

CABINET

9 December, 2009

COMMUNITY REVENUE GRANT KEY CLIENT STATUS

REPORT OF HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
IMPROVEMENTS

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB 1340 – Review of Revenue Grant Process – 15th November 2006

CAB 1400 – Community Grants Revenue Awards 2007/08– 13th February 2007

CAB 1681 – Community Revenue and Capital Grants Review of Grant Process – 9th
July 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report seeks approval for the award of 'key client' status to be renewed for a further three years for current key clients.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That Cabinet approves the award of 'key client' status to the following organisations:
 - (i) Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau
 - (ii) Hat Fair
 - (iii) Trinity Winchester
 - (iv) Winchester Area Community Action
 - (v) Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At present there are five organisations designated as 'key clients', Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau, Hat Fair, Trinity Winchester, Winchester Area Community Action, and Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau.
- 1.2 These organisations were awarded 'key client' status in February 2007 for three years from 1st April, 2007, to 31st March, 2010.

2 Definition of 'Key Client' Status

- 2.1 A 'Key Client' is an organisation that:
 - (i) Delivers projects which meet Council priorities
 - (ii) Specifically targets the needs of the most vulnerable within the District
 - (iii) Works in partnership with the City Council
 - (iv) Has a high profile within the District and reaches large numbers of beneficiaries.
- 2.2 Benefits of 'Key Client' Status
 - (i) Being publicly identified by WCC as having a significant impact in the locality.
 - (ii) Stability of funding over a three year period
 - (iii) Improved staff retention due to greater job security
 - (iv) Potential to increase funding opportunities through match funding
- 2.3 Eligibility for 'Key Client' Status
 - (i) Already be in receipt of a revenue grant or have received grant funding from WCC for a period of more than 5 consecutive years.
 - (ii) Be in receipt of revenue grant of £10,000 and above.

3. Consideration of Applications for 'Key Client' Status

- 3.1 Six groups were invited to present their case for consideration as a 'Key Client' to an IMOG held on 21st October. These groups comprised, Bishops Waltham

Citizens Advice Bureau, Hat Fair, Home-Start Meon Valley, Trinity Winchester, Winchester Area Community Action, and Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau.

- 3.2 It was recommended that all five of the current 'key client' holders should have their status renewed.
- 3.3 It was considered that although the work of Home Start Meon Valley was of great value within its locality it did not have sufficient reach across the Winchester District to warrant the award of 'key client' status.

4. Implications of Designation as a 'Key Client'

- 4.1 The level of community revenue grant will be agreed at a set level over a three year period from 1st April, 2010 to 31st March, 2013.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

5 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN (RELEVANCE TO):

- 5.1 The revenue grants scheme helps address many of the Council's priorities for the District and in particular Health and Wellbeing, Safe and Strong Communities, Economic Prosperity, High Quality Environment, and Inclusive Society outcomes.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The budget for community revenue grants for next year has not yet been confirmed but there are no additional resource implications as a result of this report.
- 6.2 The recommended level of community revenue grant to be awarded to each of the 'key client' organisations will be discussed in a further report which will be presented to Cabinet in February, 2010.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 7.1 Key client status results in a 3 year commitment whereby the Council agrees to provide funding in Years 2 and 3 which is at least the amount awarded in Year 1. This reduces the Council's flexibility in future use of the revenue grants budget but this disadvantage is considered to be outweighed by the advantages of funding stability for these organisations leading to better service provision for local people.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

APPENDICES: None.