

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

1. Purpose of Report

To extend the current agreement with Bucks County Council to agree funding of £15,270 for the community and voluntary sector infrastructure grant administered by BCC.

RECOMMENDATION

To agree to an annual payment of £15,270 to Buckinghamshire County Council for 2015/16 and 2016/17 for the continuation of the voluntary and community sector infrastructure grant.

2. Executive Summary

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 To support the development of the voluntary and community sector infrastructure organisations.

3.2 To enable the development of the tender process for Voluntary Infrastructure services from 2017/18

3.3 To support the development of a vibrant and active voluntary community infrastructure and organisations supported by it

3.4 To enable compliance with the Buckinghamshire Compact with the voluntary and community sector.

4. Content of Report

Chiltern District Council
Services Overview 16 June 2015
Cabinet 23 June 2015

4.1 In 2008, BCC and the District Council agreed a contract with Community Impact Bucks to deliver Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Services. Following the ending of that contract, the statutory agencies agreed to continue to provide a grant of £200k to Community Impact Bucks to deliver infrastructure services.

4.2 The District Council supported this arrangement as it would enable the capacity of the voluntary sector to be developed and reduce the reliance on small community organisations seeking local authority funding. Since that time organisations have diversified funding and are now less reliant on the Council to provide 100% of their core funding.

4.3 Community Impact Bucks delivers voluntary infrastructure support in the form of advice, assistance, training, and the provision of a volunteer hub available to the voluntary and community sector.

4.4 External evaluation of the grant funding has been generally supportive of the delivery that has occurred and recommended continuation of current arrangements for the period 2015/16 and 2016/17. Following which a competitive tender would be undertaken to enable a wider number of organisation to compete to deliver voluntary sector infrastructure services. This approach has been supported by the other District Councils and the County Council.

4.4 The review of SLA funding in 2011 supported the continuation of the infrastructure funding. A further review of community grant funding will follow the introduction of the shared service. The Bucks Compact identifies that 12 weeks' notice of funding reductions should occur and that any decision to end funding should be notified 12 months in advance. Voluntary Impact Bucks has not been notified of any reductions of its funding and the previous Portfolio Holder was supportive of the funding continuing.

4.5 Due to the urgency of the request from Bucks County Council, MT was asked in May to approve the 2015/16 payment of £15,270 in accordance with this year's budget allocation.

4.6 It is therefore recommended that the Council continues to fund voluntary infrastructure support 2015/16 and 2016/17 through a Bucks County Council grant and makes payment to BCC of £15,270/annum for the next two years.

5. Consultation
Not Applicable

6. Options

- 1. To agree to an annual payment of £15,270 to BCC for the voluntary sector infrastructure service grant for 2015/16 and 2016/17**
- 2. To agreed funding of £15,270 for 2015/16 and give notice to Bucks County Council that funding would be dependant on performance**

3. To agree funding of £15,270 for 2015/16 and to cease future involvement in the scheme

7. Corporate Implications

- 1. Financial – The 2015/16 budget identifies the continuation funding of £15,270 to BCC to provide voluntary infrastructure services*
- 2. Legal –Removal of the funding without notification would have an adverse impact on the organisation and any decision at the current time without a full review of SLA funding may be challenged under the Equalities Act.*

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

This proposal supports the objectives in the Joint Business Plan in relation to working to support healthier and safer local communities;

9. Next Step

Officers will work with BCC to draft the tender process required to contract infrastructure services from 2017/18.

Background Papers:	It is a legal requirement that we make available any background papers relied on to prepare the report and should be listed at the end of the report (copies of Part 1 background papers for executive decisions must be provided to Democratic Services)
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