

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 17 March 2015

Services for Communities Grants to Third Sector Organisations 2015/16

Item number	7.16
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All

Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to set out recommendations for grant applications submitted to Services for Communities (SfC) for 2015/16, which are now the responsibility of Transport and Environment Committee. There is one grant application requesting a total of £26,500. The award for this application in 2014/15 was £26,500 and it is recommended that this award is maintained for 2015/16.

On 11 February 2014, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee agreed to “the transfer of responsibility for developing future grant programmes and making grant awards to executive committees and policy development subcommittees”.

This report recommends maintaining grant awards at 2014/15 levels, with a view to securing savings of 10% with grant recipients through co-production, as part of the grant award process for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Links

Coalition pledges	P30 , P48
Council outcomes	CO23 , CO25 , CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2 , SO4

Services for Communities Grants to Third Sector Organisations 2015/16

Recommendations

It is recommended that Transport and Environment Committee:

- 1.1 Approves third sector grant award in 2015/16 for one applicant.
- 1.2 Agrees that grant levels be maintained for Water of Leith Conservation Trust.
- 1.3 Notes that expenditure for 2015/16 on third sector grants will be £26,500.
- 1.4 Agrees that savings are sought from grant recipients during 2015/16, with a view to making recommendations to Committee on grant awards from 2016/17 onwards.

Background

- 2.1 On 11 February 2014, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee agreed the recommendations in the Review of Grants to Third Parties 2013: Final Report including, to approve “the transfer of responsibility for developing future grant programmes and making grant awards to executive committees and policy development sub-committees”.
- 2.2 The Committee has also agreed that all grant programmes should be aligned to meet strategic plan, commissioning, and capital coalition pledge priorities. The report set out a requirement that all grant award recommendations should be co-produced with service users, carers and third sector organisations by April 2016. The review also recommended that co-produced grant programmes should ideally be funded for a period of three years to provide financial stability for recipient organisations.
- 2.3 In addition, the Better Outcomes Leaner Delivery (BOLD) workstream on third sector expenditure set out a recommendation to reduce third sector spend by 10% over three years. Service departments were instructed to decide how best to implement these proposals.
- 2.4 This report recommends that the grant awards for existing providers are maintained for 2015/16, but that savings are sought for the 2016/17 budget through negotiation with grant recipients during 2015/16. This will be undertaken through a collaborative approach with voluntary sector partners to co-produce

grant programmes and will be consistent with the approach taken with contracted services. Workstreams are being progressed which have savings built in, with the agreement of providers including the pilot for Advice and Support services which commenced in October 2014.

Main report

- 3.1 A closing date of 1 November 2014 was set for grant awards for 2015/16. However, given the range of changes to processes, responsibilities and policy, late applications were allowed up until 12 December 2014. One application for a grant has been received which is now the responsibility of the Transport and Environment committee.

Water of Leith Conservation Trust

- 3.2 The Water of Leith Conservation Trust raises the profile of this key environmental asset, and promotes community action to help the river. Its regular volunteer clean ups and habitat creation projects improve the health and accessibility of the river. Furthermore, its visitor centre, the walkway and extensive events, education and group visit programmes ensures that everyone has the opportunity to discover more about the Water of Leith asset. The delivery of the Council adopted Water of Leith Management Plan 2010-2020 is core to its work. The plan contains 83 actions for 11 statutory agencies and organisations in which the trust has the responsibility for the delivery of 49 actions totalling 59% of the Plan.
- 3.3 The Trust has applied for £26,500. It was awarded £26,500 in 2014/15 and it is recommended that this grant level is maintained for 2015/16.

Grants Programme 2016/17

- 3.4 No savings will be sought in 2015/16. However, savings will be sought in years 2016/17 and 2017/18. It is proposed that negotiations start with current grant recipients during 2015/16, with a view to achieving savings through co-production of services and assessing alignment with Council strategy and policy. Recommendations will then be made to Transport and Environment Committee in 2015 and put forward recommendations for three year grant awards from 2016/17 onwards.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Each grant recipient is required to complete a funding agreement which details SMART targets that the recipient agrees to achieve. Achievement of these targets will contribute to departmental objectives and service plans.
- 4.2 The success of the review will be measured by whether or not its implementation can be shown to maximise best value and sustainability of third parties, improve

satisfaction with the Council's grant to third parties arrangements and improve Council governance arrangements.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The grant award for 2015/16 is £26,500, the same as awarded in 2014/15.
- 5.2 This award is met from third sector spend identified in service area budgets.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee in February 2014 accepted the recommendations of the Third Party Grants Review to "the transfer of responsibility for developing future grant programmes and making grant awards to executive committees and policy development subcommittees".
- 6.2 The third sector Co-production Steering Group, chaired by EVOC, has been set up to share good practice and ensure consistency as grant programmes are developed.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 The approval of the grant awards enhances the right to education and learning, standard of living, productive and valued activities, identity expression and respect as well as, participation influence and voice. The award of these grants enhance the duty to eliminate the unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity by meeting the needs of disabled people, people who are homeless and people in poverty. All awards enhance the duty to foster good relations
- 7.2 An Equalities and Rights Impact Assessment (ERIA) will be required in the event that savings are required from third party grants. An assessment will also be undertaken as part of the development of a co-produced grants programme for 2016/17.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The recommendation of grants, to the organisations listed in Appendix 1, have significant positive impacts on the environment, biodiversity and conservation within Edinburgh, benefitting the city's natural and cultural heritage.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 There was engagement involving stakeholders to review the third party grants process throughout 2013. Specifically this includes:
- Council Review of Grants to Third Parties – Discussed by the Compact Partnership Board on 1 March 2013.
 - Discussion at Communities and Neighbourhoods Policy Development Meeting and Review Sub Committee on 4 June 2013.
 - Meetings of the Compact's Council Grants to Third Parties Reference Group from June to October 2013.
 - Release of approved Council Grants to Third Parties Review Scope and Remit on the Council website and linked to the Compact and Third Sector Interface websites in early July 2013.
 - Grants Review Survey for current and potential grant recipients issued in July/August 2013.
 - Update report to the meeting of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee in 24 September 2013.
 - Report on the review, specifically addressing Culture and Sport Clients made to the meeting of the Culture and Sport Committee in 22 October 2013.
 - Engagement sessions on the review, components and way forward in November and December 2013.
- 9.2 The savings proposals for SFC 17 have been part of the wider corporate consultation for the 2015/16 budget.

Background reading/external references

[Review of Council Grants to Third Parties 2013/14, Communities and Neighbourhoods, 11 February 2014](#)

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Links

Coalition pledges	P30 – Continue to maintain a sound financial position including long term financial planning P48 – Use Green Flag and other strategies to preserve our open spaces
Council outcomes	CO23 - Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community CO25 - The Council has efficient and effective services that deliver on objectives CO26 - The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2 - Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health SO4 - Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
Appendices	Appendix 1: Third Party Grants recommended Awards 2015/16