

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker:	Councillor Andrew Williams
Portfolio:	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership
Date of Portfolio Holder Decision:	9 May 2013

Title of Decision:

GRANTS TO STRATEGIC PARTNERS, ARTS/HERITAGE STRATEGIC PARTNERS, HIGHTOWN PRAETORIAN (Dacorum Women's Aid) and TRING TOGETHER: 2013/14

(Contact: Natalie Webb x2743)

Decision made and reasons:

To approve payment of the grants to Strategic Partner and funded organisations in 2013/14 which are listed in this report.

Financial implications

Provision has been made in the Council's budget for 2013/14 for this purpose.

The Council's Strategic Partners

a) Criteria

Voluntary sector organisations applying for funding to the Strategic Partner Programme have been assessed against the following criteria:

- extent to which the organisation will contribute to meeting the council's strategic objectives, including its commitment to equality and diversity, and safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- ability to contribute experience and expertise to policy development as a 'critical friend';
- ability to advocate and give voice to service users and communities of interest to have their experience and issues articulated at a borough level;
- ability to support coherence between organisations in the sector, including support for smaller organisations (ensuring small organisations are able to engage and participate through existing networks and forums or through partnerships with other member organisations);
- ability to demonstrate delivery against agreed outcomes;
- robust governance arrangements and evidence that the organisation is efficient and effective and committed to finding ongoing efficiency savings to deliver value for money.

b) Expectations of strategic partners

Successful applicants to the Strategic Partner Programme will demonstrate their capability and commitment to;

- Working collaboratively with other organisations in the voluntary sector at local, regional and national level;
- Supporting the development and capacity of organisations in the voluntary sector including small organisations in the borough;
- Working at a strategic level to inform and act as an advocate on behalf of the wider voluntary sector to the council

- Collectively contribute to the management and maintenance of a positive reputation of the borough as a whole.
- Exploring the best use of property in order to drive value & efficiency;
- Setting standards for the welfare of volunteers by signing up to the Volunteer Centre's 'Valuing Volunteer Management - 6 Point Promise' (please contact your local volunteer centre for details);
- Being a member of the Civil Society Partnership and showing co-operation with other members;
- Sharing training opportunities with other VCS organisations; and
- Working with DBC in developing the role of mutual organisations, social enterprises and similar groups.

Background

1. Each organisation listed in the report helps to improve the quality of life for the people living or working in the Borough.
2. The Strategic Partner and annually-funded grants for 2013/14 are being kept at the same level as the grants given in 2012/13.
3. Berkhamsted Arts Trust, Tring Together and Hightown Praetorian (Dacorum Women's Aid), do not qualify for Strategic Partner status because they are below the £10,000 threshold. In these cases they will remain as grant recipients. Approval for release of these grants is requested in this report.
4. The Council maintains a close working relationship with Strategic Partner organisations through a formal annual performance management meeting.

A further link is through the Civil Society Partnership which meets regularly with officers. This group plays a key role in the relationships between the Council and strategic partners.
5. The grant to Tring Together is a one-off payment – it is not anticipated that this will be required in future years.
6. Details of grant recommendations are below:

Name of Organisation	Grant 2012/13
<i>Strategic Partners</i>	
Dacorum Citizens Advice Bureau	£171,890
Community Action Dacorum (inc. Shopmobility and Domestic Violence Forum)	£146,780
Volunteer Centre Dacorum	£56,960
The Centre in the Park (HH Day Centre for the Elderly)	£34,200
Relate Dacorum, Watford and Three Rivers	£48,610
Age UK (Age Concern)	£40,950
Druglink	£63,330
Urban Access	£10,600
Mediation Hertfordshire	£33,730
DENS (including Dacorum Rent Aid)	£20,500
<i>Arts/Heritage Strategic Partners</i>	
Tring Arts Trust	£23,630

Berkhamsted Arts Trust	£7,170
Dacorum Heritage Trust	£58,000
<i>Annual Grant</i>	
Hightown Praetorian (Dacorum Women's Aid)	£9,500
<i>One-off grant</i>	
Tring Together	£5,000
Total	£730,850

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Civil Society Partnership Members
Dacortium
Commissioning and Social Enterprise Officer
Group Manager Partnerships, Policy and Communications
Liaison Officer
Tring Together

Monitoring Officer/Chief Financial Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer – The Council's powers to award these grants are derived from the general power of competence contained in the Localism Act 2011.
Section 151 Officer – The total of these awards is within the approved budget levels.

Risk Implications:

Failure to allocate funding in this manner will seriously affect the ability of our partner organisations to deliver the services they deliver to the people in Dacorum. There is risk of financial failure of some of the voluntary sector organisations operating in Dacorum without the Council's financial contribution to core costs.

Options Considered and reasons for rejection:

Not to award the grants - This would not be consistent with the terms of the Strategic Partner scheme.

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:

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Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 30/04/13

Date Decision Published: 9/05/13

Decision No: PH/020/13

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 16/05/13

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented: