector Team have been notified of 2 groups that were successful in being awarded grant aid funding have ceased operating. These are Bassetlaw Homestart and Shadings, in total this results in a further £18,830 being available for further allocation. This gives a total unallocated budget of £68,830

Options for Allocating Additional Budget

7. Members of this sub committee are asked to consider the most appropriate way in which to allocate these monies for 2012/13. As part of the Corporate Grant Aid Strategy, the County Council has committed itself to supporting the development of collaborative working across the voluntary sector, for example, finding new ways to work together on joint projects and, or supporting the back office functions which underpin this work.
8. The Corporate Grant Aid Strategy encourages voluntary groups to work together on projects that target mutual beneficiaries. As working in collaboration is sometimes more complex than working alone, an option for allocating these monies is to invite applications from groups to support initiatives which assist organisations to look at how they will work together, defining their roles, responsibilities and contractual or other legal obligations. This could include support on mergers and sharing functions
9. A further option is to provide a new initiatives fund, to support one off projects in the community, with the aim of supporting local voluntary and community groups to identify community projects, which support the Localism agenda and that they would like to fund based on suitability for their community.
10. Members may also want to consider reviewing any unapproved applications in 2012/13 Grant Aid application round. The assessment process for the 2012/13 round was robust and based on agreed service criteria. Although the grant aid application process does not have a formal mechanism for appeals, Officers have dealt with any areas of concern from voluntary groups.
11. Members should also be made aware that one group has contacted the Community & Voluntary Sector Team to request that although they did not submit an grant aid application for 2012/15, they would like their situation to be considered and for their funding to be reinstated as in previous years.

Other Options Considered

12. As part of the County Council's response to the difficult financial climate facing public service delivery in the coming years, the Grant Strategy 2011-15 has been developed committing to a more mature and robust relationship with the VCS. The implementation of the strategy is an organic and dynamic process allowing

for transparency and a meaningful dialogue. To reflect this, it is recommended that the options outlined above are considered:

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. The allocation of the Grant Aid Budget supports the delivery of important non statutory services by the Voluntary and Community Sector to Nottinghamshire residents and the implementation of the County Council's strategic priorities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. 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

15. To approve the extensions of grant aid agreements to the Advice and Guidance organisations detailed in Appendix 1 – for the grant aid year of 2013/14.

16. To consider and agree the approach to be taken to allocate the £68,830 that remains available in the 2012/13 Grant Aid Budget.

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Constitutional Comments (NAB 28.6.12)

17. The grant aid sub-committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report.

Financial Comments (DD 10/7/12)

18. The budget for 2013/14 has not been determined yet so no allocation can be made from this budget. However, earmarked funds can be given priority when making future allocations.

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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

ALL

Appendix 1

Grant Aid to Advice and Guidance Organisations.

Organisation	Approved 2012/13	Recommended 2013/14
Collingham Rural Advice and Resource Centre	£10,000	£10,000
Cotgrave Advice Centre	£4,000	£4,000
Mansfield Welfare Rights	£1,000	£1,000
Radcliffe on Trent Advice Centre	£3,000	£3,000
Disabilities Living Centre	£30,000	£30,000
Disability Nottinghamshire	£40,000	£40,000
ISAS – Incest & Sexual Abuse Survivors	£15,000	£15,000
Nottingham Rape Crisis	£26,000	£26,000