

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of Portfolio Holder: Councillor Andrew Williams

Portfolio: Community Leadership

Date of Report: 06/02/2015

Strategic Partner Funding levels and extension to current Programme

Recommendations made and reasons:

- To release the funds to the Council's core Strategic Partners for the financial year 2015/16.

Dacorum Citizens Advice Bureau	£171,890.00
Community Action Dacorum (Including Shopmobility and Domestic Violence Forum)	£146,780.00
Volunteer Centre Dacorum	£56,960.00
Herts Mediation Service	£33,730.00
The Centre in the Park	£34,200.00
DENS (including Dacorum Rent Aid)	£20,500.00
Relate	£48,610.00
Age UK	£40,950.00
Druglink	£63,330.00
Signpost (Urban Access)	£10,600.00
Total	£627,550.00

- The release of funds is needed following the agreement through PH decision to extend the three year programme to 2015/16 as published on 29.05.2014.

Background

The Strategic Partner Programme (SPP) invests in ten partners who support the council to deliver on its priorities by supporting the residents of Dacorum. Funding provided through the SPP currently contributes to the organisation's core costs.

The relationship is managed through an SLA and KPI's are reported through a mid-term and end of year report and interview.

To be eligible to apply for the strategic partner programme, voluntary sector organisations must comply with the following points:

- Carry out activities that are not for profit and do not include any public or local authority;
- Work in England and provide quantifiable benefit to Dacorum;
- Be a corporate body or have a formal constitution if not incorporated;
- Be registered with the Charity Commission (if the organisation has charitable objects and registration is required); and
- Be able to demonstrate a commitment to equality and diversity, have an Equal Opportunities Policy and Health & Safety Policy.

Voluntary sector organisations applying for funding to the Strategic Partner Programme are

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assessed against the following criteria:

- The extent to which the organisation will contribute to meeting the Council's strategic objectives, including its commitment to equality and diversity;
- The ability to contribute experience and expertise to policy development as a critical friend;
- The ability to advocate and give voice to service users and communities of interest to have their experience and issues articulated at a Borough level;
- The 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);
- The ability to demonstrate delivery against agreed outcomes; and
- The robust governance arrangements and evidence that the organisation is efficient and effective and committed to finding on-going efficiency savings to deliver value for money.

Successful applicants to the Strategic Partner Programme must be able to 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; and
- Collectively contribute to the management and maintenance of a positive reputation of the Borough as a whole.

The extension to the current SPP as agreed on 29.04.2014 will enable Voluntary Sector Organisations to finalise their accommodation and leases, in particular plans for moving in The Forum. DBC staff are also working with the Strategic Partners to work towards an outcome based commissioning model for April 2016 and beyond.

Financial Analysis

Existing budgets utilised to fund as follows:

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Total	£627,550.00
Officers / Councillors / Ward Councillors / Stakeholders Consulted: Steven Baker, Assistant Director, Chief Executive's Department Matthew Rawdon, Group Manager People Claire Lynch, Community Partnerships Team Leader Cllr Andrew Williams Cllr Neil Harden	
Monitoring Officer/Chief Financial Officer Comments: Monitoring Officer: - No comments to add to the report. Section 151 Officer: - No comments to add to the report.	
Implications: Risk: failure to transfer the funds at the levels outlined in this report would have a significant detrimental impact on the voluntary sector and on the community. Value for Money: the Strategic Partners listed in this report offer value for money by targeting services that the Council is unable to offer to the people most in need. The monitoring of the KPI's identified in the funding agreements through reports and interviews ensure that the Council achieves value for money and delivers in line with the councils priorities. By releasing the funds for 2015/16 voluntary sector organisation have an extra year of stability while the Council puts an outcome based commissioning process in place.	
Options Considered and reasons for rejection: To not fund or to change funding levels: This is rejected because there will be a significant detrimental impact on all organisations involved and on local residents.	
Portfolio Holders Signature: <i>AD Williams</i> Date: 11/3/2015	

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:
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For Member Support Officer use only
Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 11/3/2015
Date Decision Published: 11/3/2015 Decision No: PH/005/15
Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 16/3/2015
Date any Call-In received or decision implemented:

