



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet Report

Report of: Laraine Manley

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 11 February 2015

Subject: Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Budget 2015-16

Author of Report: Martin Hughes, Locality Team Manager, Communities

Key Decision: YES

Reason Key Decision: Expenditure/savings over £500,000
Affects 2 or more wards

Summary:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for recommended investment in the voluntary and community sector for 2015/16 from the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Budget. This budget is subject to approval of the Council budget for 2015/16 to be adopted at Council on 6th March 2015.
- 1.2 Following the decision made by cabinet in February 2014 a review of the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid criteria and processes has been taking place along with a wider assessment of how the Council invests in the Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) Sector. This review is progressing but has taken longer than anticipated. It will result in -
 - a) New Grant Aid priorities and criteria for 2016/17 that will have greater alignment with the new Child and Household Poverty Strategy and new Corporate Plan, both due to be adopted in 2015, thus delivering against the Council's Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice strategic outcome.

- b) Grant Aid for 2016/17 to be aligned effectively with other commissioning frameworks with the possibility of including other council budgets in the overall Grant Aid budget
- c) A Framework capturing how the communities portfolio currently works with and invests in the Voluntary Sector and identify areas for development
- d) A clear corporate definition of grant giving, when grants could be used in a wider commissioning framework and how they should then be recorded

In order to allow this work to progress throughout 2015 it is proposed that the majority of the existing Grant Aid funding arrangements will be extended for 12 months up to 31st March 2016.

- 1.3 The proposed Voluntary Sector Grant Aid budget for 2015/16 is **£1,756,730**. A further £56,900 will be transferred to the Sheffield Drug and Alcohol/Domestic Abuse Coordination Team as a permanent cash limit adjustment which will go towards the commissioning of services that tackle Domestic & Sexual Abuse (see 4.7d). These figures combined represent a 9% reduction from the 2014/15 budget.
- 1.4 The proposed approach to making savings is to focus the funding for voluntary sector organisations on those areas where the VCF sector is best placed to deliver around Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice.
- 1.5 Voluntary Sector Grant Aid is split into two funds -
 - Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund
 - Voluntary Sector Grants Fund (three themes)
 - Tackling Poverty and Financial Exclusion
 - Supporting the Voluntary Sector to thrive and deliver
 - Promoting Social Inclusion and Justice
- 1.6 For 2015/16, Grant Aid will prioritise activity that we know has a direct benefit and works. This will mean continuing to support the majority of the organisations funded in 2014/15 via extending existing grant funding agreements for 12 months, up 31st March 2016. This includes the provision of Lunch Clubs provided by older people for older people across the city, the delivery of Advice Services by Sheffield Citizen Advice and Law Centre, support for VCF infrastructure services and supporting activity by the VCF sector that helps the most vulnerable.
- 1.7 In order to inform recommendations on the grant extensions and award amounts to Cabinet, each of the 24 Voluntary Sector Grants Fund current grant recipients were invited to complete an Impact Form. This asked organisations to profile the impact of a 20% reduction in grant on their service and their service users, including an analysis of the impact on different COI within their service users. Detailed recommendations for awards are contained in Appendix 1.

- 1.8 In reaching the recommendations proposed in Appendix 1 attention has been given to ensuring that the organisations to be funded are fit for purpose in terms of governance, service delivery and financial viability and that the investment represents good value in terms of outcomes for service users.
- 1.9 The Council's Voluntary Sector Grant Aid budget is managed by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Team that forms part of the Locality Management Team within Housing & Neighbourhood Services, which is part of the Communities portfolio.
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Reasons for Recommendations:

The allocation of this funding to preventative services will fundamentally contribute to the Values, Priorities and Strategic Outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-18. In particular -

Values

- Prioritising those with greatest need
- Working with, and within, communities

Priorities

- Tackling inequalities
- In-touch organisation
- Strong neighbourhoods and communities

Outcomes

Specifically 'Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice' but also –

- Health and wellbeing
- Successful children, young people and families
- Housing and neighbourhoods
- Safe and secure

In addition, the allocation of this funding will contribute to the Fairness Commission's recommendations around -

- Health & Wellbeing for All
 - Fair Access to High Quality Jobs and Pay
 - Fair Access to Benefits and Credit
 - Housing and a Better Environment
 - A Safe City
 - What Citizens and Communities can do
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Recommendations:

1. Cabinet is asked, having had due regard to the provisions of Sections 149 and 158 of the Equality Act 2010 and Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and to the issues raised by those provisions, to

approve the grant agreement extension recommendations listed in Section 4 of this report, and detailed further in Appendix 1.

2. Cabinet is asked to endorse the grant agreement extension process described in Appendix 2 and to approve the actions, arrangements and recommendations at Sections 4 and 11, and the following specific delegations:-
 - (a) The Executive Director of Communities is authorised:-
 - (i) to administer the Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund as described in Appendix 1;
 - (ii) to agree the terms of and authorise the completion of all funding agreements, including amendments to the terms of any existing grant funding agreements, relating to grants made from the Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund and the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund, together with any other associated agreements or arrangements that they may consider appropriate, provided that if the terms of a proposed funding agreement or amendments to the terms of an existing agreement involve the variation of any standard terms previously agreed by Internal Audit and / or Legal Services the agreement shall not be completed without the consent of the Chief Internal Auditor and the Director of Legal and Governance;
 - (iii) where (a) a change of circumstance affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded, (b) the Executive Director of Communities considers the performance of the organisation to be below an acceptable standard or (c) an organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement, to review, adjust or suspend grant awards;
 - (b) The Executive Director of Communities, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, is authorised:-
 - (i) to agree the amounts, purposes and recipients of any individual grants awarded in year from the Grant Funds including any additional sums received or returned or unpaid funds
 - (ii) where (a) a change of circumstance affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded or (b) the Executive Director of Communities considers the performance of the organisation to be below an acceptable standard or (c) an organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement, to withdraw grant awards.
 - (iii) to allocate any other additional sums that may be received in year from other parts of the Council or other partners as part

of the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid process to fund local
voluntary sector activity

Background Papers: NONE

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Laura Pattman – 15/01/15
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Brendan Twomey – 18/12/14
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Phil Reid – 14/01/15
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
YES Cleared by: Chris Nield – 14/01/15
Human Rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic Impact
NO
Community Safety Implications
NO
Human Resources Implications
NO
Property Implications
NO
Area(s) Affected
City wide
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Cllr. Mazher Iqbal
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Safer & Stronger Communities
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
YES

REPORT TO CABINET

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT AID BUDGET 2015/16

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for recommended investment in the voluntary and community sector for 2015/16 from the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Budget. This budget is subject to approval of the Council budget for 2015/16 to be adopted at Council on 6 th March 2015.
1.2	<p>Following the decision made by cabinet in February 2014 a review of the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid criteria and processes has been taking place along with a wider assessment of how the Council invests in the Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) Sector. This review is progressing but has taken longer than anticipated. It will result in -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) New Grant Aid priorities and criteria for 2016/17 that will have greater alignment with the new Child and Household Poverty Strategy and new Corporate Plan, both due to be adopted in 2015, thus delivering against the Council's Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice strategic outcome. b) Grant Aid for 2016/17 to be aligned effectively with other commissioning frameworks with the possibility of including other council budgets in the overall Grant Aid budget c) A Framework capturing how the communities portfolio currently works with and invests in the Voluntary Sector and identify areas for development d) A clear corporate definition of grant giving, when grants could be used in a wider commissioning framework and how they should then be recorded <p>In order to allow this work to progress throughout 2015 it is proposed that the majority of the existing Grant Aid funding arrangements will be extended for 12 months up to 31st March 2016.</p>
1.3	The proposed Voluntary Sector Grant Aid budget for 2015/16 is £1,756,730 . A further £56,900 will be transferred to the Sheffield Drug and Alcohol/Domestic Abuse Coordination Team as a permanent cash limit adjustment which will go towards the commissioning of services that tackle Domestic & Sexual Abuse (see 4.7d). These figures combined represent a 9% reduction from the 2014/15 budget.
1.4	The proposed approach to making savings is to focus the funding for voluntary sector organisations on those areas where the VCF sector is best placed to deliver around Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice.
1.5	<p>Voluntary Sector Grant Aid is split into two funds -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund • Voluntary Sector Grants Fund (three themes)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tackling Poverty and Financial Exclusion - Supporting the Voluntary Sector to thrive and deliver - Promoting Social Inclusion and Justice
1.6	For 2015/16, Grant Aid will prioritise activity that we know has a direct benefit and works. This will mean continuing to support the majority of the organisations funded in 2014/15 via extending existing grant funding agreements for 12 months, up 31 st March 2016. This includes the provision of Lunch Clubs provided by older people for older people across the city, the delivery of Advice Services by Sheffield Citizen Advice and Law Centre, support for VCF infrastructure services and supporting activity by the VCF sector that helps the most vulnerable.
1.7	In order to inform recommendations on the grant extensions and award amounts to Cabinet, each of the 24 Voluntary Sector Grants Fund current grant recipients were invited to complete an Impact Form. This asked organisations to profile the impact of a 20% reduction in grant on their service and their service users, including an analysis of the impact on different COI within their service users. Detailed recommendations for awards are contained in Appendix 1.
1.8	In reaching the recommendations proposed in Appendix 1 attention has been given to ensuring that the organisations to be funded are fit for purpose in terms of governance, service delivery and financial viability and that the investment represents good value in terms of outcomes for service users.
1.9	The Council's Voluntary Sector Grant Aid budget is managed by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Team that forms part of the Locality Management Team within Housing & Neighbourhood Services, which is part of the Communities portfolio.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

2.1	<p>The grants recommended in Appendix 1 of this report will support activities and services that will directly benefit a wide range of vulnerable local citizens. Beneficiaries from the grant agreement extension recommendations in Appendix 1 will include the following groups of vulnerable local people –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those in need of advice and advocacy services • Households in financial need • Older people • Homeless people • Adults with limited mobility who are unable to get out and about to engage in activities and services • Ethnic minority women • Refugees, asylum seekers and new arrivals • Mental health service users
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street drinkers • Young women <p>Organisations awarded an extension to their grant agreement will be asked to monitor service use, to provide a diversity profile of their service users and report how they manage their user consultation and involvement.</p>
2.2	The majority of the grant agreement extension recommendations in Appendix 1 will encourage significant opportunities for local people to contribute to the wellbeing of their communities by engaging in volunteering. They will support organisations providing quality training and the opportunity to gain experience that will enhance volunteers' skills and employability.
2.3	The grant agreement extension recommendations in Appendix 1 will enable local people to engage in active citizenship as trustees and management committee members shaping and guiding the development of these organisations and the services they provide.
2.4	The majority of the grant agreement extension recommendations in Appendix 1 will provide employment opportunities for local people by helping to sustain organisations that employ paid staff.
2.5	<p>Included within the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Budget is an amount used to provide grants to a network of local lunch clubs. The majority of lunch clubs are small self-help groups run entirely by volunteers that encourage older people to participate in a range of activities that reduce social isolation and promote health and wellbeing in older age. Throughout 2015 a multi-agency review of lunch clubs has taken place. The final report has highlighted –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch clubs have a preventative role and can help delay the need for costly social care packages • Lunch clubs are a cost effective way of helping to tackle social isolation of older people • Almost 2,000 older people aged 65+ attend lunch clubs, of which 55% of members are aged over 80 years of age, receiving almost 70,000 hot meals • Almost 700 people are involved in volunteering at a lunch club and between them contribute over 70,000 hours a year • There is a social return of £3.35 for every £1 invested.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1	<p>The allocation of this funding to preventative services will fundamentally contribute to the Values, Priorities and Strategic Outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-18. In particular -</p> <p><u>Values</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising those with greatest need
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with, and within, communities <p><u>Priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling inequalities • In-touch organisation • Strong neighbourhoods and communities <p><u>Outcomes</u></p> <p>Specifically ‘Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice’ but also –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and wellbeing • Successful children, young people and families • Housing and neighbourhoods • Safe and secure
3.2	<p>In addition, the allocation of this funding will contribute to the Fairness Commission’s recommendations around -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Wellbeing for All • Fair Access to High Quality Jobs and Pay • Fair Access to Benefits and Credit • Housing and a Better Environment • A Safe City • What Citizens and Communities can do
3.3	<p>The grant agreement extension recommendations in this report will fulfil a number of functions, including providing core funding to sustain VCF organisations where alternative income streams are not available and enabling organisations to lever in other funding.</p>
3.4	<p>Based on previous monitoring returns it is estimated that the activity delivered by the organisations recommended for funding will be enhanced by over 4,500 hours of volunteer input each week</p>
3.5	<p>The process to allocate the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Fund has included a challenge to the VCF sector in how they make efficiency savings and change their operations in order to remain sustainable.</p>
3.6	<p>Voluntary Sector Grant Aid complements the Council’s development of an Equality Hubs Network for individuals and groups, who belong to a community of identity (COI) specifically identified as protected characteristics within the Equality Act 2010 who are currently under-represented in existing voice and influence arrangements.</p>
3.7	<p>Communities are often defined by the place they live, often single or small sets of neighbourhoods. However many people also feel part of communities around common issues or circumstances, such as those protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 disability, age, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and want to join together and organise over larger geographical areas, such as city wide. The Network is providing opportunities for individuals and groups to engage with and</p>

	work across communities and influence the Council. The Network is also saving costs through streamlining the range of meetings previously held and a simple and well-recognised mechanism for engagement is now in place.
3.8	The Equality Hub Network enables people from Sheffield's diverse communities to get access to and have regular engagement with decision makers and influence all areas of the Council's work. There is a small complimentary specific grant pot available to organisations working with COI which will focus on meeting the Council's Equality and Fairness Objectives 2014 -18 and to encourage joint working on shared issues

4.0 FULL PROPOSAL

4.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for recommended investment in the voluntary and community sector for 2015/16 from the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Budget. This budget is subject to approval of the Council budget for 2015/16 to be adopted at Council on 6 th March 2015.
4.2	<p>Following the decision made by cabinet in February 2014 a review of the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid criteria and processes has been taking place along with a wider assessment of how the Council invests in the Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) Sector. This review is progressing but has taken longer than anticipated. It will result in -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) New Grant Aid priorities and criteria for 2016/17 that will have greater alignment with the new Child and Household Poverty Strategy and new Corporate Plan, both due to be adopted in 2015, thus delivering against the Council's Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice strategic outcome. b) Grant Aid for 2016/17 to be aligned effectively with other commissioning frameworks with the possibility of including other council budgets in the overall Grant Aid budget c) A Framework capturing how the communities portfolio currently works with and invests in the Voluntary Sector and identify areas for development d) A clear corporate definition of grant giving, when grants could be used in a wider commissioning framework and how they should then be recorded <p>In order to allow this work to progress throughout 2015 it is proposed that the majority of the existing Grant Aid funding arrangements will be extended for 12 months up to 31st March 2016.</p>
4.3	The proposed Voluntary Sector Grant Aid budget for 2015/16 is £1,756,730 . A further £56,900 will be transferred to the Sheffield Drug and Alcohol/Domestic Abuse Coordination Team as a permanent cash limit adjustment which will go towards the commissioning of services that tackle Domestic & Sexual Abuse (see 4.7d). These figures combined represent a 9% reduction from the 2014/15 budget.

4.4	<p>Voluntary Sector Grant Aid is split into two funds -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund • Voluntary Sector Grants Fund (three themes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tackling Poverty and Financial Exclusion - Supporting the Voluntary Sector to thrive and deliver - Promoting Social Inclusion and Justice
4.5	<p>For 2015/16, Grant Aid will prioritise activity that we know has a direct benefit and works. This will mean continuing to support the majority of the organisations funded in 2014/15 via extending existing grant funding agreements for 12 months, up 31st March 2016. This includes the provision of Lunch Clubs provided by older people for older people across the city, the delivery of Advice Services by Sheffield Citizen Advice and Law Centre, support for VCF infrastructure services and supporting activity by the VCF sector that helps the most vulnerable.</p>
4.5	<p>The proposal and recommendations within this report have been submitted by the Grants Awards Recommendation Panel, which is made up of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, his advisors and the Head of Libraries & Community Services. Details of the whole process used to come to this proposal and recommendations can be seen in Appendix 2.</p>
4.6	<p>Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund - The purpose of this fund is to promote the Council's strategy to support the independence, health and wellbeing of older people by making available a fund offering grants to lunch clubs. Further details on this fund can be seen in Appendix 1. The Grants Awards Recommendation Panel proposes that £147,000 is allocated to a Lunch Clubs small grants fund.</p>
4.7	<p>Voluntary Sector Grants Fund – this fund has three themes</p> <p>a) <u>Tackling Poverty and Financial Exclusion</u>– this theme focuses on providing city-wide Advice. The Grants Awards Recommendation Panel proposes that £969,000 is allocated to Sheffield Citizens Advice and Law Centre</p>
	<p>b) <u>Supporting the Voluntary Sector to thrive and deliver</u> - This theme supports city-wide VCF infrastructure activity that ensures -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Local voluntary and community sector groups and organisations are able to access advice and support to develop their skills and capacity and are able to improve their prospects of developing and maintaining a diverse funding base so that they function effectively in line with best practice. ii) Local voluntary and community sector groups and organisations are able to recruit the volunteers they need and to develop their skills and knowledge to manage volunteers to best practice standards. iii) The actions from the recent Lunch Club Review are taken forward so that the groups operate safely and effectively, provide high quality

	<p>activities for their members and are part of a thriving network that is well informed, responsive to changing needs and sustainable for future generations, as well as ensure that any future investment is targeted at the areas of most need.</p> <p>In 2014-15 three organisations came together to make a single joint application to address points (i) and (ii). The Grants Award Recommendation Panel proposes that funding for 2015-16 is awarded to these organisations to continue this work. The Panel recommends allocating £140,800. This will be split as follows -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary Action Sheffield - £76,000 • South Yorkshire Community Foundation (inc. South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau) - £37,800 • Creative Pathways - £27,000 <p>In order to address point (iii) the Grants Award Recommendation Panel further recommends that £42,186 is allocated to the Voluntary Action Sheffield Lunch Club Support and Development Service.</p> <p>Therefore a total of £182,986 is allocated to this theme</p>
c)	<p><u>Promoting Social Inclusion and Justice</u> – provision of city-wide support for our most vulnerable adults that helps prevent them having to access statutory services, such as social services or health services.</p> <p>The organisations funded in 2014/15 supported the following groups of vulnerable people –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households in financial need • Homeless people • Adults with limited mobility who are unable to get out and about to engage in activities and services • Ethnic minority women • Refugees, asylum seekers and new arrivals • Mental health service users • Street drinkers • Young women <p>The Grants Award Recommendation Panel recommends the following grants -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben’s Centre – £53,650 • City of Sanctuary - £24,245 • Emmaus Sheffield – 18,400 • Heeley City Farm - £25,313 • Mental Health Action Group – £10,500 • Pakistan Advice and Community Association - £31,500 • Roshni Asian Women’s Resource Centre – £43,601 • Sheffield Chinese Community Centre - £24,300 • Sheffield Community Transport - £20,400

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shopmobility Sheffield - £14,000 • Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English– £34,140 • Voluntary Action Sheffield (New Beginnings) - £17,400 • St. Vincent de Paul – £64,020 • St. Wilfrid’s - £48,275 • Young Women’s Housing Project - £28,000 <p>Therefore a total of £457,744 is allocated to this theme</p>
d)	<p>In 2014/15 the Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre received a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grant Fund to support counselling services for female victims of sexual abuse. Following the adoption of the Domestic & Sexual Abuse Strategy in July 2014 the Sheffield Drug and Alcohol/Domestic Abuse Coordination Team (DACT), who lead on this strategy, are carrying out a needs analysis for sexual abuse counselling services in the city, identifying gaps and re-commissioning services where necessary. To enable them to direct how funding in this area is spent in future, from 2015/16 there will be a permanent cash limit adjustment from the Grant Aid budget to the DACT budget of £56,900 which the DACT will use to contribute to the commissioning of services that tackle Domestic and Sexual Abuse. A permanent cash limit adjustment means that, in future, the budget for providing this type of service will be with the DACT and will no longer be funded from any future Grant Aid budget.</p>
e)	<p>In 2014/15 NOMAD, Sheffield Credit Union and Sheffield & District African Caribbean Community Association received grants from the Voluntary Sector Grant Fund. NOMAD chose not to return an impact form and was therefore not considered for a grant extension in 2015-16. The Grants Award Recommendation Panel recommends that neither Sheffield Credit Union or Sheffield & District African Caribbean Community Association have their funding agreements extended by a further 12 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sheffield Credit Union</u> - 2014/15 was part of a 3 year tapering grant agreement to develop SCU Budget Accounts in preparation for the introduction of Universal Credit. The Panel believe the development of Sheffield Money and the Credit Union’s involvement should provide enough scope to continue this service until it becomes self-financing. • <u>Sheffield & District African Caribbean Community Association</u> – previous monitoring and the impact exercise have indicated that the organisation, in it’s current form, is not viable and is not able to demonstrate a contribution to the desired outcomes of the Fund. Any further award from the Voluntary Sector Grant Fund would have little impact on the sustainability of the organisation.
4.8	<p>Further details of the recommended extended grant arrangements from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund are attached to this report as Appendix 1, which provides brief details of the amount and purpose of the award being recommended. Each grant included in Appendix 1 is subject to a Funding Agreement that sets out the outputs, outcomes, milestones and conditions on which the funding is granted together with a budget of how the grant will be spent. Every grant is subject to a set of standard grant</p>

	conditions approved by Legal Services. It is proposed that authority to attach additional conditions to a grant be delegated to the Executive Director of Communities where s/he considers these appropriate following the assessment process.
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5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1	The proposed Voluntary Sector Grant Aid budget for 2015/16 is £1,756,730 . A further £56,900 will be transferred to the Sheffield Drug and Alcohol/Domestic Abuse Coordination Team as a permanent cash limit adjustment which will go towards the commissioning of services that tackle Domestic & Sexual Abuse (see 4.7d). These figures combined represent a 9% reduction from the 2014/15 budget.															
5.2	As part of the Council's budget setting process an Equality Impact Assessment was completed in November 2014. The completion of the EIA was informed by information provided by organisations currently in receipt of funding on the impact on different Communities Of Identity (COI) as a result of any budget reduction. The action plan associated with this Equality Impact Assessment identifies that a robust and transparent assessment process would be used to ensure that the organisations funded offer value for money and fit with the Council's current priorities.															
5.3	The recommendations presented take into account other funding that the organisations may be in receipt of from elsewhere in the Council, and the level of any reductions being applied to that funding															
5.4	Wherever relevant, support will be provided to local VCF organisations in their applications to other external funders. The proposed allocation to infrastructure support services will help to enable local VCF organisations to identify and apply for external funding.															
5.5	The financial implications arising from the proposals contained within this report can be summarised as follows: <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Lunch Clubs Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£147,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Tackling Poverty and Financial Inclusion</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£969,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Supporting the Voluntary Sector to thrive and deliver</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£182,986</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Promoting Social Inclusion and Justice</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£457,744</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,756,730</td> </tr> </table>	Lunch Clubs Fund	-	£147,000	Tackling Poverty and Financial Inclusion	-	£969,000	Supporting the Voluntary Sector to thrive and deliver	-	£182,986	Promoting Social Inclusion and Justice	-	£457,744	Total	-	£1,756,730
Lunch Clubs Fund	-	£147,000														
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Supporting the Voluntary Sector to thrive and deliver	-	£182,986														
Promoting Social Inclusion and Justice	-	£457,744														
Total	-	£1,756,730														
5.6	Other sums may be received in year from other parts of the Council or other partners to be managed as part of the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid process to fund local voluntary sector activity. It is recommended that decisions to award grants in year from the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid budget, including any additional sums, returned or unpaid funds, be delegated to the Executive Director of Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health.															
5.7	As with all public funding we need to ensure that we achieve good value															

	for money from this investment and that our spending in the voluntary sector helps to achieve wider efficiencies that are crucial at this time of reducing budgets. Each recommended extended grant arrangement will be the subject of a funding agreement that will stipulate the specific outputs and outcomes to be achieved by the organisation in return for the grant extension. Performance will be monitored against this agreement during the grant period.
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6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1	The legal power for the Council to establish, administer and make awards from the various grant funds as described in this report is provided by the general power of competence contained in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. Subject to certain statutory restrictions, none of which apply in this case, Section 1 gives the Council “power to do anything that individuals generally may do”.
6.2	In considering this report Cabinet must be mindful of the requirements imposed by the public sector equality duty enacted in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Some of the proposals in this report involve the taking of action to assist persons sharing ‘protected characteristics’ within the meaning of the 2010 Act to overcome or minimise disadvantage or otherwise meet their needs. This is permitted by Section 158 of the Act 2010. More details are set out below in section 7 of this report.
6.3	Cabinet must also have due regard to the likely effect of the proposals on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending in its area (Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998). More details are set out below in section 8 of this report

7.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1	Section 149(1), Equality Act 2010 (the ‘public sector equality duty’) places a statutory duty on the Council to ‘have due regard’ when exercising its functions to the need to:- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
7.2	Section 149(3) goes on to provide that having due regard to the need to advance such equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a

	<p>relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;</p> <p>(b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; and</p> <p>(c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.</p>
7.3	For the purposes of Section 149 the relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
7.4	Section 149(6) recognises that compliance with the Section 149 duties may involve treating some persons more favourably than others. However, this does not permit conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under the Act.
7.5	<p>Section 158 provides that if the Council reasonably thinks that:-</p> <p>(a) persons who share a protected characteristic suffer a disadvantage connected to the characteristic,</p> <p>(b) persons who share a protected characteristic have needs that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it, or</p> <p>(c) participation in an activity by persons who share a protected characteristic is disproportionately low, then the Act does not prohibit the Council from taking any action which is a proportionate means of achieving the aim of:-</p> <p>(i) enabling or encouraging persons who share the protected characteristic to overcome or minimise that disadvantage,</p> <p>(ii) meeting those needs, or</p> <p>(iii) enabling or encouraging persons who share the protected characteristic to participate in that activity.</p>
7.6	In considering the application assessments the Grants Award Recommendation Panel was mindful of the equalities impact of the decisions they were making. The organisations to be funded have identified potential users with protected characteristics and described how they ensure open and equal access to their services. In formulating their recommendations to Cabinet and deciding whether or not to recommend an award, the Panel took into account this information.
7.7	Some of the proposed extended grant arrangements are to groups serving members of ethnic minority communities where the activity or service to be funded will enable ethnic minorities to overcome a disadvantage connected to their ethnicity or will encourage participation in an activity where engagement by black and ethnic minority people is disproportionately low. Some of the proposed extended grant arrangements are to organisations that provide single gender services, where the needs of women in relation to men are different. The Executive Director of Communities is satisfied that all the proposed extended grant

	arrangements fall within the ambit of the positive action provisions of Section 158, and would be not only in line with the public sector equality duty, but examples of the Council's active compliance with this duty.
7.8	An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this report and a copy of this document is attached as Appendix 3. The Voluntary Sector Grant Aid budget is specifically aimed at supporting the local voluntary sector and as such has a positive impact on the sector. However, the budget overall is continuing to reduce by comparison with previous years, which means that there is less funding available for investment in the sector through grant aid at a time when other funding sources are also reducing. The value of some of the grants recommended is less than might be the case if the budget was larger. This inevitably has a negative impact on the sector.
7.9	<p>Demand is managed by identifying a limited range of priorities for the funding. These priorities are chosen to align with current Council priorities and are aimed to ensure that groups with protected characteristics are not excluded. All the organisations funded in 2014/15 needed to demonstrate that they were providing city-wide support for our most vulnerable adults that helps prevent them having to access statutory services, such as social services or health services. Namely -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households in financial need • Homeless people • Adults with limited mobility • Ethnic minority women • Refugees, asylum seekers and new arrivals • Mental health service users • Street drinkers • Young Women
7.10	Organisations funded in 2014/15 have demonstrated how they have addressed the particular needs of groups with protected characteristics via quarterly monitoring forms. In recommending which grant funding agreements to extend and the amount awarded the Grant Awards Recommendation Panel took into account the overall funding position of the organisation and the likely impact of a reduced grant, including the impact on people with protected characteristics. Attention was paid to organisations that could demonstrate a positive approach to managing services within a reduced funding environment including collaborations and mergers and other management efficiency savings, thus ensuring front line services remain protected and deliver best value for the money available.
7.11	Despite a difficult financial climate this report is recommending a significant investment into the VCF sector, which is then targeted at Sheffield's most vulnerable people. However, the proposed reduction in the budget will inevitably impact on all vulnerable groups. Throughout the process, organisations working with vulnerable groups have been asked to provide evidence of efficiency savings they are making in running costs

	and management costs to minimise the effect on service delivery.
7.12	Despite the proposed reduced level of investment, positive impacts have been identified among the range of awards recommended for older people, black and ethnic minority people, women, the voluntary community faith sector, financial exclusion and cohesion in the city. (See Appendix 3)
7.13	A range of organisations working with a variety of vulnerable groups have identified potential negative impacts as a result of the reduction in funding. Some have identified ways they can mitigate impacts such as increasing other fundraising efforts, using reserves and joint working with other organisations. Some organisations have said that they may have to reduce staff hours, and consequently opening hours, to enable them to manage the reduced funding available and in some cases due to the need to prioritise funding towards core running costs. (See Appendix 3)
7.14	Organisations funded from this budget will be asked to provide information about the diversity of their beneficiaries in their monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported in an annual report for each fund. These reports will be published on the Council website and notice of their publication is circulated to all elected members.

8.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1	Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending in its area.
8.2	Among the awards recommended in Appendix 1 are awards to five organisations that deliver services that have a positive impact on community safety. These are Ben's Centre for Vulnerable People that works with and provides a place of safety for street drinkers; the Young Women's Housing Project that provides therapeutic work with young women; and VAS New Beginnings, City of Sanctuary and Pakistan Advice and Community Association that work to promote positive community relations between the host community and refugees and asylum seekers.
8.3	None of the proposed awards is considered likely to have a negative impact on community safety.

9.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1	The proposal and recommendations within this report have been submitted by the Grants Awards Recommendation Panel, which is made
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	up of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, his advisors and the Head of Libraries and Community Services. Details of the whole process used to come to this proposal and recommendations can be seen in Appendix 2.
9.2	In order to inform recommendations on the grant extensions and award amounts to Cabinet, each of the 24 Voluntary Sector Grants Fund current grant recipients were invited to complete an Impact Form. This asked organisations to profile the impact of a 20% reduction in grant on their service and their service users, including an analysis of the impact on different COI within their service users.
9.3	Officers made a recommendation on the amount to be awarded to each organisation during the extension period, having regard to the impact form and budget proposal considering the impact on the service and service users, including an assessment of equality impact, as reported in the Impact form, organisational performance, whether the budget was balanced or shows a shortfall, proposals for covering shortfall and the continued viability of the service/project funded in 2015-16 if a reduction was to be applied
9.4	The Grants Awards Recommendation Panel considered the option of reducing the total Grant Aid budget by 20%. As a result of the information provided by organisations (as described in section 9.3) and having consideration for the statutory Best Value Guidance the Panel are recommending that the budget is only reduced by 9%.

10.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1	<p>The allocation of this funding to preventative services will fundamentally contribute to the Values, Priorities and Strategic Outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-18. In particular -</p> <p><u>Values</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising those with greatest need • Working with, and within, communities <p><u>Priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling inequalities • In-touch organisation • Strong neighbourhoods and communities <p><u>Outcomes</u></p> <p>Specifically 'Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice' but also –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and wellbeing • Successful children, young people and families • Housing and neighbourhoods • Safe and secure
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10.2	<p>In addition, the allocation of this funding will contribute to the Fairness Commission's recommendations around -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Wellbeing for All • Fair Access to High Quality Jobs and Pay • Fair Access to Benefits and Credit • Housing and a Better Environment • A Safe City • What Citizens and Communities can do
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11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1	<p>Cabinet is asked, having had due regard to the provisions of Sections 149 and 158 of the Equality Act 2010 and Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and to the issues raised by those provisions, to approve the grant agreement extension recommendations listed in Section 4 of this report, and detailed further in Appendix 1.</p>
11.2	<p>Cabinet is asked to endorse the grant agreement extension process described in Appendix 2 and to approve the actions, arrangements and recommendations at Sections 4 and 11, and the following specific delegations:-</p> <p>(a) The Executive Director of Communities is authorised:-</p> <p>(i) to administer the Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund as described in Appendix 1;</p> <p>(ii) to agree the terms of and authorise the completion of all funding agreements, including amendments to the terms of any existing grant funding agreements, relating to grants made from the Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund and the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund, together with any other associated agreements or arrangements that they may consider appropriate, provided that if the terms of a proposed funding agreement or amendments to the terms of an existing agreement involve the variation of any standard terms previously agreed by Internal Audit and / or Legal Services the agreement shall not be completed without the consent of the Chief Internal Auditor and the Director of Legal and Governance;</p> <p>(iii) where (a) a change of circumstance affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded, (b) the Executive Director of Communities considers the performance of the organisation to be below an acceptable standard or (c) an organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement, to review, adjust or suspend grant awards;</p> <p>(b) The Executive Director of Communities, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, is authorised:-</p> <p>(i) to agree the amounts, purposes and recipients of any individual grants awarded in year from the Grant Funds including any additional sums</p>

	received or returned or unpaid funds
(ii)	where (a) a change of circumstance affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded or (b) the Executive Director of Communities considers the performance of the organisation to be below an acceptable standard or (c) an organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement, to withdraw grant awards.
(iii)	to allocate any other additional sums that may be received in year from other parts of the Council or other partners as part of the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid process to fund local voluntary sector activity

Martin Hughes
 Locality Team Manager, Housing & Neighbourhood Services, Communities
 February 2015

APPENDIX 1

Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Budget Proposed awards 1st April 2015 - 31st March 2016

Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund

The purpose of this fund is to promote the Council's strategy to support the independence, health and wellbeing of older people by making available a fund offering grants to lunch clubs. Evidence shows that an active and positive old age reduces the likelihood of reliance on statutory services. The majority of lunch clubs are self-help groups run by and for older people and provide a forum to socialise, share a meal and undertake group activities. Membership comprises mainly people aged over 70 and increasing numbers of people in their 80s and 90s including a few aged over 100. The clubs take self-referrals and referrals from relatives and health and social care professionals. In 2014-15 almost 2,000 older people attended a lunch club and the clubs delivered nearly 70,000 hot meals.

Applications to the Lunch Clubs Fund are invited from clubs on a year on year basis in advance of each financial year. All awards are under £10,000 and decisions are delegated to the Executive Director of Communities on the recommendation of a Grant Awards Recommendation Panel convened for the purpose. Authority is delegated to the Executive Director of Communities:

- to determine how the grants are calculated and to vary awards from this Fund during the year because of a change in a lunch club's circumstances.
- to make additional awards to lunch clubs in year to run activities for members from any unallocated spend within the budget
- to make new awards from any unallocated spend within the budget to clubs setting up, prioritising areas of most need.

A full report of the awards made from this Fund is produced after the end of each financial year. This is circulated to elected members and published on the Council's website.

Recommendations

To allocate a Lunch Clubs Fund of £147,000 (plus any additional sums which may be received by the Council specifically for this purpose) for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

To confirm the delegated powers to administer the Fund set out above.

Voluntary Sector Grants Fund

Theme 1: Tackling Poverty and Financial Exclusion

Sheffield Citizens Advice and Law Centre

Charitable limited company founded in 2013 from the merger of 12 independent advice centres. Managed by a committee of 15. Provides a citywide advice service including drop-in services at outlets across the city, an appointment and home visiting service and an advice assessment phone line operating Monday – Friday 9-5pm. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015”.

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £969,000 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards the provision of a citywide advice service.

Theme 2: Supporting the local voluntary sector to thrive and deliver

Joint application from Creative Pathways, South Yorkshire Community Foundation (inc. South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau) and Voluntary Action Sheffield

Infrastructure organisations in the city are continuing to work together to provide services for voluntary, community and faith sector organisations that are streamlined, accessible, customer efficient, value for money and affordable. There are currently in place grant fund agreements with South Yorkshire Community Foundation (inc. South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau), Creative Pathways and Voluntary Action Sheffield in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreements currently in place to South Yorkshire Community Foundation (inc. South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau), Creative Pathways and Voluntary Action Sheffield be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amounts awarded from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund under that agreement are as follows:

Voluntary Action Sheffield (VAS)

Charitable limited company founded in 1925 and based in its own premises at The Circle, Rockingham Lane. Managed by a committee of 10. Provides a range of infrastructure support services for voluntary, community and faith sector groups and organisations across the city, including payroll, accountancy, community development and volunteering opportunities. Also provides a training programme across a range of topics relevant to the voluntary sector. The Circle offers rented office space for organisations and meeting and training rooms for hire. VAS runs a Volunteer Centre that provides a brokerage service putting potential volunteers in touch with volunteering opportunities in the city and works with organisations to improve the quality of volunteer placements. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015”.

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £76,000 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards a volunteer centre and a small group development service.

South Yorkshire Community Foundation

Charitable limited company founded in 1986 and based on Leeds Road, Attercliffe. Managed by a Committee of 16. SYCF merged with South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau (SYFAB) in Jan 2014 and now provides funding information, advice and training to front-line voluntary and community groups in Sheffield, which will complement existing fund raising and grant making. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015”.

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £37,800 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards the provision of a funding advice service for the Sheffield voluntary, community and faith sector.

Creative Pathways

Charitable limited company founded in 2010 based in rented premises at Spartan House on Carlisle Street. Managed by a committee of 3. Provides infrastructure capacity building services to BME organisations and community development support for BME residents. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015”.

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £27,000 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards the provision of infrastructure support services including fundraising, financial management, governance and legal advice for Sheffield voluntary, community and faith sector organisations.

Voluntary Action Sheffield Lunch Club Development Project

Provides a support and development service for the network of older people's lunch clubs across the city including around 60 clubs that receive Council funding. The funding will ensure the actions from the recent Lunch Club Review are taken forward so that the groups operate safely and effectively, provide high quality activities for their members and are part of a thriving network that is well informed, responsive to changing needs and sustainable for future generations, as well as ensure that any future investment is targeted at the areas of most need. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £42,186 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards the development and support of older people's lunch clubs and activity groups.

Theme 3: Promoting Social Inclusion and Justice

The proposed awards are listed alphabetically by name of organisation

Ben`s Centre for Vulnerable People (Sheffield)

Charitable limited company founded in 1996. Managed by a Committee of 6. Provides a service for street drinkers offering a safe accessible environment where users can get food, clean clothes and information and advice about access to other services. Also provides activities and support to enable users to develop skills and become rehabilitated into the community. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £53,650 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards work with vulnerable street drinkers.

City of Sanctuary

Charitable limited company founded in 2005 and based in Victoria Hall on Norfolk Street. Managed by a Committee of 7. Co-ordinates a weekly city centre drop-in service, bringing together a comprehensive range of multi-agency services for asylum seekers and new arrivals. Also provides awareness raising and cross cultural activities with the help of refugee and asylum seeker volunteers to encourage a culture of welcome, hospitality and mutual understanding. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £24,245 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards work to support the delivery of reception duties at the Victoria Hall drop-in session and to promote cohesion.

Emmaus Sheffield

Charitable limited company and affiliate member of Emmaus UK founded in 2000 and based in Sipelia Works on Cadman Street. Managed by a Committee of 10. Runs a self-supporting community for homeless people in Sheffield. The community offers a home, employment and a sense of belonging to residents, who refurbish and sell donated goods through an on-site shop and the internet. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £18,400 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards the community companions project for homeless people.

Heeley City Farm

Charitable limited company founded in 1981 and based at Council owned site on Richards Road. Managed by a Committee of 6. Runs an urban farm with training and educational activities including vocational courses for unemployed adults, an environmental education service and specific programmes for volunteers, young people and adults with learning disabilities. Houses the South Yorkshire Energy Centre. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant

amount of £25,313 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards work with vulnerable adults and developing life skills to reduce and manage household expenditure.

Mental Health Action Group

Registered charity founded in 1992 and based in Council owned premises on Creswick Street. User-led organisation managed by a Committee of 12. Runs a drop-in centre offering group activities and support for people with severe mental health problems. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £10,500 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards running a self help organisation for mental health service users.

Pakistan Advice and Community Association

Registered charity founded in 1993 and based in privately rented accommodation on Pagehall Road. Managed by a Committee of 13. Provides citizenship classes and other cohesion activities. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £31,500 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards work to support community cohesion with a particular focus on new arrivals.

Roshni Asian Women`s Resource Centre

Registered charity founded in 1992 and based in own shop front premises on London Road. Managed by a committee of 7. Provides a resource centre for Asian women across the city where women of all ages can access a varied programme of services and activities, including a mentoring service, information, advice and support sessions, advocacy, training, youth provision, cultural events and health and well-being activities. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £43,601 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards work to develop opportunities and support services for ethnic minority women.

Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English

Charitable limited company founded in 1999 and based at the Circle building on Rockingham Lane. Managed by a Committee of 6. Recruits and trains volunteers to teach English as a second language. Provides individual tuition for people unable to access mainstream provision and supports learners to progress from one-to-one tuition to group based learning. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £34,140 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards the delivery of one-to-one and group based pre-ESOL language tuition to vulnerable adults unable to access mainstream provision.

Sheffield Chinese Community Centre

Registered charity founded in 1995 and based in own shop front premises on London Road. Managed by a Committee of 7. Provides a point for access to services and a focus for social, cultural and educational activities for the Sheffield Chinese community. Runs projects concentrating on health and emotional wellbeing. Also houses an outreach advice service from Sheffield Citizens Advice and Law Centre and a legal information service for the Chinese and Vietnamese community. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £24,300 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards the delivery of services to the Chinese community.

Sheffield Community Transport

Industrial and provident society founded in 1988 and based in privately rented premises in Montgomery Terrace Road. Managed by a Committee of 6. Runs a Community Car Scheme that uses volunteer drivers to transport disabled people. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £20,400 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards the delivery of a volunteer car transport scheme.

Shopmobility Sheffield

Charitable limited company based at Westhill Lane Municipal Car Park off West Street. Managed by a Committee of 12. Runs a scooter and wheelchair loan scheme. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £14,000 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards the provision of a city centre scooter and wheelchair loan scheme.

St Vincent de Paul Furniture Store

Local branch of international charity founded in 1986 located in diocese owned premises on Queens Road. Managed by a Committee of 10. Provides free furniture to families in need across the city. Referrals are accepted from registered statutory and voluntary sector organisations, including the Council, advice centres and NHS. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £64,020 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards the delivery of a furniture recycling service for people in need.

St Wilfrid's Centre

Registered charity administered by the Diocese of Hallam Trust and based in its own premises on Queen's Road. Managed by a committee of 11. Provides welfare support and a wide range of activities for homeless and vulnerable people the majority of whom have mental health problems. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £48,275 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards welfare and development support for people with mental health problems.

Voluntary Action Sheffield (New Beginnings)

Charitable limited company founded in 1925 and based in its own premises at The Circle, Rockingham Lane. Managed by a committee of 10. Provides a range

of infrastructure support services for voluntary, community and faith sector groups and organisations across the city. New Beginnings is a project developed by the VAS Volunteer Centre to assist the integration of refugees and support them to contribute to the life of the city by engaging in volunteering opportunities with local community organisations. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £17,400 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards the delivery of a volunteer programme for refugees, asylum seekers and new arrivals.

Young Women`s Housing Project

Charitable limited company founded in 1983 and based in Council owned premises. Managed by a Committee of 6. Offers safe accommodation and support to vulnerable 16-25 year old women. Provides a support service including life skills training to enable residents to move towards independent living. Offers outreach and continuing support to former residents. There is currently in place a grant fund agreement in respect of the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Recommendation

That the term of the grant fund agreement currently in place be extended to include the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and that the additional grant amount of £28,000 be awarded under that agreement from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund as a contribution towards therapeutic support for young women at the project.

Appendix 2 - Voluntary Sector Grants Fund Assessment Process

It is proposed that the process for allocating the Council's Grant Aid budget for 2015-16 deviates from arrangements in recent previous years (set out in last year's Cabinet Report on the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Budget 2014-15.

<https://imgmeetings.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/s12244/documents/s12244/Voluntary%20Sector%20Grant%20Aid.pdf>

1. Voluntary Sector Grant Aid investment for 2014-15 was agreed by Cabinet on 19th February 2014 according to the grant assessment process described in the Cabinet Report <https://imgmeetings.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/s12244/documents/s12244/Voluntary%20Sector%20Grant%20Aid.pdf> . 24 organisations were awarded a Voluntary Sector Grants Fund award and an allocation of funding was made to the Lunch Club Fund.
2. As already stated in the main body of this Cabinet Report, following the decision made by cabinet in February 2014 a review of the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid criteria and processes has been taking place along with a wider assessment of how the Council invests in the VCF Sector. In order to allow this work to progress throughout 2015, it is proposed that the majority of grants awarded for 2014-15 are extended for 12 months to cover the period 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016. The implication of this was that no fund for new applications was advertised in Summer 2014 as no new awards for 2015-16 will be made. Grant Aid in 2015-16 will therefore prioritise activity that we know has a direct benefit and works. This will mean continuing to support the majority of the organisations funded in 2014-15 via extending existing grant funding agreements for 12 months, up 31st March 2016. This includes the provision of Lunch Clubs provided by older people for older people across the city, the delivery of Advice Services by Sheffield Citizen Advice and Law Centre, support for VCF infrastructure services and supporting activity by the VCF sector that helps the most vulnerable.
3. Councillors indicated a 20% reduction to the Grant Aid budget may be necessary. This means that the level of grant award made to each organisation cannot be maintained.
4. In order to inform recommendations on the grant extensions and award amounts to Cabinet, each of the 24 Voluntary Sector Grants Fund grant recipients were invited to complete an Impact Form, which were sent to organisations at the beginning of October with a deadline for completion of 24th October 2014. This asked organisations to profile the impact of a 20% reduction in grant on their service and their service users, including an analysis of the impact on different COI within their service users.¹

¹ The Impact Form asked organisations to profile grant extensions for a 6 month period. The initial intention was to award extensions for the period 1st April – 30th September 2015 on the premise that a new grant fund would be available to apply to in Summer 2015, for awards to commence on 1st October 2015. It is now recommended, for reasons detailed in section 1.2 of this Cabinet report that the extension period is 12 months, from 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016.

Organisations were also asked to provide an organisational budget profiling the 20% budget reduction. If organisations felt that a 20% reduction would risk the viability of the organisation or service, they were invited to profile an alternative reduction as well as the 20% reduction.

5. 23 organisations completed an Impact Form. One organisation decided not to complete an Impact Form, in the knowledge that therefore they would not be considered for an extension to the existing grant fund agreement.
6. Officers made a recommendation on the amount to be awarded to each organisation during the extension period, having regard to the Impact Form and budget proposal submitted by each organisation. When deciding the recommendations, officers considered the impact on the service and service users including an assessment of equality impact, as well as other factors such as organisational performance, and the continued financial viability of the service/project funded in 2015-16 if a reduction in grant was to be applied.
7. Officer recommendations were considered by the Grant Awards Recommendation Panel, made up of Head of Libraries & Community Services and Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health and advisers (Cllrs Mazher Iqbal, Bob Johnson and Nikki Bond). The Panel met in November and December to formulate the recommendations to Cabinet (listed in Appendix 1). In formulating its recommendations the Panel took into account all relevant considerations including the equalities impact of the applications and statutory Best Value Guidance. The background papers for each proposal to extend the grant fund agreement are available for consultation by Cabinet members (contact Martin Hughes, Locality Team Manager).
8. Grant Awards Recommendation Panel recommendations will be presented to Cabinet, for approval, on 11th February 2015. Cabinet report refers to powers delegated to the Director to make decisions to award, withdraw or suspend grants in year in consultation with the cabinet member.
9. Recipients are notified of their awards. An extension of the funding agreement will be negotiated which states the amount of grant and agrees the budget and sets out the outputs, outcomes, milestones and conditions on which the funding is granted together with a budget of how the grant will be spent. Every grant is subject to a set of standard grant conditions approved by Legal Services. It is proposed that authority to attach additional conditions to a grant be delegated to the Executive Director of Communities where s/he considers these appropriate following the assessment process. The variation to the funding agreement will be signed by the Director and Management Committee of each organisation.
10. A report of the impact of these awards will be prepared after the end of the financial year 2015 and published on the Council website.

Appendix 3 - Sheffield City Council Equality Impact Assessment

Name of policy/proposal: Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Budget 2015-16

Status of policy/proposal: Existing **Portfolio:** Communities

Name of person(s) writing EIA: Martin Hughes **Date:** January 2015

Service: Libraries and Community Services **Q Tier Ref** 4GM4B3-1

EIA Reference number: 496

Briefly outline the aims of the policy/ proposal and outcomes you want to achieve?

To agree the awards from the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Budget 2015-16. There are two funds within the budget to consider: Voluntary Sector Grants Fund and the Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund.

Voluntary Sector Grants Fund

The Council has been carrying out a review of how we invest in the VCF sector. To ensure that any new grants process is aligned to the Council's ambition to tackle poverty and linked to the 'Child and Household Poverty Strategy', extensions to the existing grant arrangements have been considered for 12 months up to 31st March 2016. This is to allow time to introduce a changed grant scheme with refreshed priorities and criteria.

24 organisations were awarded funding in 2014-15. The proposed Voluntary Sector Grant Aid budget for 2015/16 is **£1,756,730**. A further £56,900 will be transferred to the Sheffield Drug and Alcohol/Domestic Abuse Coordination Team as a permanent cash limit adjustment which will go towards the commissioning of services that tackle Domestic & Sexual Abuse (see 4.7d).

These figures combined represent a 9% reduction from the 2014/15 budget. All organisations were informed that consideration would be given to extending existing grant arrangements, but that this would need to be done in the context of a reduced budget.

This 9% cut is not equally apportioned across all the organisations to be funded. The value of the recommended extended grant arrangements is based upon a case by case analysis of the evidence supplied in the impact forms completed by the organisations and on how the current activity funded contributes to the current Grant Aid priorities and the impact on communities of identity.

It should be noted that the decision to continue to provide Grant Aid and invest in the VCF Sector, despite the Council's difficult financial situation, will have a largely positive impact on local people with characteristics covered by equalities legislation. The current priorities positively promote the needs of older people, people with disability, ethnic minority women, refugees, asylum seekers and new

arrivals. Funding allocated to VCF infrastructure will enable support and advice to be provided to organisations across the sector in relation to identifying efficiencies, income generation and securing other sources of funding.

Is the service a specialist provision to a group covered under the Equality Act 2010 such as a women’s, BME, disability or LGBT specific service? No

Consultation	Yes / ongoing	Please note the consultation you have undertaken or will undertake with those impacted by the proposal such as local groups and others such as surveys, face to face meetings etc. and explain the results below
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VSGF funding
 All 24 organisations funded in 2014-15 were informed in writing (in October 2014) that the Council planned to consider extending existing grant arrangements but that there was no guarantee that all grants will be extended. Organisations were also informed of the Council’s ongoing need to find significant savings. To be considered for a grant extension, organisations were asked to complete a ‘grant request and impact form’. The purpose of the form was to gather information about the impact on each organisation if they were offered a grant extension at a reduced amount. Organisations were asked to describe the impact on their service delivery and on different communities of interest of a 20% reduction. We asked them to tell us how a 20% reduction would impact on their service and staffing arrangements, but specifically how it would impact on their service users, and if any protected group will be affected more than people in general. Where organisations have been able to provide evidence to support this information, this has been factored into this EIA. Officers also used the information provided by organisations to undertake an EIA on each organisation which were considered by the Grants Panel when making their recommendations.

Lunch Club Small Grant Fund – Ongoing consultation
 All older people’s lunch clubs that currently receive funding have been invited to apply for a grant for 2015-16. The report includes a recommendation to not reduce the amount allocated to the Lunch Club Fund. However, all lunch clubs have been informed that the Grant Aid budget has been reduced and that individual club circumstances will be taken into account when grant awards are made. This is to ensure that the budget is used as effectively as possible and that new clubs can be considered for funding.

What’s the Impact? – Detail the evidence you have used below, consider demographics, census, JSNA, complaints, customer information, national or local reports, feedback or consultations and include separate sheets if required)

Evidence has been gathered by way of:

- (1) Desktop analysis and individual EIA of impacts for those organisations that completed a ‘grant request and impact form’.
- (2) Officer assessment of organisation’s performance during 2014-15.

In carrying out (1) and (2) above we have referred to a range of information including monitoring information from the 24 organisations funded in 2014-15, Census and other associated data on the profile of the population of Sheffield.

Areas of impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation of impact- what does the data tell you?
Workforce	None	None	Include reductions required and impact on staff diversity etc

There are no impacts on SCC staff as a result of this proposal. There will be impacts on the workforce of some of the voluntary sector organisations currently funded through the VSGF. This will be because funding will end or due to a reduction in funding in 2015-16. The impacts will be possible reductions in staff hours which potentially may result in redundancy situations. Where appropriate, these impacts

have been identified in the EIA.			
Action	N/A		
Generic	Positive	Medium	Relates to all or most groups
<p>Positive impacts have been identified for –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older People • Disabled people • VCF Sector • Financial Exclusion • Cohesion <p>Some negative impacts have been identified, in particular for BME women. However, other Council funds within the Communities Portfolio have been identified to help mitigate against this in 2015/16.</p> <p>Information relating to how organisations address issues of diversity and equality is taken into account when assessing applications and in monitoring returns. All of these organisations went through a thorough application process resulting in grant awards made for 2014-15. As detailed in this report, organisations have been through a further process to recommend whether their current grants are to be extended to 31 March 2016.</p> <p>The reduction in the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Budget will mean the amounts awarded to organisations are lower than the amounts awarded in previous years and that there is no guarantee that all organisations will continue to be funded. This will impact on the number of service beneficiaries provided for by the VCF organisations, which include vulnerable people. The nature of the Grant Aid budget is such that services to vulnerable people are an inherent part of this funding and consequently the reduction in the budget will impact on all vulnerable groups.</p> <p>A range of organisations have identified potential negative impacts as a result of the reduction in funding. Some have also identified ways they can mitigate impacts such as increasing other fundraising efforts, using reserves and joint working with other organisations. Some organisations have said that they may have to reduce staff hours, and consequently opening hours to enable them to manage the reduced funding available and in some cases due to the need to prioritise funding towards core running costs.</p>			
Action Minor	<p>Organisations funded from this budget will be asked to provide information about the equality impact of the grant awarded in their monitoring returns. Monitoring information will be collected after the end of the award period (31st March 2016). This will be reviewed for each award in the light of outcomes and outputs identified in the individual Funding Agreements.</p> <p>The information will be collated across the organisations funded and reported in an annual report that will be published on the Council website and circulated to Elected Members.</p>		
Age	Positive	Medium	Be clear if your service relates to specific age groups, particularly younger or older people
<p>Sheffield has a higher proportion of its population aged 65 years or over (16.7% or 85,700 people) than the other English Core Cities. The proportion of Sheffield's population aged over 65 is also projected to increase, with the largest increases in the number of people aged over 85.</p> <p>Based on evidence collected from 23 organisations awarded a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grant Fund in 2013-14 delivering a similar wide range of different services 14% of beneficiaries were aged over 60 (13% in the previous year), and 2.5% of individuals were aged under 20 (4% in the previous</p>			

year). (Note: The Voluntary Sector Grants Fund is targeted at adult provision and projects providing activities for children and young people are excluded from applying to the fund. The Lunch club fund is also targeted at provision for adults 60 and over).

The report includes a recommendation to continue to provide a Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund, which will support around 60 different lunch clubs across the city. The clubs are self-help groups run by and for older people. Approximately 2,000 older people will benefit from attending a lunch club during the year. This includes numbers of older people aged in their 80's and 90's for which attendance is sometimes their only regular outing. It is anticipated that half the membership will be aged 80 and over. Clubs take self-referrals and referrals from relatives and social and health care workers who refer older people recovering from illness, bereavement or are socially isolated. The amount allocated to the Lunch Clubs Small Grant Fund is recommended at no reduction on the current year. In addition there is also a recommendation to provide a grant extension for the Lunch Club Support Service at a reduced amount. This service will help lunch clubs to expand their activities and ensure that they are able to manage challenges such as succession planning, financial management and volunteer recruitment. This organisation has identified that a reduction in their funding will impact on staff time which may impact on development work with lunch clubs as the support element of the service will be prioritised.

The report includes a recommendation to fund 1 grant that will support therapeutic work for young women. This organisation has been recommended for a grant extension at no reduction on the current year. It is therefore not anticipated that there will be any negative impacts on the service being delivered.

The report also includes a recommendation to fund 2 grants to organisations that run schemes for disabled people with mobility problems, a large majority of whom are older people. Both of these organisations have been recommended for grant extensions at no reduction on the current year.

Action Minor	<p>Due to the reduction in the grant awarded for the Lunch Club Support Service, which will affect the number of staff hours available, requests for help and support from lunch clubs will have to be more carefully prioritised. Reduced outputs may need to be considered to reflect the reduction in funding.</p> <p>All organisations awarded a grant will be asked to collect diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants in reaching people of different ages.</p>		
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Disability	Positive	Medium	Be clear if your service relates to a specific impairment
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In Sheffield around 20% of the population have a long term limiting illness and as at 2011 5.9% of the city population claimed Disability Living Allowance.

Based on evidence collected from 23 organisations awarded a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grant Fund in 2013-14 delivering a similar wide range of different services, 32% of beneficiaries reported a disability or long term health problem (30% in the previous year). This shows that the grants awarded under the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund are supporting a higher proportion of disabled people than the city % figure. This is to be expected due to the targeting of the funding.

Among the grants recommended are –

- 2 grants to organisations working with people with mental health problems

Both of these organisations have been recommended for grant extensions at no reduction on the current year.

- 2 grants to organisations that run schemes for disabled people with mobility difficulties.

Both of these organisations have been recommended for grant extensions at no reduction on the current year.

Action Minor	All organisations awarded a grant will be asked to collect diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants in reaching local disabled people.		
Pregnancy/ maternity	Neutral	Neutral	Be clear if this impacts on these areas
None of the recommended grants will go to organisations that have identified pregnant women as their target beneficiaries, although pregnant women are likely to make use of the services provided.			
Action	None		
Race	Negative	Medium	Be clear if your service relates to specific BME communities
<p>Sheffield is a diverse city with around 19% of its population from black or minority ethnic groups.</p> <p>Based on evidence collected from 23 organisations awarded a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grant Fund in 2013-14 delivering a similar wide range of different services 43% of beneficiaries were of BME origin (47% in the previous year). This shows that the grants awarded under the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund are supporting a higher proportion of BME people than the city % figure. This is to be expected due to the targeting of the funding.</p> <p>Among the grants recommended are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 grants to organisations that run schemes for ethnic minority women. Funding to both of these organisations is recommended at a reduced amount compared to funding in 2014-15. For one of these organisations, the impact will be a reduction in staff hours (with one post potentially being made redundant) and a reduction in opening times of the centre. This will impact on the number of clients that will be able to access the services provided, and the support available for clients to take up formal volunteering/training opportunities. In mitigation, other Council funds within the Communities Portfolio have been identified to help the organisation cover some of the shortfall. It is anticipated therefore that some of the impacts identified above will be reduced in 2015/16. The organisation will also endeavour to fund raise. Reduced funding to the other organisation will also impact on staff hours which will result in fewer volunteering opportunities within the organisation and a reduced service for a smaller number of clients with low levels of English. In mitigation, other Council funds within the Communities Portfolio have been identified to help the organisation cover some of the shortfall. It is anticipated therefore that some of the impacts identified above will be reduced in 2015/16. • 3 grants to organisations working with refugees, asylum seekers and new arrivals Two of these organisations have been recommended for grant extensions at no reduction on the current year. It is therefore not anticipated that there will be any negative impacts on the services they are delivering. The other organisation has been recommended for a grant extension at a reduced amount. This may affect the opening hours of the service and staff hours. The organisation will endeavour to fund raise to compensate for the reduction towards their running costs. • 1 grant to an organisation working with a specific BME community This organisation is being recommended for reduced funding compared to 2014-15. The organisation has identified that it may be necessary to reduce opening hours of the centre, shorten periods that services are available, reduce services offered and/or reduce the hours of staff. In mitigation, they will try and recruit more volunteers to support service delivery and will look to charge/increase charges for some services such as training and learning. <p><u>Organisations currently funded, not recommended for funding</u> One organisation providing services to BME clients has not been recommended for funding. The impact of not funding them will mean a reduction in staff hours which could potentially hamper any development that might have taken place. In mitigation however, they also occupy and run a service to older people</p>			

from other premises which could be used as a base to offer services to other members of their community/provide a place for groups to continue to meet.			
Action Minor	Officers will work with the organisation not recommended for funding to identify a plan of action. All organisations awarded a grant will be asked to collect diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants in reaching local BME people.		
Religion/ belief	Neutral	Neutral	Note: This also covers all faith groups and those with no belief
Support to faith based organisations will be provided via the grants recommended within the 'Supporting the Voluntary Sector to thrive and deliver'. The needs of faith groups are accommodated appropriately within the existing model of infrastructure support available to groups and organisations in Sheffield.			
Action Minor	All organisations awarded a grant will be encouraged to include questions about faith/religion/belief in their diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants in reaching local people of different faiths.		
Sex	Negative	Medium	Note: this includes women and men
Based on evidence collected from 23 organisations awarded a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grant Fund in 2013-14 delivering a wide range of different services, 45% of beneficiaries were men and 55% were women. Among the grants recommended are – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 grants to organisations that run schemes for ethnic minority women. The impact of reduced funding to these two organisations has already been considered under BME. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 grant that will support therapeutic work with young women Funding to this organisation has not been reduced and therefore it is not anticipated that there will be any negative impact on service users. In making these recommendations to Cabinet the Grants Award Recommendation Panel has taken notice of the Equality Act 2010 and the positive action provisions of section 158 with regard to single gender services, where the needs of women in relation to men are different. The Grants Award Recommendation Panel is satisfied that grants to be awarded to single gender services fall within the exemption provisions of the legislation and are in line with the public sector equality duty. .			
Action Minor	All organisations awarded a grant will be asked to collect diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants in reaching local men and women.		
Sexual orientation	Neutral	Neutral	For example lesbian, gay or bisexual groups
None of the recommended grants will go to organisations that have identified LGB people as their target beneficiaries, although LGB people are likely to make use of the services provided.			
Action Minor	All organisations awarded a grant will be encouraged to include questions about sexuality in their diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants in reaching local LGB people. The Council also endeavours to support LGB people through a range of other initiatives.		

Transgender	Neutral	Neutral	Note: transgender both men and women
None of the recommended grants will go to organisations that have identified Transgender people as their target beneficiaries.			
Action Minor	All organisations awarded a grant will be encouraged to include questions about gender in their diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. Where appropriate, organisations will be advised to monitor in line with relevant legislation. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants in reaching local Transgender people.		
Carers	Neutral	Neutral	Note: this refers to those who provide regular and substantial unpaid care to a disabled adult or child.
Services to carers were not a priority for this funding. None of the organisations recommended to receive a grant have identified carers as their target beneficiaries, although carers are likely to make use of some of the services that will be provided.			
Action	None		
Voluntary, community faith sector	Positive	Medium	For example: impact on VCF organisations e.g. access to match funding, viability, hours of opening, staffing levels, referrals etc
<p>All the grants recommended are to local Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations. The availability of Voluntary Sector Grant Aid is an important and positive boost to the sector. However, the budget for 2015-16 will be 9% less than was available in 2014-15. As described above, grant extensions have been considered in the context of this reduced budget. This has resulted in a reduction of 1 fewer grant being recommended under the 'Promoting social inclusion and justice theme' and 1 fewer grant being recommended under the 'Tackling poverty and financial exclusion theme'. The amounts recommended to a number of organisations are also lower than in the previous year.</p> <p>The grants recommended will contribute towards core costs, supporting jobs and volunteering opportunities in the local VCF Sector. 4 grants will contribute to strengthening the infrastructure of the local VCF Sector. In 2014-15 an amount was recommended for a voucher scheme, enabling organisations which represent / serve disadvantaged communities to apply for and be awarded a voucher to purchase the specific support services they need from infrastructure support services. The recommendations for 2015-16 do not include an amount for a voucher scheme. The impact of this on VCF groups is that they will have to use/raise other funds to pay for additional specific support needed.</p>			
Action Minor	<p>All organisations awarded a grant will be asked to collect diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website.</p> <p>Organisations awarded a grant to deliver infrastructure support services will be asked to collect diversity monitoring information about the VCF groups they are supporting. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website.</p>		
Financial exclusion	Positive	High	Note the impact poverty and on those who are financially excluded
16 of the grant extensions recommended will contribute toward outcomes related to tackling poverty, promoting social justice and financial inclusion.			

<p>The grant extension to support the delivery of advice in the City will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that face to face advice is available to anyone who needs it, recognising that advice is concentrated in certain areas of the city • Ensure that advice is available through a range of channels (including on-line self-help, telephone and face to face) • Ensure that the advice needs of a range of vulnerable groups are met <p>The grant to support advice in the City is reduced compared to 2014-15. The impact of this reduction, although difficult to quantify exactly at this stage, will mean a reduction of frontline advisers which could affect the capacity to recruit, manage and train volunteers. It could also mean a reduction in drop-in opening times and reduced capacity on the telephone advice line and for appointments.</p> <p>One grant that funded work to support local people on low incomes manage some of the impacts of the government welfare reforms is not being recommended for a grant extension. The impact of this is likely to be a reduction in staff capacity that will mean Budgeting accounts are less well promoted and there is less support to Budgeting account holders to manage their accounts.</p> <p>The grant to another organisation will be used to directly fund work on food and fuel poverty, supporting local people to learn the skills to reduce their household expenditure has been recommended to be extended but at a reduced amount. This may impact on the number of beneficiaries.</p>			
Action Minor	Outcomes and outputs relating to financial inclusion will be monitored at the end of the grant period. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website.		
Cohesion:	Positive	High	Note particular impact on community tensions or getting on well together
15 of the grants recommended will be awarded to organisations that will deliver activity which contributes to outcomes related to building social inclusion and cohesion. Out of these, 5 of these organisations will provide activity that will have a positive impact on community safety.			
Action Minor	Outcomes and outputs relating to building social inclusion and cohesion will be monitored at the end of the grant period. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website.		
Armed Forces	Neutral	Neutral	Note implication on serving forces personnel, reservists, veterans or families of
Services to armed forces were not a priority for this funding. None of the organisations recommended to receive a grant have identified armed forces as their target beneficiaries.			
Action	None		
Other options considered		Please note any other options considered/ being considered	
N/A			
Financial implication	Neutral	Neutral	Please detail associated costs of equality implications
N/A			

Summary/ additional:	Positive	High	Please provide a basic summary cost benefits analysis below of the overall impact on service users and the organisation and link to evidence. This should be included in all reports e.g. to EMT, cabinet reports etc
<p>Despite continuing pressures on the budget, this report is recommending a significant investment into the VCF sector, which is then targeted at Sheffield's most vulnerable people. However, the proposed reduction in the budget will inevitably impact on all vulnerable groups. Groups in receipt of funding are asked to provide evidence of efficiency savings they are making in running costs and management costs to minimise the effect on service delivery</p> <p>Despite the proposed reduced level of investment, positive impacts have been identified among the range of awards recommended for older people, disabled people, the voluntary sector, financial inclusion and cohesion in the city. Some negative impacts have been identified, in particular for BME women. However, other Council funds within the Communities Portfolio have been identified to help mitigate against this in 2015/16.</p> <p>A range of organisations working with a variety of vulnerable groups have identified potential negative impacts as a result of the reduction in funding. Some have identified ways they can mitigate impacts such as increasing other fundraising efforts, using reserves and joint working with other organisations. Some organisations have said that they may have to reduce staff hours, and consequently opening hours to enable them to manage the reduced funding available and in some cases due to the need to prioritise funding towards core running costs.</p>			
Summary of actions Minor	<p>Include lead officer, timescales and how it will be monitored/reviewed</p> <p>All groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be reviewed quarterly, tied into quarterly monitoring returns to be carried out during the grant period 2015-16: Martin Hughes • Diversity information collected and collated after the end of the grant period (May 2016): Martin Hughes <p>Race</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To offer support to the organisation not recommended for funding to assist them in developing a plan of action (April 2015): Martin Hughes. <p>Sexual orientation and transgender:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations awarded funding to consider how they ensure they are inclusive of LGB people and Transgender people. Organisations that collect this information will be asked to report on it (May 2016): Martin Hughes 		
Outcome No change	<p>Briefly detail recommendations whether you need to make any changes to the policy or proposal based on the information above</p> <p>No changes recommended based on the above information.</p>		

Discussed with Lead Member: 18/12/14

Approved (Lead Manager): Martin Hughes **Date:** 16/01/15

Approved (EIA Lead person for Portfolio): Phil Reid **Date:** 16/01/15