

CABINET

17 September 2008

CURRENT SCOPE OF COUNCIL GRANTS

REPORT OF HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION

Contact Officer: Antonia Perkins 01962 848 314 aperkins@winchester.gov.uk

RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB 1681: Community Revenue and Capital Grants - Review of Grant Process

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report sets out information requested by Cabinet on grants that are given by the City Council. It also identifies the opportunity to use alternative approaches to funding in some circumstances, including using a commissioning based approach to securing services from the voluntary and community sector.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That Cabinet notes the information provided on grants given throughout the City Council at Appendix 1.
- 2 That Cabinet agrees to further investigation by officers into developing a commissioning-based approach to grants in certain circumstances

CABINET

17 September 2008

CURRENT SCOPE OF COUNCIL GRANTS

REPORT OF HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1 Introduction

1.1 Following the report CAB 1681: Community Revenue and Capital Grants - Review of Grant Process, Cabinet asked officers to present in one document the range of grants that are made by the City Council to voluntary and community organisations. This report sets out what grants are given where in the Council and presents opportunities for investigating different ways of using grants to secure good outcomes for the District.

2 Definitions used in report

2.1 For the purpose of this report, the following definitions will be used, which will help discriminate grants to voluntary and community sector (VCS) bodies from other third party payments made by the Council:

- Grants: A payment to a third party by the Council is considered to be a grant if the following two criteria both apply:
 - The Council sets eligibility for the payment and sets the framework of priorities in which the payment will be made;
 - The VCS organisation applying for the grant does so with a proposal for a specific project, or it sets out the core business that the grant will fund.
- Voluntary and community sector: organisations which are non-profit distributing, non-statutory, autonomous and may be charitable. Employees may be paid, but the governing body is made up of volunteers. These organisations are also known as 'third sector' organisations.

2.2 Therefore for the majority of cases, grants currently given by the Council require the grant recipient to design the service or project which the grant will contribute towards delivering.

2.3 The definition of "Grant" excludes where a VCS body has had to go to tender to provide a service (for example the Dial-A-Ride service).

2.4 However, for the purpose of this report, and to show where the same body receives multiple resource from different areas in the Council, this definition

will include circumstances where a VCS body is paid to provide a specific service, focussed on a particular area or group of people in the District (for example SCRATCH providing a removal service for supported tenants).

- 2.5 There are also several occasions (principally related to the Planning - Environmental Improvement Grants) where an external body is grant aided to provide an additional resource for the City Council to call on. For example, a grant is given to the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) to support projects in the District. The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre is also given a contribution so that the City Council can use it as a resource for biodiversity information, addressing an area which the Council currently does not resource.
- 2.6 Appendix 1 sets out the grants given by the City Council which meet the definition in 2.1, including the exceptions to the definition described above.

3 Commissioning

- 3.1 A wide range of grants given by the City Council has been identified in Appendix 1. Decisions to grant aid are recommended to Members only if applicant groups meet eligibility criteria. Given that there are always more applications for funding than there is funding available, Members have the opportunity to determine the relative priority of different activities and outcomes by those they chose to support. Grant recipients are monitored to ensure that the money is used to secure good outcomes for the community, in line with the Community Strategy. However it is for the applicant to organise and manage a project or service using the Council's funding within the terms of the grant.
- 3.2 This overview of grants presents opportunities to look at different ways of funding activities, projects and services in the District which are not delivered by statutory agencies, or which might be improved if delivered in a different way. This could involve moving towards a commissioning-based approach for certain grants which would allow the City Council to identify in advance an outcome that needs to be delivered to meet a particular need identified by the Council and its partners and then to actively invite grant applications to achieve that outcome through a project or service.
- 3.4 An example of how this approach could work in practice could relate to the Older Person's Action plan:

The Winchester District Older People Partnership has identified that there is a significant number of older people being admitted to hospital following slips and trips in their homes. Addressing this is a priority in the Older People Partnership Action Plan. In order to make a contribution to addressing this issue, the City Council agrees to use its grant funding to fund a particular project that will involve a voluntary sector organisation working with older people in sheltered housing, providing them with new slippers to avoid accidental slips and raising awareness of how falls can be prevented. Voluntary sector organisations are invited to apply to receive grant funding to

undertake this project. In such an instance some of the funding might be provided by the Council and some by equally interested partner agencies such as health or adult services.

- 3.5 A key aspect of any commissioning-based approach is making the most of local intelligence and research into community need. It therefore makes sense to work through the Winchester District Strategic Partnership and the City Council's partners when researching and developing this approach. Working with partners will also provide the opportunity to influence where partners fund services, ensuring that there is no duplication of funding and the most can be made of the funds available. This approach would not mean partners making decisions on City Council spending. However, it would make the most of their research into community needs and help align spending to address them. This way of working will have the added benefit of strengthening partnership working to deliver the Community Strategy.
- 3.6 Whilst looking at commissioning as a way to secure outcomes for the community via the VCS, it is important that a mix of funding is maintained, i.e. commissioning services from the VCS should be *in addition to* a programme of grants and voluntary sector core business funding, not instead of a programme of grants. The voluntary sector Compact which Winchester City Council has signed up to commits partners to "being clear about how the range of funding (grants, contracts or service level agreements) will be used to support different activities" and states that partners need to offer a mix of funding that reflects the diverse needs of voluntary and community organisations. (One Compact for Hampshire - <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/compact/cx-pu-cpt-hampcompact.htm>).
- 3.7 If Cabinet is minded to explore the opportunities that taking on a commissioning-based approach to some grant funds might bring, officers will further investigate the best way to do this that involves the least amount additional processes but secures good outcomes for the community. This development work will also need to involve representatives from the voluntary sector to ensure that the City Council has a good understanding of best practice elsewhere and what would be possible for the Winchester District.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

The grants listed in this report all contribute to achieving the following Corporate Strategy priorities through working with the voluntary and community sector.

- A High Quality Environment
- Safe and Strong Communities
- Economic Prosperity

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

6 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

7 APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – List of grants given by Winchester City Council

Revenue grants					
Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome	Division	Grant	Beneficiary	Amount £ 000s pa	Comment
		Community Revenue Grant	Voluntary and Community Groups	563	See below for list of recipients for 08/09
Health and Wellbeing	Cultural Services	Theatre Royal (separate budget line)	Theatre Royal	200	An Informal Scrutiny Group has been set up to look at this grant in detail
High Quality Environment	Environment	Planning (Environmental Improvement Grants)	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (restoration of St Faiths water meadows)	7	
			Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (wardening Winnall Moors and St Faiths)	10.5	
			Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre	8	
			Itchen Navigation Project	10	£10k pa for five years. 0809 is year three
			British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	5.5	
			South Downs Joint Committee	11	
	Partnerships and Communications	Core funding for Winchester Action on Climate Change	Winchester Action on Climate Change	18	18k pa core funding for three years commencing in 2008-2009.
Inclusive Society	Landlord Services	Removals organised for supported tenants	Scratch	10	
		Independent money advice to tenants in arrears	Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau	21	Also a key client for Community Revenue Grants
		Independent money advice to tenants in arrears	Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau	4	Also receive a Community Revenue Grant

		Independent mediation to resolve neighbour disputes	Winchester Mediation Service	10	
	Partnership and Communications	Meals on Wheels	Contribution towards HCC service	21	
			GRAND TOTAL	899	

Capital / one off projects					
Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome	Division	Grant	Beneficiary	Amount £ 000s pa	Comment
All	Partnerships and Communications	Community Capital Grant	Community groups (not parish councils)	80	
		Community Chest	Community Groups	10	£500 per grant. This is top sliced each year from the Community Revenue Grant budget
		Twinning Grants	Twinning Associations	1	£500 per grant. This budget is finite and applicants can bid against it until it runs out
High Quality Environment	Partnerships and Communications	Biodiversity grants	Community Groups	2	£500 per grant
		Carbon reduction grants	Community Groups	5	£500 per grant
	Strategic Planning	Village/Neighbourhood Design Statements	Groups undertaking a VDS/NDS. Funding used to publish document	15	Up to £1000 at each publication stage so £2000 per group. £15k pa was agreed for three years starting 0708
Inclusive Society	Partnerships and Communications	Community Planning grants	Community Groups	10	£500 per group
	Access and Infrastructure	Rural Transport capital grant	Various. 07/08 beneficiaries were New Alresford Town trust, WACA, South Wonston Parish Council	50	

CAB 1701
Appendix 1

Economic Prosperity	Cultural Services	Ad hoc	Cathedral Christmas markets (enabling infrastructure)	15	From LABGI budget. Paid 50% Sept 2006, 50% Jan 2007
		Ad hoc	Kiri te Kanawa concert	3	From LABGI budget. Offered Feb 2008
		Ad hoc	West Meon Community Shop	5	Paid Jan 07 from Economic Development Budget
		Ad hoc	Bishops Waltham Festival	1	Paid September 07 from Economic Development budget. Also receive a Community Revenue Grant
		Ad hoc	English Project	10	From LABGI budget
		Ad hoc	Art and Mind Festival	1	LABGI (TBC)
			GRAND TOTAL	208	

Community Revenue Grant clients			
Organisation	Main budget	Town/Art/CX a/c	Art Budget
Age Concern Winchester	£1,500	£290	
Bishops Waltham CAB	£42,463		
Bishops Waltham Festival	£2,500		
Carroll Youth Centre	£5,500	£500	
Deafplus	£1,000	£200	
English Project			
Hatfair	£30,425	3,468	
Havant & District CAB	£1,480		
Homestart Meon Valley	£12,000		
Homestart Winchester & Districts	£4,500	£500	
KIDS/SNAPS	£1,500		
Nightshelter - Winchester Churches Nightshelter	£3,600	£400.00	
Olive Branch (The)	£1,000	£100.00	
Relate	£4,000	£500	
Signature Care and Support (Victoria House)	£4,500		
Stanmore Combined	£500	£500	
Streetreach - Winchester Detached Youth Project	£8,000	£1,350	
Tower Replacement Programme	£21,000	4,000	
Trinity Centre	£90,296	£3,723	
WACA	£104,946		
Wickham Youth Club	£860		

Winchester CAB	£123,254	£9,690	
Winchester Churches Housing Grp Ltd (Keystone)	£6,000		
Winchester Festival	£2,800	£200	
Winchester Festival of Art and the Mind			
Winchester Folk Festival (WinMAD)	£900	£100	
Winchester Live at Home Scheme	£6,000	£550	
Winchester Mencap	£1,000	£500	
Winchester Rent Deposit Scheme	£1,000		
Winchester Rural Youth Theatre (Theatre Royal)	£7,500		£2,500
Winchester Savers	£7,500		
Winchester Young Carers	£1,900	£200	
Winchester Youth Counselling	£2,750	£250	
Winnall Community Centre Playscheme	£5,000	£500	
Winnall Rock School	£5,000	£500	
Winnall Youth Club	£1,400	£100	
Community Chest Grant	£10,000		
Total	£523,574	£28,121	£2,500
GRAND TOTAL	554,195		