Community & Housing Services Committee

**All Committee meetings were cancelled with effect from 23rd March, 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency.**

**The recommendations in this report were approved by an Executive Director of the Council, acting under delegated authority in terms of paragraph 2.1.1 of the Council’s List of Officer Powers**

**Community & Housing Services Committee**

9th April, 2020 (CANCELLED)

***Approved by Executive Director, Communities -***

***30th March, 2020***

|  |
| --- |
| **Support for Voluntary Organisations** |
| **Report by:** Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods & John Mills, Head of Housing Service, Communities  |
| **Wards Affected:** Fifewide |

**Purpose**

This report presents recommendations for the level of support to voluntary organisations within Communities Directorate for the period 2020-2021.

**Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended that Committee:-

1. approve the level of funding to voluntary organisations as detailed in the attached schedule.
2. note that Fife Council agreed in the Revenue Budget 2020-2023 a reduction to Equalities and Diversity. A reduction of £40,000 for Fife Centre for Equalities has been accepted by the organisation.

**Resource Implications**

The overall total being recommended for approval from Communities Directorate for the period 2020/21 is £5,697,329 (as detailed in Appendix 1)

For Information, A total of 12 grants totalling £9,180,540 were approved in March 2019 additionally there were 103 grants totalling £9,872,490 approved at previous Executive Committee 29 March 2018 for financial years 2018/2021 under the Council’s three year funding arrangements.

**Legal & Risk Implications**

All awards are recommended for support subject to compliance with Fife Council’s Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which requires that they are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the Council’s ongoing commitment to ensuring organisations are meeting the terms of their Service Level Agreement.

**Impact Assessment**

No impact assessment is required as there are no substantial changes to service delivery. Changes to individual grants have been negotiated with the organisations concerned.

**Consultation**

Members are encouraged to contact the relevant Service Monitoring Officer if they would like to discuss individual awards or require further information prior to the Committee meeting. The contact information for Service Monitoring Officers is detailed on the footer of each appendix of this report.

Service Monitoring Officers have been involved in the preparation of this report. The appropriate Service Management Team has considered each of the awards being presented and recommends the level of support outlined.

**1.0 Background**

1.1 After consultation with Fife Centre for Equalities there was agreement to amend their Service Level Agreement and subsequent reduction of £40,000 was agreed. This will take their award for 2020-2021 to £130,804.

1.2 In the past all support to Voluntary organisations was reported to the Executive Committee. It should be noted that Health and Social Care is now reported separately to the Joint Health Improvement Board. Building on the new committee structure support in the areas of Education & Children Services; Economy Planning & Employability Service and Asset, Transportation & Environment will be reported to the relevant strategic committees. This report will only report on support related to the Communities Directorate, the majority of this support is provided through recurring grants directly to the organisations.

1.2 The appended schedules detail the awards recommended for approval that will be delivering agreed activities for Communities Directorate.

**2.0 Monitoring and Evaluation**

2.1 The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is continually updated and developed, putting robust procedures in place within Services providing support to voluntary organisations. The work is overseen by the Voluntary Sector Task Group which includes representatives from each of the Councils Services awarding grants to voluntary organisations as well as Audit Services and representation from the third sector. The Task Group is responsible for reviewing the overall Framework and updating particular sections as necessary. During 2019 sections of the Framework have been updated and training has been and will continue to be provided for Services in this respect in 2020.

2.2 The following monitoring and assessment procedures are undertaken prior to each award being presented to the Community and Housing Services Committee for a decision:

* Organisations are required to submit an application or forward plan outlining the services they aim to provide during the period 2020/21. For organisations seeking a 1, 2 or 3 year funding agreement this would normally include an appropriate budget for that period;
* All projects funded in the previous years have undergone either an annual monitoring exercise or if appropriate a 3-year evaluation. Where the organisation receives over £10,000, the annual monitoring is carried out by the appointed Link Officer. An independent officer who is not the organisation’s Link Officer carries out the 3-year evaluation. As part of these monitoring procedures an assessment of the governance of the organisation is made. This includes compliance with relevant legislation such as child protection;
* The organisation’s constitution and latest set of annual accounts have also been checked. The latter are checked by officers from Finance and Corporate Services;
* The project is assessed by the appropriate Service Management Team against the priorities of the Service, the Council’s priorities and the Plan for Fife.

2.3 Having gone through each of these stages the award is then presented to Committee for decision. If the award fails to satisfy all elements of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, the recommendation will be delayed and presented for Members’ consideration at a future Committee meeting. Where compliance conditions are not being met, it may be recommended that no funding is provided.

**3.0 Conclusions**

3.1 The awards presented to Committee have been assessed in line with Service priorities and the Council’s Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and are considered to make a valued contribution to the delivery of services across Fife.

**List of Appendices**

1. Recommended Awards – Community & Neighbourhoods and Housing Servicesfor financial year 2020/2021

**Background Papers**

The following paper was relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:

* Voluntary Sector Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

**Report Contacts**

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**Recommended Awards – 2020/21 – Community & Housing Services Committee – Appendix 1**

|  | **Recommendation**  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **Project Description** | **Award****19/20** | **Requested****Grant (Over****1 year)** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/22** | **Total****2020-2023** | **Additional Comments** |
| Auchmuty & Dovecot Tenants & Residents Association | Payment of rent for community flat | £5,000 | £5,000 | £5,000 | £0 | £0 | £5,000 | Recommend 1 year funding.  |
| Public Social Partnership (PSP) | Homelessness & Short Term Housing Support PSP | £5,692,327 | £5,692,327 | £5,692,327 | £0 | £0 | £5,692,327 | Recommend 1 year funding. Gilven House service transferred to Fife Council.  |
| Total |  |  |  | £5,697,329 |  |  | £5,697,329 |  |