

# Scrutiny Committee report



Listening Learning Leading

Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

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To: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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## AGENDA ITEM NO 5

## Revenue Grant Policy 2013/14 – 2016/17

### Recommendation

That the scrutiny committee reviews the draft revenue grant policy for 2013/14 – 2016/17 and makes comments to Cabinet.

### Purpose of Report

1. To consider a new revenue grant policy for 2013/14 - 2016/17.

### Strategic Objectives

2. The revenue grant policy will contribute to the council's strategic objective to offer support for communities.

### Background

3. The council currently offers a total of £420,486 to 26 voluntary organisations. These grants were approved by cabinet in 2009 for a period of three years and 2012-13 is the third and final year of these grants.
4. The aim of these grants was to provide ongoing financial support to help cover the core costs of each organisation to enable them to provide effective services for local communities within the boundaries of the council's own strategic objectives.
5. The council recently approved new strategic objectives therefore it is an appropriate time to review the revenue grant policy and subsequently the organisations that the council provides grants to.

6. The council's 2012 - 2016 corporate plan has a corporate priority to offer grants to voluntary and community organisations who are delivering projects and services that support our objectives or those in need. It is unlikely that any voluntary organisation will be able to apply purely based on supporting our own objectives and it would not be appropriate to open a scheme based purely on the level of need. Therefore, a draft revenue grant policy for 2013/14 – 2016/17 is attached at appendix 1 and suggests three new grant priorities.

## **Matters for consideration**

7. The draft revenue grant policy for 2013/14 – 2016/17 is attached at appendix A and includes a suggestion of three new grant priorities.
8. These draft priorities are towards provision of advice and/or care services or that help to prevent or reduce anti-social behaviour in the district.
9. The draft grant priorities have been formulated based on the current high demand from residents for these types of service which is evidenced from monitoring of the currently funded organisations (listed in appendix B).
10. Other priorities such as young people, the environment, recreation, energy saving and others were considered but it was felt that the priorities of advice, care and the prevention of anti-social behaviour in the district will have an overarching benefit to those most in need in the area.
11. In addition, the new policy suggests extending the approval of the grant awards from the current three year period to four years.

## **Financial Implications**

12. The policy has been developed assuming the current budget of £420,000 will be made available for revenue grants for 2013/14 – 2016/17.

## **Legal Implications**

13. The Council's legal powers for awarding these grants are contained in section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 and section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

## **Risks**

14. There are no risks associated with this report.

## **Conclusion**

15. The revenue grant policy for 2013/14 – 2016/17 has been developed in line with the corporate priority to offer grants to voluntary and community organisations who are delivering projects and services that support our objectives or those in need. The addition of specific grant priorities that will make it clear to organisations what type of services the council is likely to fund and by extending the award period to four years will offer increased financial security to the funded organisations.

## **Background Papers**

- Cabinet report 5 March 2009 Review of Revenue Grant Scheme