

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS AND FUNDING 2018/19

Report of the: Head of Housing & Community
Contact: Serena Powis
Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:
Annexes/Appendices (attached): **Annexe 1** - Proposed support for Voluntary Organisations 2018/19.
Other available papers (not attached):

Report summary

This report considers the general future support of voluntary organisations in 2018/19.

Recommendation (s)

- (1) That the Committee approves the proposed support for voluntary organisations in 2018/19, as detailed in Annexe 1 to this report.**

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.1 This report links to the Council's Key Priority "Supporting our Community". It also relates to the Core Values of "Openness" and "Integrity".

2 Background

- 2.1 The Council provides support to a range of voluntary organisations in Epsom and Ewell in order to maintain and improve the quality of life for residents and in particular, to support some of the more vulnerable sectors of our community.
- 2.2 This report is brought to the Community and Wellbeing Committee recognising the continued pressure on the Council's finances in the medium term and the need to secure good value for money in all of our activities.
- 2.3 The Council currently supports the following bodies:

Community and Wellbeing Committee

20 March 2018

2.3.1 Age Concern Epsom & Ewell

2.3.2 Citizens Advice Bureau Epsom & Ewell

2.3.3 Voluntary Action Mid-Surrey

2.3.4 RELATE Mid Surrey

2.3.5 The Sunnybank Trust

Please note that “Carers of Epsom” ceased to exist from September 2017.

2.4 Detailed in **Annexe 1** is the full breakdown of the current support provided to voluntary organisations. The proposed level of support for 2018/19 is detailed in green text within the Annexe.

2.5 The cash grant budgets for 2017/18 are as follows:

2.5.1 CAB = £74,115

2.5.2 VAMS = £7,989

2.6 The level of support proposed for 2018/19 is the same as that provided in 2017/18. It should be noted that the cash grant element (detailed in 2.5 above) makes up only £82,000 of the overall support package, which totals in the order of £196,000 for 2018/19. Details of the proposed overall support package (such as the usage of Council accommodation) is detailed within **Annexe 1**.

2.7 New licences were issued with effect from 1 April 2017 and expire on 31 March 2020. The Notional Rent and Service Charges have been combined as one overall figure as shown in green in the second column in **Annexe 1**.

2.8 Licences comprise the agreements between EEBC and the individual licence holders, which in this case, are the occupiers of the serviced offices owned by EEBC. They are reviewed every 3 years by the Council's Property and Regeneration Department, whereby the Rents and Service Charges are amended to reflect the current value.

2.9 The amount shown for the combined notional charge for Rent and Service Charges for 2018/19 has been amended to reflect the current financial value of this continued commitment from the Council.

Community and Wellbeing Committee

20 March 2018

3 Services provided by Voluntary Organisations

- 3.1 VAMS plays a major role in ensuring that voluntary organisations are consulted on local and national policy and service delivery issues. It can also help to ensure that good practice on equalities issues is applied in local voluntary sector organisations, facilitates access to outside funding as well as organising and hosting the Epsom & Ewell Volunteer Awards and the Annual Epsom & Ewell Voluntary Organisations Conference held at Ewell Court House
- 3.2 Age Concern Epsom & Ewell has a focus on the elderly as their client group. Whereas RELATE and its Counselling Services impacts directly on the wellbeing of children and families where there are relationship problems.
- 3.3 The Epsom and Ewell CAB provides services to clients from a range of minority or vulnerable groups.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 If VAMS and CAB do not have adequate capacity to support its clients, there would be a considerable knock-on effect to the Council's own staff and operations (e.g. Housing and Council Tax).
- 4.2 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** Charges for the licences are internal transactions, which represent their notional value.
- 4.3 Budgeted operational grant payments by the Council to voluntary organisations for 2018/19 total £82,104.
- 4.4 Budgeted rental income receivable by the Council for 2018/19 totals £7,094.

5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 5.1
- 5.1 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** The Council should notify the voluntary organisations of the approved grant package, particularly if the level of support is to be reduced. This is in line with the Surrey Compact and best practice.

6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

- 6.1 The Voluntary Organisations play an important role within the Borough, assisting the Statutory Services to enable the Family Support Programme to support residents requiring professional interventions, supporting the Community Harm and Risk Management Meetings (CHaRMM) – which has replaced the Community Incident Action Group (CIAG's) and Joint Action Groups (JAG's), plus their role in Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults.

Community and Wellbeing Committee

20 March 2018

7 Partnerships

- 7.1 Voluntary organisations comprise members of the “third sector” that support the local community through the delivery of services.
- 7.2 It is increasingly recognised that partnership working between statutory bodies and the voluntary sector is essential for the future effective operation of modern local government.

8 Risk Assessment

- 8.1 Should the current and future recommended support to voluntary organisations be reduced, there could be a serious detrimental effect on the organisations, and ultimately the Borough’s residents.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 9.1 With the ever increasing pressure on the Council’s finances, the Committee must be satisfied that it is achieving value for money and that the financial support is directed to priority areas where it will have the greatest effect. It is considered that the package of support for the voluntary organisations listed continues to provide good value for money for the Council and residents of the Borough.
- 9.2 The Committee is asked to approve the proposed grants as set out in paragraph 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 of this report and to note the overall support package set out in paragraph 2.6 and **Annexe 1**.

Ward(s) Affected: (All Wards);