

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Executive – 11 November 2015

Future Management of the Voluntary and Community Sector Small Grants Programme

Briefing Paper – Report of Angela Summers, Housing and Community Project Lead (Confidential Appendix)

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Jane Warmington)

1. Executive Summary

This report provides a proposal for the future management of the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme (VCSSGP) by Somerset Community Foundation (SCF).

In order to make the most effective use of this small grants programme, the Council needs to ensure applicants maximise match funding for their project. SCF have the ability to draw down match funding from other funders for projects in the borough.

2. Background

The cross party Grants Panel requested that members consider a proposal from Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) to manage our VCSSGP for 2016/17.

In 2015/16 the process was managed in-house by the Housing & Community Project Team with an allocation of £34,270 to small grants from the Voluntary & Community Sector Budget, for details of the allocation to date, please see Appendix A. The allocation for 2016/17 has yet to be agreed via the budget setting process, but a 'high level principle' agreed by members previously was to protect this budget for three years between 2013/14 to 2015/16 with a view to making budget savings in 2016/17 therefore a proposal will be included as part of budget-setting to reduce this budget in 2016/17.

Funding programmes from the Tenants' Forum, Taunton Unparished Fund (TUF) and the Economic Development Grants are handled separately from this programme with the Grants Panel receiving reports from all four programmes on allocated funds. In order to meet the requirements of the 2014 Transparency Code, the funding allocation from each programme now has to be illustrated on the Council's web site. This process is overseen by our Corporate Strategy and Performance Management Team.

3. Proposed Management of the VCSSGP

Members are invited to consider the commissioning of SCF to manage the VCSSGP.

The Housing & Community Project Team do not have the capacity to manage the application process and draw down match funding for applicants of the VCSSGP.

Other organisations have been considered for managing this grants programme but none of them are able to provide the offer from SCF in terms of match funding.

SCF have a proven track record of drawing in match funding for the Funds they manage. For example, with the Taunton Deane Mayor's Fund they managed to obtain 30% match funding and the expectation is that they would achieve similar results, if they were to manage the TDBC VCSSGP.

Appendix B illustrates the proposed process.

Appendix C outlines SCF's proposal for delivery including working with their benefactors to draw in match funding for projects to offset their administration fee.

The VCSSGP, TUF, Tenants' Forum, the Taunton Deane Borough Youth Fund and Economic Development Grants application processes would be promoted on the Council's web site to ensure good visibility of the various grants and their differences.

All application forms would require disclosure of other applications, support or awards from within TDBC as well as other funders. Also, applicants would need to evidence communication with their ward member about their project proposal.

Statutory requirements to publicise all grants on the council web site will mean councillors, officers and the public are aware of the funds awarded and result in greater transparency.

4. Finance Comments

The maximum amount applicants will be able to apply for from this fund in 2016/17 will be £1,000. Applicants requiring larger amounts of funding would be able to apply to the other funds within the Councils, such as from the Taunton Unparished Area and Tenants' Forum.

The allocation for 2016/17 has yet to be agreed via the budget setting process.

Somerset Community Foundation administering a fund on behalf of TDBC, would incur administrative fees. However, as SCF are able to obtain additional funding from other sources, the impact of this would be negated.

5. Legal Comments

The arrangement between TDBC and SCF would need to be set out in formal documentation to ensure clarity and enforceability.

Recommendations

The Executive is **recommended** to agree that:-

- (1) The Voluntary and Community Sector Small Grant Programme be managed by the Somerset Community Foundation for 2016/2017;
- (2) The Grants Panel will meet the Somerset Community Foundation to discuss the applications. Any decisions will be signed off by the Executive Member for Community Leadership and published in the Weekly Bulletin; and
- (3) The design of the final application form, guidance notes and reporting be agreed between officers and the Somerset Community Foundation and signed off by the Executive Member for Community Leadership.

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Appendix A: VCS Small Grants Funding 2015/16

		Budget	£34,270
Organisation A - Z	VCS	Tenants Forum	Taunton Unparished Fund
1st Wellington Scout	£1,000		
4-40 Volunteers	£800		
Albermarle Ltd	£1,958	Yes	Yes
Barnardo's Mandala Therapy & Play Service		Yes	
Clovermarle Stroke Club			Yes
Compass Disability Services	£2,354		
Corfe Car Scheme	£500		
Equilibrium - Bipolar Organisation	£2,000		
Escape	£1,000		Yes
Halcon Youth Project			Yes
Hamilton Greens ABC			Yes
Holway LAT		Yes	
In the Mix Youth Project		Yes	
Life Education Wessex	£3,423		
Mind in Taunton & West Somerset	£2,000		
MS Society Taunton	£2,000		
National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society - Taunton Branch	£500		
North Taunton Football Club		Yes	Yes

Appendix A: VCS Small Grants Funding 2015/16

North Taunton Partnership		Yes	Yes
North Taunton Scout Group		Yes	
North Taunton Youth and Sports Club		Yes	
Nynehead Under 5s Pre School	£2,000		
Old Age Pensioners Association, Rockwell Green Branch	£600		
On Your Bike (Recycle) Ltd	£2,000		Yes
Samaritans	£2,000		
Sami Sobie Polish Association			Yes
Somerset Playing Fields	£550		
Taunton Athletic Club	£1,000		Yes
Taunton Deane & West Somerset Credit Union			Yes
Taunton Street Pastors	£2,000		
Taunton YMCA	£2,000		Yes
Tone Leisure (Taunton Deane) Limited - VIBE			Yes
West Country Health Education and Research Enterprise - WHERE			Yes
Allocation paid to date	£29,685		
Allocation agreed in principle			
Taunton District Schools Football Association	£2,000		
Return of unspent funds	-£2,500		
Total	£29,185		

Amount remaining for allocation

£5,085

Appendix B: *TDBC Voluntary & Community Sector Grants Programme Proposed Application Process*

The following flow chart illustrates the proposed allocation process, using Somerset Community Foundation to manage the process.

