

Economy Committee

10.00am, Friday, 13 February 2015

Third Party Grant: Challenge Fund Awards

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| Item number | 7.8 |
| Report number | |
| Executive/routine | |
| Wards | All |

Executive summary

This report seeks the approval of 11 Adult Specialist and Area Focus Employability Third Party Grants awarded through Economic Development's Challenge Fund programme 2015-2018. The programme will be subject to annual review in line with the Council's budget process and satisfactory service delivery. In line with approvals obtained at the Economy Committee on 7 October 2014 the amount available for this award programme is reduced by 10%.

This report asks the Economy Committee to note the progress made on the review of Youth Employability Services with an extended one year grant for 13 projects to allow this review to be fully completed by June 2015. In line with approvals obtained at the Economy Committee on 7 October 2014 a 3.3% reduction has been applied to the extended one year awards for Youth Employability Services for 2015.

This report also asks the Economy Committee to note the one year extension of six Activity Agreement Hubs Third Party Grants awards to allow a review of this service area to take place.

Links

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Coalition pledges | P7 |
| Council outcomes | CO8, CO9, |
| Single Outcome Agreement | SO1 |

Third Party Grant: Challenge Fund Update

Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve 11 Adult Specialist and Area Focused Third Party Grants awards which fit the strategic priorities of the City's Economic Strategy 2012-17: 'A Strategy for Jobs' subject to the Council approving the Economic Development Service savings proposals for 2015/16.
- 1.2 To note the one year only grant extension to 13 projects in the Challenge Fund Youth Services and six Activity Agreement Hubs, to allow a Youth Review to be concluded and recommendations considered.

Background

Providing employability support for regeneration areas and vulnerable individuals

- 2.1 Economic Development's Employability Challenge Fund was established following the 2010 Review of Employability Services.
- 2.2 Through co-production effort this is now integrated and aligned with changes to the Council's third party grant process and has undergone further co-production to reshape and refocus its impact on service users and the Third Sector.
- 2.3 The refreshed Employability Challenge Fund is aligned with the City's Economic Strategy 2012-17: 'A Strategy for Jobs' under the theme of Improving Employability.

Main report

- 3.1 As reported to Economy Committee on 7 October 2014, significant progress was made in fully integrating Economic Development's Employability Challenge Fund programme with the Council's wider Third Party Grant processes.
- 3.2 This was achieved through considerable co-production and a consultation exercise with contributions from 40 individuals, from 33 of the city's employability providers and over 900 service users. (See Appendix 1 for the full process).

- 3.3 11 Adult Employability Service projects are recommended for an award (see Table 1). These provide services that strategically fit with the overall employability provision in the city.
- 3.4 Total expenditure for Adult Employability Services would be £478,023, a saving reduction of 10% from 2014.

Table 1: Recommended Adult Employability Specialist and Area Focus Third Party Grant Awards

| | Organisation/Project | Service Category | Years funded | Grant Award per year |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | The Volunteer Centre | Specialist | 3 | £73,164 |
| 2 | All Cleaned Up | Specialist | 3 | £52,057 |
| 3 | Create Digital Skills Academy | Specialist | 3 | £71,168 |
| 4 | Social Care Academy | Specialist | 3 | £28,500 |
| 5 | Four Square | Specialist | 3 | £47,500 |
| 6 | Fresh Start | Specialist | 3 | £52,449 |
| 7 | Cyrennians Foundation to Employment | Specialist | 3 | £40,000 |
| 8 | Venture Trust | Specialist | 3 | £39,735 |
| 9 | Broomhouse Centre | Area Focus | 1 | £16,000 |
| 10 | Community One Stop Shop | Area Focus | 1 | £15,000 |
| 11 | CHAI | Area Focus | 1 | £42,000 |
| | TOTAL | | | £478,023 |

- 3.5 Three projects have been awarded one year's funding only as their proposed activity impacts on the current review of the Employability and Skills Integrated Employability Service which is due to be re-commissioned for April 2016 onwards

- 3.6 A one year only Third Party grant extension to 13 Youth projects is to allow a comprehensive Youth Review to be concluded and to produce recommendations. The Youth Review is currently being conducted by Edinburgh Napier's Employment Research Institute and will conclude by June 2015.
- 3.7 Total expenditure in the Youth Services category would be £903,687 a saving of 3.3% from previous year's expenditure for each individual project.

Table 2: Recommended Youth Employability Services Third Party Grant Awards

| | Organisation/Project | Service Category | Years funded | Grant Award per year |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 14-19 Transitions: The Prince's Trust | Youth | 1 | £92,553.50 |
| 2 | Action for Children | Youth | 1 | £103,601.48 |
| 3 | Barnardos | Youth | 1 | £118,749.53 |
| 4 | Canongate Youth Project | Youth | 1 | £13,125.09 |
| 5 | Citadel Youth Centre | Youth | 1 | £36,746.00 |
| 6 | Community Renewal | Youth | 1 | £67,690.00 |
| 7 | Edinburgh College – Just Do It | Youth | 1 | £99,521.71 |
| 8 | Impact Arts | Youth | 1 | £59,954.00 |
| 9 | Maximize Ltd - Destinations | Youth | 1 | £44,482.00 |
| 10 | Move On | Youth | 1 | £38,403.44 |
| 11 | Out of the Blue | Youth | 1 | £23,855.89 |
| 12 | Port of Leith Housing | Youth | 1 | £40,614.00 |
| 13 | Access to Industry | Youth | 1 | £164,390.00 |
| | TOTAL | | | £903,686.64 |

- 3.7 The six Activity Agreement Hubs funded through a Third Party Grants awards will be extended for one year to allow this service area to be included with the Youth Review mentioned above. Proposals for this are currently being sought from the six providers - 6VT, Citadel and Dunedin Canmore Youth Project and three internal projects delivered by City of Edinburgh Council.
- 3.8 The Activity Agreement Learning Hubs are funded by an external grant from the Scottish Government Opportunities for All.

Measures of success

- 4.1 The medium to long term success will be the full the alignment of the Challenge Fund with the City's Economic Strategy 2012-17 "A Strategy for Jobs" and employability commissioning priorities.
- 4.2 Through co-production, a measure of success is strengthening the relationship between Economic Development and the Third Sector by closer involvement with the Joined Up for Jobs Network in the development of the grants programme.
- 4.3 The Challenge Fund has more of a focus on the early stages of the Strategic Skills Pipeline. A measure of success will be an increase in the number of people moving through the pipeline and into sustainable employment.
- 4.4 The Activity Agreements Learning Hubs will more closely align with employability programmes for young people that are delivered across the city.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The costs outlined in this report will be met from the Economic Development Service budget allocation in 2015/16, subject to Council approval of the budget proposals which are currently under consideration and to the final budget approval on 12 February 2015.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The refreshed Challenge fund brings Economic Development investment in line with Council's broader Third Party grant programme.
- 6.2 The use of Capital City Partnership to provide close monitoring of the Challenge Fund awards allows for a higher level of scrutiny and support on achieving targets.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 The Council's employability services support the Council's commitment to equal opportunities. The benefits from implementing a refreshed Challenge Fund programme will have a positive impact on efforts towards addressing social inclusion and combating poverty.
- 7.2 An Equalities Impact Rights Assessment has been conducted throughout this process and has underpinned the work being developed.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The Challenge Fund will have a significant positive impact on wider city inclusion by providing a range of investments in Third Sector providers targeting some of the most vulnerable client groups.
- 8.2 By commissioning within a Strategic Skills Pipeline framework, Economic Development ensures that there is adequate provision to support clients at each stage of the pipeline as they progress towards sustainable employment.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The alignment of the Challenge Fund with Third Party Grant programme has been a fully consultative process.
- 9.2 Extensive consultation has taken place with key stakeholders, service providers, and service users.

Background reading / external references

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Links

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| Coalition pledges | P7 – Further develop the Edinburgh Guarantee to improve work prospects for school leavers. |
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| Council outcomes | CO8 - Edinburgh's economy creates and sustains job opportunities |
| | CO9 - Edinburgh residents are able to access job opportunities |
| Single Outcome Agreement | SO1 – Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all. |
| Appendices | Appendix 1 |

Appendix 1 Challenge Fund Award Process

- A notification was placed on the Edinburgh Compact website and also on the Joined Up for Jobs website to promote the funding opportunity. Funding guidelines and application forms were provided on both websites.
- The opportunity to receive a one to one session with a Contract Officer at Capital City Partnership to discuss possible applications and to be clear about the applications process before submission was also made available.
- The funding opportunity closed on 22 October with a total of 27 applications received. Seven organisations were completely new to the Challenge Fund.
- An Assessment Panel of key stakeholders and Council officers oversaw the assessment and scoring procedures.
- Representation on the Assessment Panel came from Skills Development Scotland, Department of Work and Pensions, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council, and Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- Each application was scored by two separate individuals from the Assessment Panel who then met to agree a moderated score with comments. The moderated score was then presented to the full Assessment Panel on 25 November and 3 December for further comments on strategic fit and moderation if required.