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Report of: Laraine Manley
Report to: Cabinet
Date of Decision: 21st September 2017
Subject: Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Strategy 2017-2020

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
- Affects 2 or more Wards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? Cabinet Member for Libraries and Community Services		
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? <i>Safer & Stronger Communities</i>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? EIA 943		
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of Report:

This report seeks approval for a new three-year grant funding strategy for Sheffield's voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector from the Council's corporate grant aid budget for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2020. The strategy will replace the current corporate grant aid arrangements which operate an annual cycle of grant awards.

The intention behind the strategy is to be clearer about how the Council wishes to use its limited grant aid to achieve a mix of grant award opportunities for the local

VCF sector. It aims to:

- ensure that there is a stable, multi-year position on the Council's grant funding available to support services and activities provided by the local VCF sector.
- deliver on a previously agreed review of the structure, processes and criteria of grant aid and better align its priorities to support outcomes within in Council's Corporate Plan, Sheffield's Poverty Strategy and Better Health and Wellbeing Strategy (People Keeping Well in their Community).
- allow the opportunity for additional Council resources, that currently support the VCF, to be allocated and complement the new grant aid proposals.

To respond to the challenges the city faces requires a range of partners working together, with the people of Sheffield. No one organisation or sector can deliver that solution alone. The VCF sector is a key partner at a neighbourhood and city level in identifying solutions to the numerous challenges, by supporting communities to develop connections and promoting inclusivity. Many VCF services and activities are complementary to council delivery and help to achieve the corporate plan deliveries and outcomes.

Even in these financially challenging times it is important to ring-fence a budget of both medium to large grants awarded to the voluntary sector at city-wide level and will complement the local smaller grants of the Ward Pots.

The city-wide investment that the council makes in the VCF sector helps to release a volunteer dividend and also enables VCF organisations to lever in additional resources.

The recent Sheffield State of the Voluntary and Community Sector 2016 report¹ estimated that the sector contributes £487 million to the Sheffield economy each year and £323M of this figure is volunteer time. 261,600 hours of volunteer time are contributed per week in the city and each year there are 7.2 million interventions with clients, users or beneficiaries.

Having a more stable, multi-year position affords the Council the opportunity to offer greater financial stability to the sector through multi-year grant funding agreements. The sector has previously stated that agreements beyond one year would provide more security and allow a greater opportunity and impact for their services.

Recommendations:

¹ Sheffield State of the Voluntary and Community Sector 2016: A report on social and economic impact, Sheffield Hallam University

Cabinet is requested, having had due regard to the provisions of Sections 149 and 158 of the Equality Act 2010 and Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and to the issues raised within those provisions, to endorse a three-year year grant funding strategy for Sheffield's voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector from the Council's corporate grant aid budget for the period 2017 to 2020, as described in this report.

In particular Cabinet is asked to:

1. approve the grant aid budget and grant fund structure for 2017-2020 as detailed at paragraph 4 and contained in Appendix 3 and Table 1 (para 4.1).
 - 1.1. Whilst the total grant aid budget is subject to approval by full Council each financial year the Executive Director of Resources has advised that a minimum figure can be guaranteed for the subsequent budgets in years 2 and 3 based on 80% and 75% respectively of the total budget in year 1.
 - 1.2. The actual budgets in years 2 and 3 will depend on what is agreed at full Council at the annual budget discussions, so may be more but not less than the guaranteed minimum up to a maximum of 100% of the award.
2. agree the principle of offering three-year grant awards for all successful grant applicants as standard, offered on the basis that in years 2 and 3 grant recipients are guaranteed a minimum of 80% and 75% of the value of the initial award in year 1.
 - 2.1. Note: an exception to this proposal are the grant awards made from the Lunch Club Fund, which will be awarded for 2 years as it is proposed that this funding will be reviewed during 2018-19 (see below).
 - 2.2. Note: in all cases, the relevant delegated decision maker will retain the discretion to award single year grants or multi-year grants of less than 3 years if circumstances warrant it and there is a clear rational for doing so.
 - 2.3. The actual value of the grant awards in years 2 and 3 of any multi-year agreements will depend on what is agreed at full Council. If the Grant Aid budget in years 2 and 3 allows for awards of more than the guaranteed minimum, an increase to the award will be automatically applied equally (in % terms) across all existing multi-year agreement recipients.
3. approve the list of organisations prioritised for a Core Service Grants to start from April 2017 as detailed in Appendix 4 and the process for agreeing the value and length of each grant funding agreement.
4. agree a minimum and maximum range of £850,000 to £876,000 for the value of the strategic Core Service Grant to Sheffield Citizen's Advice, included in Appendix 3 and delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Community Services to enable them to exercise their discretion, within the range, to agree

actual grant award value to start from April 2017.

5. approve the proposals at section 1.4, to establish and deliver two new open Grant Funds – the Infrastructure Grant Fund of circa £190,000 and the Tackling Inequalities Fund of circa £107,674 and their eligibility criteria detailed in Appendix 5.
6. approve the proposals outlined at section 1.8 and Appendix 6 to establish and deliver the Lunch Club Fund totalling £189,000, which combines financial support to individual lunch clubs and infrastructure support specific to lunch club development with a review this funding pot during 2018-19 in order to consider how this funding could better support the outcomes of the People Keeping Well in their Community Partnerships within the city.
7. approve the proposals at paragraph 1.5.10, to establish a Grant Recommendation Panel, who will consider appropriately delegated officer assessments of applications to all open Grant Funds within the new Grand Aid structure and to make recommendations to the relevant decision maker for individual grant awards.
8. agree to transfer £14,000 from the Grant Aid budget permanently to the City Centre Management team to commission a mobility scheme for the city centre.
9. agree to transfer £30,000 from the Grant Aid budget permanently to the Head of Libraries and Community Services to support the delivery of community cohesion work.
10. authorise the Executive Director of Communities to agree, in consultation with Legal Services, the terms of any funding agreements or other agreements entered into by the Council in relation to awards from the new Fund.
11. take specific note of a shift in the decision making route of individual grant awards from the Grant Aid budget which will apply until 2020. Previously the Leader's Scheme of Delegation was not used and Cabinet approved all awards over £20,000. To progress with applications and awards in a timely manner and for continuity of funding arrangements where it is needed, the decision making routes for all grant awards made from the Grant Aid budget will default to adhering to the relevant delegations outlined in the Leaders Scheme.

In short, this means:

- the Executive Director of Communities has the delegated authority to decide all grant awards from the Grant Aid budget up to the value of £49,999, in

consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Services

- the Cabinet Member for Community Services has the delegated authority to decide all grant awards from the Grant Aid budget of over £50,000.

When making grant award decisions the appropriate decision maker will adhere to all relevant grant processes agreed in this report and act in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegations.

Note: for multi-year agreements, the grant value levels above apply to the total maximum amount that could be awarded over the length of the grant agreement. For example, if an award is £10,000 for one year and the agreement is for 3 years the total maximum value of the award would be £30,000.

The delegations outlined in the Leader's Scheme also apply when agreeing the amounts, purposes and recipients of any individual grants awarded from the grant aid budget during 2017-18 to 2019-20 including any additional sums received or returned or unpaid grants. They also apply when considering the withdrawal of grants where; (a) a change of circumstance affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded or (b) the relevant decision maker considers the performance of the organisation to be below an acceptable standard or (c) an organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement.

12. agree the indicative figures for each of the new grant aid funds. As the grants award from each fund are finalised, as per timetable, in paragraph 1.4.2 this will affect the amount of funding available for the Tackling Inequalities and Better Health & Wellbeing fund and the remaining money will become that fund. Cabinet is asked to authorise the delegation of allocating available money in the open fund to the Executive Director of Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Services. Using the recommendation panel as appropriate and in line with authorisation limits.

13. note that, for the three-year period that this strategy applies the Equality and Fairness Grants and the BME Older People's fund will be administered using the grant process proposed in this paper but budgets will still be held by the current budget holders.

Background Papers:

(Insert details of any background papers used in the compilation of the report.)

February 2016 Grant Aid Cabinet Report

<http://sheffielddemocracy.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=5951>

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: Liz Gough
		Legal: Henry Watmough-Cownie
		Equalities: Liz Tooke
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	EMT member who approved submission:	Laraine Manley
3	Cabinet Member consulted:	Cllr Jack Scott
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: Alex Shilkoff	Job Title: Community Services Manager: Voluntary Sector Development and Relationships
	Date: September 2016	

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 This report outlines a new three-year grant funding strategy for Sheffield's voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector from the Council's grant aid budget for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2020. The strategy is borne out of a review of Council Corporate Grant Aid requested by Cabinet in February 2014. The review which looked at Grant Aid structure, criteria and processes along with a wider assessment of how the Council invests in the VCF, continued this year and culminated with consultation events with VCF in summer 2016.

1.2 Grant Aid Budget 2017-2020

1.2.1 The proposed Grant Aid budget for 2017-18 is £1,620,100, subject to approval of the Council budget in March 2017.

1.2.2 The Executive Director of Resources has advised that a minimum figure can be guaranteed in years 2 and 3 of this strategy based on 80% and 75% of the budget in year one respectively as per the following table.

Table 1	Year 1 2017-18	Year 2 2018-19 (guaranteed minimum)	Year 3 2019-20 (guaranteed minimum)
Main Grant Aid budget	£1,620,100	£1,296,080	£1,215,075
Equality & Fairness Grants (Equality Hub Development & Support)	75,000	75,000	75,000
BME Older People's Activity Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000
TOTAL	1,725,100	1,401,080	1,320,075

1.2.3 The actual budget in years 2 and 3 will depend on what is agreed at Council following the annual budget discussions so may be more than the guaranteed minimum

1.2.4 The Equality & Fairness grants and BME Older People's grants will be 100% in all 3 years. The Lunch Club fund will be 100% for years 1 & 2 and then

reviews for year 3. This brings the total available to the voluntary sector to £1,725,100 in 2017/18.

1.3 Multi-year Funding Agreements

1.3.1 Central to this three-year strategy is a move away from the existing annual cycle of grant giving to the introduction of multi-year grant agreements as standard. It is intended that the majority of grant funding awarded will be for three years. However, where there is a clear rationale for an exception to be made, grants may still be awarded for 1 or 2 years.

1.3.2 The benefits of the Council offering multi-year funding agreements are well known with the VCF repeatedly calling for their introduction because they provide:

- Improved stability and therefore ability to do better forward planning
- A more attractive offer to other funders if they can see there is some guaranteed income
- Time to develop ideas more strategically than a one-year agreement.

1.3.3 In line with proposals for the overall Grant Aid budget (see section 1.4), multi-year agreements will be offered on the basis that in years 2 and 3 grant recipients are guaranteed a minimum of 80% and 75% of the value of the award in year one respectively, in line with the overall budget. The actual value of the grant awards in years 2 and 3 will depend on what is agreed at full Council. If the Grant Aid budget in years 2 and 3 allows for awards of more than the guaranteed minimum it is intended that an increase to the minimum award will be automatically applied.

1.4 Structure of Grant Aid 2017-20

1.4.1 The proposed Grant Aid structure for 2017-2020 is illustrated in Appendix 3 and can be compared with a diagram of the existing structure also in Appendix 3. It is proposed that Grant Aid will offer four distinct funding streams made up of three separate grant funds; The Infrastructure Fund, the Tackling Inequalities and Better Health & Wellbeing Fund and the Lunch Club Fund and a cluster of individual grants called Core Service Grants.

There will also be two additional grant funds from other Council service budgets that complement what is being delivered by Grant Aid; the Equality Hub Fund and the BME Elders Fund that will run in parallel.

The new funding streams aim to strike a balance between providing an ongoing commitment to key services provided by the local VCF and providing wider access to grant opportunities through an advertised competitive grant process.

1.4.2

Fund	Application process	Application Forms available	Deadline	Decision	Funding Agreement finalised	Grant Award Starts (payment in advance)
Core Service Grants	Invitation to apply (up to 3 yr funding)	w/c 10 th Oct	21 st Nov	End Jan 2017	End Feb 2017	1 st April 2017
Infrastructure (incl. Equality Hub support)	Open Fund (up to 3 yr funding)	w/c 10 th Oct	21 st Nov	End Jan 2017	End Feb 2017	1 st April 2017
Lunch Club Fund (incl. BME Older People's fund)	Invitation to apply (up to 2 yr funding)	w/c 2 nd Jan 2017	31 st Jan 2017	End Feb 2017	March 2017	1 st April 2017
Tackling Inequalities	Open Fund (up to 3 yr funding)	Early 2017	March 2017	April 2017	April 2017	April 2017

1.5 Core Service Grants

1.5.1 The Council currently funds a number of services via grant aid that provide key services in the city and have therefore, been funded for many years. Whilst the Council has no statutory duty to commission these services, they are of high quality, great value to the city and support the Council's own objectives. Under the existing grant aid structure these organisations have received an annual Voluntary Sector Grants Fund (VSGF) grant.

1.5.2 The new structure provides the Council the opportunity to award, at its discretion, a small number of Core Service Grants from April 2017, which would prioritise a limited number of existing grant funded organisations providing them with a stable funding source for 3 years. The Council cannot

afford and indeed does not wish to commit ongoing funding to all of the existing VSGF recipients.

1.5.3 With this in mind, the Cabinet Member for Libraries and Community Services is proposing the 8 organisations listed in Appendix 4 are prioritised for continued funding via a Core Service Grant from April 2017. In formulating the list, the Cabinet Member considered a number of factors including, each organisation's track record, quality of service and management, value and fit with Council priorities, opportunities for income generation and accessing other funding, uniqueness of service and the degree of dependency, if any, the Council has on the services delivered.

1.5.4 The views of relevant commissioning and specialist officers were sought and consideration was given to whether alternative funding routes were available within the Council and elsewhere. The impact, both on communities of interest, in line with the Council's equality duties, and Council Services, was considered if funding was no longer available following the end of existing VSGF grant agreements in March 2017. The organisations' provided detailed impact forms which helped to inform these considerations as well as historical monitoring. Each organisation's potential for income generation and alternative sources of funding was also included as part of the evaluation.

1.5.5 Cabinet are asked to endorse the list of organisations prioritised to apply for a Core Service Grant detailed in Appendix 4. Following approval of this report each organisation will be asked to submit a proposal for grant funding which will include a 3-year service plan, budget and outcome measures.

These will be assessed by officers who will then formulate a grant funding recommendation to be considered by the Executive Director of Communities or the Cabinet Member for Libraries and Community Services as per the Leaders Scheme.

All grant decisions, including the value and length of each Core Service Grant will be published on the Council's website and will be subject to the relevant scrutiny procedure. Individual funding agreements will then be negotiated between officers and the successful organisations with the intention that the new Core Service Grants will begin from April 2017.

It should be noted that it is not the intention to simply roll forward the existing Voluntary Sector Grant Fund grant amounts that the organisations receive now into 2017. Each applicant will have their grant value reviewed as part of this application process. See the table at 1.4.2 for further timetable details.

1.5.6 Sheffield Citizen's Advice and Law Centre (SCA) is included in the list of organisations to be invited for a Core Service Grant. The Council has a clear commitment, as stated in the Corporate Plan, that a citywide advice service is critical to the city, in particular to address outcomes linked to the city's Poverty Strategy. In the current context of welfare reform and austerity the city having

a good quality advice service is essential. The current grant to Sheffield Citizens Advice is £876,000.

A grant of this size constitutes a key decision in itself and requires explicit Cabinet approval. It is proposed that Cabinet agree a minimum and maximum range of £850,000 to £876,000 for the value of this proposed Core Service Grant and then delegates authority to the Cabinet Member and Community Services to enable them to exercise their discretion, within this range, when agreeing the actual grant award following their application.

- 1.5.7 It is intended that all Core Service Grants will be awarded for three years. The exceptions to this are St Vincent de Paul and St Wilfred's. St Vincent de Paul's work has close links with the Local Assistance Scheme. Sheffield's Local Assistance Scheme is about to be reviewed and therefore it makes sense to assess the outcome of the review before entering into a longer-term agreement. Therefore, the proposal is to have a one year agreement with St Vincent de Paul that is reviewed and then suitable arrangements made following the review.
- 1.5.8 The indicative amount of grant aid identified for this cluster of Core Service Grants is £1,133,426. The budget is indicative to allow for flexibility when finalising the actual value of each Core Service Grant as outlined in paragraph 1.5.5 above.
- 1.5.9 During the process of prioritising organisations for Core Support Grants two opportunities were identified for transferring Grant Aid funding to other Council Services:
- It is proposed that the £14,000 currently grant aided to Shopmobility Sheffield be permanently transferred to the City Centre Management Team from April 2017. This transfer of funds recognises that a service of this kind is best commissioned rather than grant funded and that the City Centre Management Team are best placed to carry out the commissioning process. They are already exploring opportunities for any newly commissioned service to be match funded and have access to subsidised premises. Any commissioning process will dovetail into mobility arrangements for other city centre developments.
 - It is also proposed that £30,000 is transferred to the Head of Libraries and Community Services to deliver community cohesion work.
- 1.5.10 All awards made from the Infrastructure Fund and Tackling Inequalities Fund will be following recommendations from the Grants Advisory Panel to the Cabinet Member and Executive Director.

Having a Grants Advisory Panel allows for additional input from stakeholders

to the awards and gives the decision makers different perspectives. The Grants Advisory Panel will consider the application assessments carried out by officers and will make a grant recommendation for consideration by the appropriate decision maker. The Panel and will consist of the following:

- the Cabinet Member for Community Services (or the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Grant Aid provision) .
- up to three other Councillors
- The Executive Director of Communities (or named delegated representative)
- A representative of the VCF Sector (that has no conflict of interest), and / or other Funding Body
- Senior Officer from any council service that has added resource into the Grant Aid budget, to run a specific fund.
- Officers that have completed assessments will attend the panel to assist them in considering all the available information

Individuals may be invited with the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Community Services prior to the commencement of the first panel meeting. Terms of Reference for the Panel will be agreed prior to the first meeting.

1.6 Infrastructure Fund

1.6.1 This would be open to organisations that support the development of the voluntary sector to thrive and deliver by building capacity and capability in organisations and communities. There will be approximately £190,000 for this fund.

Infrastructure support is vital to a strong, well-managed voluntary sector that can adapt to a changing world. The Council's support for infrastructure organisations enables capacity building across the sector as a whole. The consultation helped to set the priorities / outcomes of this Fund as well as research in the 2016 Sheffield State of the Sector Report.

1.6.2

1.7 Tackling Inequalities Fund

1.7.1 This fund will support a small number of VCF organisations with existing service delivery where there is a proven track record and clear evidence of impact or to support new ideas where there is evidence to support need. The consultation helped to set the priorities of supporting marginalised and vulnerable groups for this fund. Awards will be recommended by the Grants Advisory Panel in line with the Terms of Reference at Appendix 7. There will be approximately £107,674 in this fund but the final amount will be dependent on the amounts allocated in the other funds.

1.7.2 Running in parallel with the Tackling Inequalities Fund will be the Fairness & Equality Grants to support the delivery and development of the Equality Hub

Network. The total available for this fund is £75,000 per year.

1.8 Lunch Club Fund

1.8.1 The decision to combine financial support to individual lunch clubs with the infrastructure support specific to lunch club development is a strategic one allowing grant investment in lunch club delivery and support to be considered as a whole. The total available for this fund is £189,000.

1.8.2 Grants to individual clubs will be extended and offered on a 2-years basis and then reviewed. This is to see how the People Keeping Well in their Community Partnerships develop and then see how this fund might further support those outcomes in the future. The lunch club development service will also be invited to put forward a two-year proposal.

1.8.3 Running alongside the Lunch Club Fund will be the BME Older People's Fund. This fund is for existing or new projects that help to deliver the People Keeping Well outcomes for BME Older People. Past experience indicates that Lunch Clubs have not always worked for all BME communities and this fund is to give BME VCF organisations that chance to try different activities that will still reduce loneliness and isolation and help people to make new friends and connections. The total available for this fund is £30,000.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

2.1 The allocation of this funding to VCF organisations will fundamentally contribute to the Priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-18. In particular; Tackling Inequalities and Better Health & Wellbeing

In addition, the allocation of this funding will contribute to the Fairness Commission's recommendations around -

- Health & Wellbeing for All
- Fair Access to High Quality Jobs and Pay
- Fair Access to Benefits and Credit
- Housing and a Better Environment
- A Safe City
- What Citizens and Communities can do

2.2 Delivery of this three year strategy will mean grant funding will continue to be available to support activities and services that will directly benefit a wide range of vulnerable local citizens. Beneficiaries from the proposed Core Service Grants detailed in Appendix 4, the Lunch Club Fund and the BME Elders Fund will include the following groups of vulnerable local people –

- Those in need of advice and advocacy services
- Households in financial need
- Older people including BME Older People
- Homeless people

- Ethnic minority women
- Refugees, asylum seekers and new arrivals
- Mental health / learning disability service users
- Street drinkers

2.3 This range of beneficiaries is likely to broaden further as the new Tackling Inequalities Fund begins awarding grants from early 2017-18. The consultation has informed these priorities and will give organisations not previously funded through Grant Aid the opportunity to apply.

2.3.1 The beneficiaries of the new Infrastructure and Fairness & Equality Grants are anticipated to be a wide range of VCF groups in the city and we will ask for the four priorities in the consultation to be the outcomes. The Fairness & Equality Grants will support the delivery and development of the city's 7 equality hubs and give under-represented groups in Sheffield a voice on issues that matter to them and influence on decisions that affect them.

2.3.2 All grant recipients will be asked to monitor service use, evidence positive impact on beneficiaries, provide a diversity profile of their service users and report how they manage their user consultation and involvement.

2.3.3 The recommendation to transfer current Grant Aid investment of £14,000 into Shopmobility Sheffield to City Centre Management, in order for them to commission a new mobility scheme for the city centre means a continued support for adults with limited mobility who are unable to get out and about to engage in activities and services.

2.3.4 It is proposed that funding that has currently supported cohesion outcomes will be transferred to the Community Services Manager for Cohesion to commission relevant work from the VCF sector that supports cohesion outcomes. £30,000 will be transferred from the city-wide grant aid budget for this purpose.

2.3.5 The majority of grants to be awarded within the strategy will also:

- encourage significant opportunities for local people to contribute to the wellbeing of their communities by engaging in volunteering. They will support organisations providing quality training and the opportunity to gain experience that will enhance volunteers' skills and employability.
- enable local people to engage in active citizenship as trustees and management committee members shaping and guiding the development of these organisations and the services they provide.
- provide employment opportunities for local people by helping to sustain organisations that employ paid staff.

3.0 HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

3.1 Summaries of the 2014 is on the council website and a summary of the 2016 consultation will be published shortly at <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/in-your-area/grants/grantsfund.html>. Details can be found at 5.3 of how the consultation has informed the proposals. Details of the consultation will also be made available to prospective applicants where it may help them design their proposals.

3.2 In addition to the engagement already completed ongoing support will be available. Libraries & Community Services will provide support and guidance on completing the forms for all applicants and will work with a VCF sector partner to support groups in building up evidence of their impact that can be used for applications to this fund and their own service development.

4.0 RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

Equality of Opportunity Implications

4.1.1 Overall the impact of the proposals will be positive. However, new applications will have to be assessed for impact when they are submitted. This means that all organisations will be asked to demonstrate their anticipated impact for different groups in the city. Due to the size of the open application pot not all currently funded organisations will continue to be funded beyond their current agreements to 31/3/2017.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2.1 There could be a reduction over the 3 years in line with the above described minimum guarantees of 80% in year 2 and 75% in year 3 of the year 1 budget. Where possible 100% of the year 1 amount will be funded in years 2 and 3.

4.2.2 Some organisations currently funded will not continue to be funded and some will have a reduction in grant. Others will benefit from a longer term agreement which may be more or less than their current award.

4.2.3 The new grant awards will be in line with criteria prioritised for grants and will provide an opportunity for organisations not currently funded to apply for grants.

4.2.4 All grants awarded will be monitored and funds withheld if the agreed terms and conditions are not met or if the money is not used in accordance with the application.

4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 The legal power for the Council to establish, administer and make awards from the various grant funds as described in this report is provided by the general

power of competence contained in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. Subject to certain statutory restrictions, none of which apply in this case, Section 1 gives the Council “power to do anything that individuals generally may do”.

4.3.2 In considering this report Cabinet must be mindful of the requirements imposed by the public sector equality duty enacted in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Some of the proposals in this report involve the taking of action to assist persons sharing ‘protected characteristics’ within the meaning of the 2010 Act to overcome or minimise disadvantage or otherwise meet their needs. This is permitted by Section 158 of the 2010 Act. More details are set out above in section 4.1 of this report.

4.3.3 Cabinet must also have due regard to the likely effect of the proposals on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending in its area (Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998).

4.4 Other Implications

(Refer to the Executive decision making guidance and provide details of all relevant implications, e.g. HR, property, public health).

No Human Resources or Property implications

4.4.1 The grant aid money will contribute to the delivery of Public Health priorities in the city, including tackling health inequalities. In terms of current Public Health priorities the proposals would particularly support improvements for Sheffield people relating to:

- Access to Services; helping those with the greatest needs access services
- Social and economic factors; particularly supporting people into education

Mental Wellbeing; especially helping reduce isolation and improve people’s sense of control

5.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 The current grants regime has been running since 2012. Since then there has been a new corporate plan and the context public services, including the voluntary sector operates in has been changing. There is a desire to open up opportunities for different groups to offer their ideas and support them with grant aid.

The council could have run an entirely advertised pot. However, there are some groups that strategically it makes sense to continue to support with grant aid because of their links to council services and corporate outcomes. It is preferable for the council to be clear about intentions in this regard rather than have an entirely advertised pot.

- 5.2 The council could have run an entirely invite pot. However, this would have excluded new organisations and / or new ideas for the grant aid fund.
- 5.3 The consultation has helped to refine the proposals. The responses to the consultation have given a steer to the following decisions:
- Agreements will be for 3-years, unless a sound reason for them to be shorter
 - If a fund is over-subscribed then rather than splitting money across multiple organisations the strongest applications will be awarded the full amount asked for
 - Have a VCF representative on recommendation panels where no conflict of interest is presented
 - The priorities for the infrastructure fund were broadly even, so infrastructure organisations will be asked to consider how best to meet all four priorities
 - The fund will be prioritised for work with the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in the city
 - Organisations previously receiving money from this fund can still apply
 - Feedback will inform how outcome measures are agreed with successful applicants.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0

- 6.1 The proposed grant aid structure of a mixture of invites and advertised funds allows the council to ask prioritised groups to come forward with ideas for how they could use a 3-year grant award to continue and develop their services and the benefits to Sheffield people; as well as giving an opportunity for new ideas or groups not funded before to come forward with ideas that they believe will have a positive impact for Sheffield people.
- 6.2 The priorities link to the Corporate Plan outcomes and emphasis on demonstrating impact in the application forms and monitoring will help assure value for money.