

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker: Councillor Andrew Williams

Portfolio: Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership

Date of Portfolio Holder Decision: 14 May 2012

Title of Decision:

GRANTS TO STRATEGIC PARTNER and ANNUALLY-FUNDED ORGANISATIONS 2012/13

(Contact: David Gill, Extension 2511)

Decision made and reasons:

To approve payment of the grants to Strategic Partner and annually-funded organisations in 2012/13 which are listed in this report.

Financial implications

Provision has been made in the Council's budget for 2012/13 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. All of these organisations are working towards the Council's Quality Standards.
3. The Strategic Partner and annually-funded grants for 2012/13 are being kept at the same level as the grants given in 2010/11.
4. Berkhamsted Arts Trust, Tring Together and 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.

The Council maintains a close working relationship with these 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. <u>Name of Organisation</u>	<u>Grant 2012/13</u>
	£
Dacorum Citizens Advice Bureau	171,890
Community Action Dacorum	100,780
Dacorum Volunteer Bureau	56,960
The Centre in the Park (HH Day Centre for the Elderly)	34,200
Relate	48,610
Age Concern	40,950
Druglink	63,330
Urban Access	10,600
Herts Mediation Service	33,730
Tring Arts Trust	23,630
Berkhamsted Arts Trust	7,170
Dacorum Heritage Trust	58,000

DENS (including Dacorum Rent Aid)	20,500
Dacorum Women's Aid	9,500
Tring Together	5,000
Shopmobility	<u>42,000</u>
Total	£726,850

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Civil Society Partnership
Liaison Officer

Monitoring Officer/Chief Financial Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer –

The power to award these grants to the Council's Strategic Partners and other annually funded organisations was formerly contained in the well-being powers set out in the Local Government Act 2000. These grants are now made by the Council in exercise of its general power of competence as contained in the Localism Act 2011. The general power of competence provisions in the Localism Act came into force on 18th February 2012.

Deputy Section 151 Officer –

The grants have been awarded according to the appropriate criteria. All grants are within agreed budgets for 2012/13

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:

For Member Support Officer use only

Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 14/05/12

Date Decision Published: 14/05/12

Decision No: PH/031/12

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 21/05/12

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented: