

SUBJECT:	<i>VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Graham Harris, Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To agree to continue the £15,270/annum contribution to Buckinghamshire County Council for the delivery of the joint County and District grant to support the voluntary and community sector infrastructure until 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

To agree to an annual payment of £15,270 to Buckinghamshire County Council for the contribution to the 2016/17 voluntary and community sector infrastructure grant.

To inform Buckinghamshire County Council of the intention of the Council to continue with an annual award of £15,270 for voluntary and community sector infrastructure services until 2021.

2. Executive Summary

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 Infrastructure support is required to assist the voluntary and community organisations across Buckinghamshire continue to; develop, meet required quality and governance standards and provide services to the community. With a shrinking statutory role greater reliance will be placed on community organisations to deliver services to both younger and older persons or to protect the environment. Chiltern District supports the development of the voluntary sector in assisting the community to deliver its aims and objectives.

3.2 Informing Bucks County Council of the Councils intentions for future voluntary sector infrastructure funding would enable the development of the tender in relation to the provision of Voluntary Infrastructure services 2017 to 2021

4. Content of Report

4.1 Cabinet agreed 16th June 2015 that subject to performance, the Council should continue to make an annual payment of £15,270 to Buckinghamshire County Council for the continuation of the voluntary and community sector infrastructure grant for the period 2016/17. Community Impact Bucks currently receives the Infrastructure Grant of

£200k provided by the county and district councils in Buckinghamshire, to deliver infrastructure services to the voluntary sector.

4.2 A review of the impact of service delivery has been undertaken by Community Impact Bucks (CIB) as part of its monitoring and BCC as the lead funder is satisfied with the organisations delivery. Indeed BCC has commissioned additional infrastructure support through its community and Prevention Matters programmes with CIB. As satisfactory performance is being delivered it is recommended that continuation of the grant is made for the period 2016/17.

4.3 BCC has requested that the District Councils advise on their future intentions for the continuation of infrastructure support for the period 2017/21. The future intentions would then enable the County to consider the form and extent of the tender it would place to deliver infrastructure services.

4.4 With a shrinking statutory role, greater reliance will be placed on community organisations to deliver services to both younger and older persons. Chiltern District through its Community Cohesion Plan supports the development of the voluntary sector to identify local needs and deliver local solutions. Community led projects have improved High Streets, supported community revitalisation, assisted environmental improvements and delivered community transport or older person or youth initiatives.

4.5 All these voluntary groups benefit from the support and assistance the infrastructure organisation provides through the grant funding.

5. Consultation

Not Applicable

6. Options

There are two main options and these are as follows:-

- a) To cease funding to Buckinghamshire County Council for the voluntary sector infrastructure support 2016/17 and beyond. This would place at risk the support to local voluntary sector organisations
- b) To continue to provide partnership funding to BCC for the voluntary sector infrastructure 2016 to 2021. This would enable the existing service level agreement with CIB to be honoured by BCC and provide infrastructure services in Chiltern. It would also assist the county council in developing the tender process for infrastructure services until March 2021

7. Corporate Implications

3.1 Financial – the £15,270/annum contribution is currently within the Councils financial strategy. Should infrastructure support be reduced, it would directly impact on the ability of local voluntary organisations to deliver services in Chiltern District.

3.2 *Legal – none*

3.3 *Voluntary organisations support the delivery of activities or services that directly contribute to reducing crime and disorder, improving the environmental and social inclusion, or addressing the challenges of sustainability*

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

A key aim of the Council is to 'support the voluntary sector and promote volunteering', other aims include 'addressing the needs of the elderly and those who are vulnerable' and 'work with partners to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour' and to 'improve community safety, working with our key partners to help safeguard children and vulnerable adults and prevent them becoming victims of crime'.

9. Next Step

Following agreement officers would assist the County Council in developing the tender brief for voluntary sector infrastructure services 2017 to 2021 with payments made following satisfactory delivery of services.

Background	
Papers:	