

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS AND FUNDING 2020/21

Head of Service/Contact: Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community

Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No

If yes, reason urgent decision required:

Annexes/Appendices (attached): **Annex 1** – Support for Voluntary Organisations 2020/21
Annex 2 – The difference we make in the local community. Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell

Other available papers (not attached):

Report summary

This report considers the continued future support of voluntary organisations in 2020/21.

Recommendation (s)

- (1) That the Community and Wellbeing Committee approves the proposed support for voluntary organisations in 2020/21, as detailed in Annex 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 Priorities "Supporting our Community".

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 in our community.

Community and Wellbeing Committee

19 March 2020

- 2.2 The Council recognises and fully supports the excellent work the Voluntary Organisations give to Borough residents. The Council wants to ensure that opportunities to encourage proactive networking are explored which will lead to a co-ordinated approach in the future with regards to joint applications for funding.
- 2.3 The Council currently supports the following bodies:
 - 2.3.1 Age Concern Epsom & Ewell
 - 2.3.2 Citizens Advice Bureau Epsom & Ewell (CAB)
 - 2.3.3 Central Surrey Voluntary Action (CSVA)
 - 2.3.4 RELATE Mid Surrey
 - 2.3.5 The Sunnybank Trust
- 2.4 The breakdown of grant funding for 2019/2020 is set out in Annex 1. The proposed level of support for 2020/21 is also within the Annex.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The grant direct funding payments for 2020/21 are as follows:
 - 3.1.1 CAB = £74,115
 - 3.1.2 CSVA = £7,989
- 3.2 The level of support proposed for 2020/21 is the same as that provided in 2019/20. It should be noted that the direct grant payments element (detailed in 3.1 above) makes up only £82,104 of the overall package, which is £211,061 for 2020/21. Notional grants (the licence agreement costs) are made to all the voluntary organisations with the exception of Sunnybank Trust. The details of the individual and overall package is set out in Annex 1. The amount shown for the combined notional charge for Rent and Service Charges for 2020/21 reflects the current financial value of this continued commitment from the Council.
- 3.3 New licence agreements (to allow occupation of the ground floor of the Town Hall) will be issued with effect from 1 April 2020 and expire on 31 March 2023. It is intended to grant the new licences on largely the same terms. Notional rent and Service Charges have been combined as one overall figure shown in the second column in Annex 1. 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 market value.

Community and Wellbeing Committee

19 March 2020

Central Surrey Voluntary Action (CSVA)

- 3.4 CSVA 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, facilitate access to outside funding as well as organising and hosting the Epsom & Ewell Volunteer Awards and an Annual Epsom & Ewell Voluntary Organisations Conference.

Age Concern Epsom & Ewell (ACEE)

- 3.5 ACEE has a focus on the elderly as their client group. It is a small charity doing “big” work with older people in the Borough. They provide information and advice – including home visits. Toe/Nail Clinic and Medical Transport Scheme to help residents attend medical appointments and return them home. Sunday Teas, Social Events, Befriending, Dementia Friends, DIY Help, Hearing Aid Clinics and IT support.

RELATE Epsom & Ewell (RELATE)

- 3.6 RELATE is a none-profit making local charity working to keep families together, helping people build respectful couple, parental and family relationships. Through counselling services they help couples withstand the pressures that lead to relationship breakdown and limit the damage which commonly accompanies failing relationships, separation and divorce. Relate believes that individual physical wellbeing and emotional mental health benefit from committed relationships. Children thrive in families where relationships are free from destructive conflict. They offer their services regardless of age, gender, marital status or sexuality.

Epsom & Ewell CAB (CAB)

- 3.7 CAB provides services to clients from a range of minority or vulnerable groups. CAB supports our community with Money Advice and Debt Support. Homelessness Prevention Work by helping to keep residents in their homes by assisting with possession orders, advising clients threatened by homelessness. Assisting with council tax arrears and supporting clients to repay Council Tax. Securing grants by seeking to maximise income to repay EEBC on repayment schedules. They are currently working in partnership with EEBC Housing, Council Tax Services. Proposed plans include the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and promoting Social Prescribing.
- 3.8 Please see annex 2 – The difference we make in the local community.

Community and Wellbeing Committee

19 March 2020

The Sunnybank Trust

- 3.9 The Sunnybank Trust supports adults (over 18's) with learning disabilities to say what they want and live the life they choose through a range of support services, including a befriending scheme, advocacy support and regular social activities, including a drama group. They run the successful Kite Club which offers a weekly social club offering a range of activities including arts & crafts, sports, dance and a pop up sensory room. The weekly Coffee and Chat Meet plus the monthly 18 - 30's disco, led by students at NESOT. The Council gives no grant or subsidy to The Sunnybank Trust – they pay rent to EEBC which is proposed at £3,420 per annum for the next 3 years as recommended as the condition of their new licence.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 Much of the work carried out by CSVA and CAB involves substantially the same client group who interact with Housing and Council Tax. Both these organisations are able to offer support and advice which exceed that able to be provided by the Council.
- 4.2 If CAB do not have adequate capacity to support its clients, there is a risk that there could be a considerable increase in service demand to the Council's own staff and operations (e.g. Housing and Council Tax). Every year over 3000 people visit CAB to help solve their problems. They are an important part of the community, with a credible understanding of local needs. Preventing housing evictions and statutory homelessness, advising on council tax arrears to facilitate payment. Supported clients to repay nearly £45K Council Tax. Volunteers in CAB equate to 12 full time staff.
- 4.3 CSVA support 180 Registered Charities, 380 not for profit organisations – which includes Companies Limited by Guarantee to small Community Groups. They promote volunteering and Social Action. Since 1 April 2019 they have placed 245 volunteers, 142 individuals as Corporate Volunteers and 28 volunteers to one-off events. They match volunteers to opportunities, develop Best Practise in the sector, deliver DBS checks, helps Voluntary Organisations search for possible funding streams through "Grant Finder", a subscription on-line service.
- 4.4 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** Based on the licence reviews due to take effect from 1 April 2020, the notional cost of accommodation grants to voluntary organisations for 2020/21 will be £122,937. The Council will receive rent and service charge contributions of £7,650.
- 4.5 Grant payments by the Council to voluntary organisations for 2021 will be £82,104, as agreed by this Committee on 21 January 2020. Subsidised car parking support grants are proposed at £13,670.
- 4.6 The total net grant support to voluntary organisations for 2020/21 will be £211,061.

Community and Wellbeing Committee

19 March 2020

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

- 5.1 The Council will entered into licence agreements with the voluntary organisations. The licences provide the intended occupier with the right to use specified parts of a property without giving them the right of exclusive possession or security of tenure over the whole area they use. It will include complete flexibility on behalf of the owner and the occupier to terminate the agreement at short notice without penalty other than make good any monies or responsibilities due up to the point of termination.
- 5.2 ***Monitoring Officer's comments: none arising from the contents of this report.***

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 Community Harm and Risk Management Meetings (CHaRMM) – which replaces the Community Incident Action (CIAG's) and Joint Action Groups (JAG's), plus their role in Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults. This is reviewed annually through the Community and Wellbeing Committee. The Chairman and Vice Chairman have been in discussion with the Head of Service to review the current Terms of Reference and report back. This discussion is on-going.

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 we 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.

Community and Wellbeing Committee

19 March 2020

- 9.2 The Committee is asked to approve the proposed grants as set out in paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 of this report and to note the overall support package set out in Annex 1.

Ward(s) Affected: (All Wards);