

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 25 October 2012
Report of: Juliet Blackburn, Performance and Partnerships Manager
Subject/Title: Funding For the Community and Voluntary Sector

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on Cheshire East Council's funding to the community, voluntary, faith and not-for profit sector. It provides a summary of the current funding position and highlights key issues of note.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny committee is asked to note the report.

3.0 Wards Affected

- 3.1 All

4.0 Local Ward Members

- 4.1 All

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial implications from the report - all funding for the community and voluntary sector in 2012/13 is included within the budget.

6.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 6.1 None

7.0 Risk Management

- 7.1 Joint work across all services on community/voluntary sector has aimed, in part, to mitigate the risk of losing important services provided by the sector, whilst having to meet significant budget challenges.

8.0 Background

- 8.1 Officers across a number of services have been working together to identify all funding to the community, voluntary, faith and not for profit sector. This

information has been used to ensure that the Council is co-ordinated in how it manages decisions around funding to the sector.

8.2 In considering funding to the sector the following points should be noted:

1. There is no single definition of what constitutes a community, voluntary, faith or not-for-profit organisation. The work to identify funding to this sector has therefore pooled information on a broad range of funding in order to be as comprehensive as possible.
2. Funding to community and voluntary sectors can include grants or commissioned services, and can be administered via a contract or service level agreement or a simple grant payment.
3. Officers have focused on direct funding provided to the sector, however in-kind support is also provided such as free hall hire or officer support. In-kind support may need to be considered further in order to ensure consistency.

9.0 Overview of funding in 2012/13

9.1 In 2011/12 Children and Families undertook a significant review of community/voluntary sector funding and this has provided a solid foundation for current and future commissioning. Adult services have undertaken a full review of their funding to the sector during 2012. Places and Organisational Capacity services reviewed individual funding commitments as part of the budget setting process for 2012/13.

9.2 A number of contracts are currently under negotiation, but the approximate funding to the sector for 2012/13 is as follows:

Service Area	2012/13 Funding
Adults Total	2,910,000
<i>core commissioning</i>	<i>1,700,000</i>
<i>Carers support</i>	<i>560,000</i>
<i>Supporting People</i>	<i>650,000</i>
Children and Families Total	2,400,000
Places and Organisational Capacity Total	675,000
<i>Communities</i>	<i>155,000</i>
<i>Development and Transport</i>	<i>145,000</i>
<i>Partnerships</i>	<i>375,000</i>
TOTAL FOR ALL SERVICES	5,985,000

9.3 Previous discussions at Scrutiny Committee have highlighted interest in the funding provided through the Partnerships team, so further detail of this funding is provided at **Appendix 1**.

9.4 In terms of current funding the following points are worthy of note:

- The Council provides funding to approximately 160 community, voluntary, faith and not for profit organisations. In addition, the Community Grants funding is provided to an even greater number of community and voluntary groups.
- The total level of funding to the sector is approximately £5.9 million which is a slight reduction from 2011/12 where the figure was £6.3 million.
- The majority of the funding is managed by Children, Families and Adults (over 85%). This tends to be commissioned services and is funded through a mixture of central government grants and the Council's base budget.
- Funding from Places and Organisational Capacity is more mixed in terms of the type of organisations funded and the arrangements eg some commissioning, some grants and some service level agreements.
- Funding from the Partnerships team is a mixture of grants to community and voluntary "infrastructure" organisations such as the Cheshire East Council for Voluntary Services, and the Councils Community Grants scheme (a maximum pot of £96,000 per annum).

10 Future Work

10.1 Good progress has been made in co-ordinating funding to the community, voluntary, faith and not for profit sector, over the last 2 years. In addition, the reviews of funding by all services as part of budget setting has meant that individual funding arrangements are clearer and more robust than they were at the outset of Cheshire East.

10.2 In order to continue to improve transparency and consistency in funding to the sector, it is intended that an overall list of funding to the sector will be published on the Council's website. In addition, improvements to the contracting and monitoring arrangements will continue to be made, particularly seeking to be consistent across different services.

10.3 As the Council considers its business planning and budget setting for the next 3 years it will be important to consider opportunities for further service delivery from the sector, whilst needing to reduce overall Council expenditure. Services will continue to seek to work with the sector in an open and transparent way.

11.0 Access to Information

- 11.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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Appendix 1 - Community, Voluntary, Faith and not for profit funding 2012/13 from Partnerships team

Organisation Name and Web Address	What does the organisation do?	Funding in 2012/13	Notes for 2012/13 funding	What has the 2012/13 funding provided?
Community Grant Scheme	Various organisations are funded under this scheme, more information available on the community grant scheme web pages.	96,000		Community Grant scheme open to applications across Cheshire East for 3 categories; Facilities; Activities and Events
Cheshire Association of Local Councils www.chalc.org.uk	The Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) exists to promote, develop and support the Local Councils of Cheshire. ChALC is a member based organisation providing information and legal advice to those members. ChALC represents the interests of Town and Parish Councils on a variety of outside bodies.	16,578		Support to town and parish council representatives involved in LAPs, support to run the Quality Councils scheme, support to local councils seeking to adopt the power of wellbeing, developing the Code of Conduct,
Cheshire Community Action www.cheshireaction.org.uk	Cheshire Community Action (CCA) is one of 38 Rural Community Councils covering every County in England. CCA provides support on a variety of projects including: To support, encourage and facilitate community development and empowerment; To support village halls and community buildings to run effectively; To engage, inform and challenge statutory service providers; To work in partnership with others to maximise resources; To promote and celebrate community activity to inspire others and spread good news and best practice.	33,839		Rural community asset mapping, advising on rural issues and undertaking rural advocacy, and support to the Partnerships team in community-led planning (parish planning).
Cheshire Gypsy & Travellers http://travellersvoice.org	Cheshire Gypsy and Travellers Voice provide an advocacy and advisory service to Gypsies and Irish Travellers who reside in or regularly travel through Cheshire, Halton and Warrington. They actively campaign for the rights of Gypsies and Travellers and work to overcome the inequalities in accommodation, health, education, social exclusion and to break down stereotypes.	4,712	Funding for initial 6 months only - future funding ceased	Gypsy and Traveller liaison
Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race Equality Centre www.chawrec.org.uk	Cheshire Halton & Warrington Race & Equality Centre is a charitable organisation that aims to eliminate discrimination, especially racial discrimination and promote equality and good relations. They have 4 key areas of work: policy, development work, community development and public education and casework.	7,250		Provide equality advice and support to the Council
Community & Voluntary Service Cheshire East www.cvsce.org.uk	CVS Cheshire East provides a wide range of support and services to groups, helping those that are starting up, as well as organisations that are already established. CVS Cheshire East also supports networks and partnership working and has an intermediary role, supporting and facilitating joint working between voluntary and community groups and with statutory bodies; and helping to ensure that the interests and concerns of the voluntary and community sector are properly represented. In addition to supporting groups, they also support individuals who wish to become volunteers and those already involved in volunteering.	171,266		The CVS Cheshire East will equip and build the capacity of the voluntary and community groups across Cheshire East with the resources necessary to sustain and continuously improve their service delivery by stimulating and encouraging interest in volunteering and community action; providing training, mentoring and networking opportunities; promoting good practice; and offering business services.
OCEAN www.oceancheshireltd.com	OCEAN are aiming to provide support, guidance and a social network for Black and Racial Minority groups and the wider community. They aim to provide a voice and a place to promote the needs and aspirations of their members and the people they represent.	6,420	Funding for initial 6 months only - future funding ceased	To provide a mechanism for consulting with BME groups, act as a critical friend to the Council for equality schemes, deliver training and activities and develop the BME network across Cheshire East.
Town partnerships funding	Funding to five town partnerships in the Congleton LAP area which organise community projects, events and activities for their respective towns (Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich, Sandbach)	40,000	Transferred from Regeneration	To achieve shared outcomes as outlined in the Congleton LAP Area Plan
	Partnerships total	376,065		