

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS AND FUNDING 2017/18

Report of the: Chief Executive
Contact: Serena Powis
Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:
Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe 1 - Support for Voluntary Organisations 2017/18
Other available papers (not attached):

REPORT SUMMARY

This report considers the general future support of voluntary organisations in 2017/18.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

Notes

(1) That the Community and Wellbeing Committee approves the proposed support for voluntary organisations in 2017/18, 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 in 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:

- 2.3.1 Age Concern Epsom and Ewell
- 2.3.2 Epsom and Ewell Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)
- 2.3.3 Voluntary Action Mid Surrey (VAMS)
- 2.3.4 Carers of Epsom
- 2.3.5 Relate Mid-Surrey
- 2.4 Attached at Annexe 1 is the full breakdown of the current support provided to voluntary organisations and the proposed level of support for 2017/18.
- 2.5 The current year's (2016/17) cash grant budgets are as follows:
 - 2.5.1 CAB = £74,115
 - 2.5.2 VAMS = £7,989
- 2.6 The level of support proposed for 2017/18 is the same as that agreed for 2016/17. It should be noted that the cash grant element (detailed in 2.5.1 – 2.5.2 above) makes up only £82,000 of the overall support package, which totals in the order of £202,000 for 2017/18. Details of the full proposed support (such as the usage of Council accommodation) is detailed within Annexe 1.

3 Services provided by Voluntary Organisations

- 3.1 VAMS has a major role to play 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 and facilitates access to outside funding.
- 3.2 Age Concern Epsom & Ewell and Carers of Epsom have a particular focus on the elderly as a client group. RELATE counselling could indirectly impact 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).

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- 4.2 If, when new leases/licences are agreed, the passing rent and or service charge is to be increased, it is proposed that the notional grant in respect of these elements will likewise be increased, so that the organisation concerned is no worse off financially
- 4.3 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** The estimated cost of the proposals recommended in this report are :-.

2017/18 Proposed Funding of Voluntary Sector	£
Cash Grant to be paid to Voluntary Sector bodies	82,104
Cash Rental Income receivable from Voluntary Sector bodies	<u>(5,610)</u>
Net Cash funding of Voluntary Sector	76,494
Notional Grant by the Council (Market Rent & Other subsidies)	<u>120,025</u>
Overall cost of support provided to Voluntary Sector in 2017/18	<u>196,519</u>

There is financial provision to fund the expenditure shown in the table above from within the 2017/18 Budget.

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

- 5.1 None of these proposals are considered to have significant impact that will be detrimental on the various organisations. However, the pressures on services provided by the CAB in particular, including those for a range of vulnerable people are recognised.
- 5.2 The Council is a signatory to the Surrey Compact which is an agreement between public sector bodies and voluntary and community organisations. It requires that "Reasonable Notice of Funding be given to Voluntary Organisations". Whilst not a formal legal agreement, the Council's endorsement of the Surrey Compact means that any changes to funding levels needs to be implemented in a reasonable manner and should follow Compact principles.
- 5.3 There are legal implications linked to the agreements to use Council accommodation and, potentially, the form of any future Funding/Service Level Agreement.
- 5.4 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** Any reduction in the funding to voluntary organisations should be taken in line with the procedures outlined in section 4.5 of this report.

6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

6.1 The Voluntary Organisations play an important role within the Borough by assisting the Statutory Services to enable the Family Support Programme to support residents requiring professional interventions, supporting the Community Incident Action Groups (CIAG's) and Joint Action Groups (JAG's), plus their role in Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults.

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 and to note the overall support package set out in paragraph 2.6 and Annexe 1.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: (All Wards);