

07/12/2018

Record of Decision taken by Executive Councillor

Decision title: Process management of voluntary community sector partnership grants

Executive Councillor making the decision: Cllr Jane Warmington

Author Contact Details: Christine Gale

Date of Decision: 01 October 2018 (This is the date of the original decision)

Details of decision:

Seeking approval further to a decision made on the above date, for the appointment of Somerset Community Foundation to manage the processing of the Taunton Deane Borough Council Partnership grants fund through a variation of the existing Services Contract.

The Partnership Grants Fund has been managed internally by Council officers to date and for the year 2018-19 grants were awarded to eight organisations totalling £178,920.00. Owing to changes in structure and personnel at the Council it is no longer sustainable to continue to deliver the Grants Fund in-house. The Council does not want the opportunities for Voluntary & Community Sector organisations to apply for funding to disappear and it is expected that a significant amount of funding will be made available for the year 2019-20.

In order to make the most effective use of all the grant schemes the Council needs to ensure that applicants can maximise match funding from other funders for their projects in the district. Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) has a proven track record for maximising match funding for local authority grants and already manage various small grant fund programmes on behalf of the Council through contractual arrangements which have proved to be successful.

Authority is now sought to include within the grant funds that SCF manage, the Partnership Grants Fund which has previously been administered in-house. SCF will carry out services relating to the promotion of the Fund, call for and receipt of applications, initial analysis and providing recommendations to the Council's Grants Panel. This is similar to services they already provide for other grant funds and they have proved to be an invaluable partner in assisting the Council with these processes.

The total amount available to be distributed through the Partnership Grants Fund process will be allocated during the budget setting process in February 2019 and shall be notified to SCF at that time.

Reasons for proposed decision: In order to make the most effective use of TDBC's resources and the efficient use of officer time it is no longer considered sustainable or in the best interests of the community to continue to provide these services in-house.. Somerset Community Foundation has a proven track record in administering Grant Funds on behalf of the Council with the added bonus of maximising match funding for any organisation benefitting from a local authority grant funding.

Alternative options considered and rejected: In house services would not be as cost effective nor have the capacity to assist applicants in securing additional funding.

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The below has been completed:	Name(s)	Date
Relevant ward councillor(s) consulted	N/a	
The following are if appropriate / applicable: Yes/No. If yes the Implications should be attached to this decision notice.		
Finance implications	Funds are provided within the VCS/HRA budget for 2019/20	
Legal implications	A Funding Agreement that is currently in place can be varied to include these additional services as they are of a similar nature to that already provided.	
Links to corporate aims	A Vibrant Social, Cultural and Leisure Environment	
Community Safety implications	no	
Environmental implications	no	
Equalities Impact	none	
Safeguarding Implications	none	
Risk management	SCF's performance will be monitored	
Partnership implications	Yes – strengthening partnership working with our voluntary sector organisations	

Any conflicts of interest declared by Leader or Executive Members consulted on the proposed decision. If Yes provide confirmation from Chief Executive to grant dispensation for the Leader's / Executive Member's views to be considered.
None

Decision Maker

I am aware of the details of this decision(s), considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.

Signed:



Name: Cllr Jane Warmington

Date: 04 December 2018

Note – This decision record is for decisions taken by Executive Councillors. The decision(s) can be implemented following publication in The Weekly Bulletin and the period for any call-in has expired.

Note: A copy should also be sent to the Corporate Support Unit