

Subject:	Three Year Strategic Grants 2013-16: Decision on Full Bid Applications		
Date of Meeting:	P&R Committee 29 November 2012		
Report of:	Interim Lead: Chief Executive's Services		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Council's Corporate Plan 2011-15 sets out the priorities of tackling inequality, creating a more sustainable city and engaging people who live & work in the city. This includes support for a resilient and vibrant community & voluntary sector.
- 1.2 Cabinet on 19 January 2012 agreed to recognise the role of the discretionary grants programme in underpinning council's working relationship with, and sustainable success of, Brighton and Hove's third sector organisations. This included vision, criteria and process for Annual Grants 2012-13 and a full cycle of Three-Year Grant funding: Strategic & Annual 2013-16.
- 1.3 This report is part of the agreed decision-making process requesting decision on recommendations made by the cross party Member Advisory Group for allocation of Three Year Strategic Grant funding 2013-16 to community groups, voluntary organisations & not-for-profit social enterprise with an income of over £35,000 pa excluding council grant.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Members support the recommendations of the cross party Member Advisory Group and agree award of Three Year Strategic Grant 2013-16 to 69 applicant organisations, subject to recommendation 2.2 below, and that a further 10 applicant organisations receive an alternative package of support.
- 2.2 That the final decision of the level of grant award for each of the three years will be made at Budget Council for the relevant year.
- 2.3 To note that given the budget position of the Council grant recipients will be advised that payment of grant monies will be subject to the city council having available funds.

Please see Appendix 1: "Full Bid Recommendations".

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Decision on Three Year Strategic Grants 2013-16 is supported by a two stage application process defined as Outline & Full Bid stages. P&R Committee 12 July 2012 agreed to invite 80 of 103 Outline Bid applicants to Full Bid stage.

For key dates in the Full Bid process please see Appendix 2: "Decision Making Timetable"

- 3.2 79 of those organisations invited subsequently submitted Full Bids by the application deadline of 4 September 2012. A total of £2,148,355 pa 2013-16 has been requested. It is anticipated that the available budget will be £1,250,000 pa. (please see 5.1: Financial Implications).

The following appraisal process was undertaken for each application:

- **Initial eligibility check** covering nature of organisation, criteria fit & area of benefit
- **Technical appraisal** covering governance arrangements, finances / accounts & funding relationships with council / other major funders
- **Consultation with commissioners, service heads & specialist officers** to address the applicant organisation's wider strategic impact, equal opportunities, council links & partnership working etc. framed within 'discussion groups' and covering 18 specific service specialisms.

Please see Appendix 3: "Officer Engagement & Consultation"

- 3.3 Members of the Communities & Equality Team (CET) met with the Members Advisory Group for Grants (MAG) on 19 September 2012. MAG provides cross-party challenge & support in relation to the discretionary grants programme. MAG was thus asked to consider engagement & consultation so far. Broad themes emerged to help frame clear & coherent rationale for later recommendations:

- Need for key strategic investment / interventions around advice services, local infrastructure & provision of training / adult learning
- Opportunities to reflect council priorities such as promoting resident engagement, building community resilience & supporting independence
- Certain applicants would be best supported by an alternative package (including annual grant, in-kind and / or fundraising support & commissioner networks) which had proven value

- 3.4 Officer consultation progressed as above and CET / MAG met again on 18 October 2012. Using the strategic themes / priorities outlined & agreed at 3.3 above suggested recommendations on allocation of specific grant aid were considered. MAG noted:

- Need to ensure equitable provision of support across large-scale organisations, emerging consortia and smaller partners
- Value of grant in terms of core investment, potential for 'leverage' of additional monies & promotion of innovation

MAG also supported final recommendations to P&R Committee on each of the 79 Full Bids as at 2.1 above, outlined in Appendix 1 and summarised below:

- Three Year Strategic Grant 2013-16 **69**
- Alternative Support Package **10**

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Evaluation of process from previous Three Year Grant cycles documents substantial assurance from applicant organisations. Internal consultation with both Members and officers is described above in paragraph 3.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

The budget available for the Full Bids will be considered as part of the emerging budget strategy by Policy and Resources Committee and the amount for 2013/14 awards will be confirmed by Budget Council in February 2013. For the current three year grant programme which ends in April 2013 the amount allocated was £1.25 million pa. In the light of the Council's financial position, and the uncertainty of future funding over the three year period, grant recipients will be advised that their individual awards will be subject to the availability of funds. It is the intention to confirm the amount for each year of the three year period after Budget Council each year.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley – Head of Business Engagement
Date: 31/10/12*

5.2 Legal Implications:

Previous reports explained the revised vision for the discretionary grants programme and the updated eligibility criteria to reflect corporate priorities. The recommendations in the report accord with agreed policies and represent a reasonable approach. The form of grant agreement will reiterate the point set out in the recommendations that funding is not guaranteed and is subject to review at Budget Council meetings.

Lawyer Consulted: Bob Bruce - Principal Solicitor *Date: 30-10-12*

5.3 Equalities Implications:

Actions to promote equalities issues are prioritised in the vision & criteria for grant aid as outlined above.

Around half of the 18 service specialism groupings outlined at Appendix 3: Engagement & Consultation are aimed at increasing involvement, support and opportunities for people protected by the Equality Act 2010.

A number of Three Year Strategic Grant recommendations directly address & support equalities issues. In addition specialist annual grant schemes identified

as part of an alternative support package also address key council strategies in this regard.

Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the process to ensure no negative impact on 'protected characteristic groups' and to maximise positive impact. This included a focus on equal opportunities in the technical appraisal / officer consultation and a cumulative impact of the awards to organisations specifically targeting the 'protected characteristics groups'.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

Actions to promote sustainability issues are prioritised in the vision & criteria for grant aid as outlined above.

A number of Three Year Strategic Grant recommendations directly address sustainability issues. In addition specialist annual grant schemes identified as part of an alternative support package also address key council strategies in this regard.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

Actions to address crime & disorder issues are prioritised in the vision & criteria for grant aid as outlined above.

A number of Three Year Strategic Grant recommendations directly address crime & disorder issues. In addition specialist annual grant schemes identified as part of an alternative support package also address key council strategies in this regard.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

Promotion of opportunity is prioritised in the vision & criteria for grant aid outlined above. Mechanisms for the appropriate management of associated risk underpin outlined process and are acknowledged / addressed in the recommendations made.

In addition associated terms & conditions for each Three Year Strategic Grant 2013-16 will help manage risk & maximise opportunity around investment in both new ways of working as well as established models for delivery.

5.7 Public Health Implications:

Actions to address public health issues are prioritised in the vision & criteria for grant aid as outlined above.

A number of Three Year Strategic Grant recommendations directly address public health issues. In addition specialist annual grant schemes identified as part of an alternative support package also address key council strategies in this regard.

5.8 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

Recommendations made support a number of council priorities as outlined.
For example:

- Our Corporate Plan 2011-15
- Creating a City of Opportunities: a sustainable community strategy for Brighton & Hove

6. **EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

- 6.1 Alternative options have been considered and where appropriate identified as part of the consultation exercise outlined in this report.

7. **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Reasons for recommendations are documented throughout the appraisal process, outlined in this report & supported by the attached appendices.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Full Bid Recommendations
2. Decision Making Timetable
3. Officer Engagement & Consultation

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. na

Background Documents

1. Overview & Scrutiny Commission Report 13 December 2011 - The Future for Discretionary Grants 2012-13 & Beyond
2. Cabinet Report 19 January 2012 - The Future for Discretionary Grants 2012-13 & Beyond
3. P&R Committee Report 22 July - Three Year Strategic Grants: Decision on Outline Bid
4. BHCC Discretionary Grant: Vision, Criteria & Practical Examples
5. 'At a Glance' - Guide to Grants from Brighton & Hove City Council
6. Our Corporate Plan 2011-15
7. Creating a City of Opportunities: a sustainable community strategy for Brighton & Hove

