



To: Executive Councillor for Community Development & Health - Cllr Clare Blair  
Report by: Head of Community Development  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 25/6/2009  
Wards affected: All

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PRIORITIES 2010-12 Key Decision**

### **1. Executive summary**

This report sets out proposals for Community Development grants priorities for 2010-12, which have been informed by the Community Development Service Strategy approved in January 2009.

This report also clarifies the changes to the management and administration of the Area Committee grants process and the distribution of funds to each area and reports on two 2008/9 awards.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

To approve, for further consultation, the following thematic priorities for the allocation of Community Development grants:

- a.) Community Activities
- b.) Social and Economic Deprivation
- c.) Voluntary Sector Infrastructure
- d.) A Growing City
- e.) Community Cohesion
- f.) Area Committees

### **3. Background**

#### **3.1 Community Development Service Strategy 2009-12**

3.1.1 This strategy was implemented to contribute to the council's Medium Term Objectives (MTOs) and the Cultural Services Framework which was approved in July 2008 and takes into account new and emerging legislation as well as social and economic issues affecting city

residents. The current grants priorities were established following a Best Value Service Review in 2000 and the supplementary Committee of Inquiry into Grants in 2005 and now need to be aligned to the revised aims, outcomes, priorities and objectives for the service. The Service Review Executive Summary is attached as Appendix 1.

3.1.2 In relation to voluntary sector funding and support, the service review identified the need to:

- Review grant aid priorities and to remodel the management and administration of the grants process
- Improve the monitoring of outcomes from investment in the voluntary and community groups and their contribution to council priorities
- Reduce administrative costs
- Reduce the reliance by voluntary groups on City Council grant aid by widening opportunities for funding through a partnership with the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation

3.1.3 Additional factors and priorities for consideration included:

- Pressures arising from growth, especially the need for adequate community infrastructure to support and sustain new communities
- The need to address the causes and effects of climate change
- The impact on groups and communities arising from the economic downturn
- Significant pressures on council budgets
- New and developing service planning and performance management arrangements through the Local Area Agreement and work of Local Strategic Partnerships
- Emerging legislation promoting citizen empowerment and local involvement in decision making structures
- Promoting good relations between groups and communities in an increasingly diverse city

## **3.2 Cambridgeshire Compact and NI 7**

3.2.1 The Council endorsed the Compact in 2007. The Compact aims to:

- Improve and develop the relationships between the sectors
- Establish a framework for joint working
- Enable the agreement of codes of good practice in areas such as funding/commissioning, consultation, volunteering, community groups, and equality and diversity

3.2.2 Of particular importance to this report the Compact has the following two undertakings for statutory organisations:

- Develop a long-term policy and strategy for support and investment in voluntary and community sector activity in Cambridgeshire including Compact compliance
- Work towards a situation in which statutory contracts and service agreements are a minimum of three years duration and where a minimum of 12 weeks notice is given in respect of decisions to change or terminate a grant or contract condition (or less by mutual agreement) Additional information on Compact and NI 7 is attached as Appendix 2

### **3.3 Grant Aid Strategy and Priorities for 2010-12**

3.3.1 Taking into the account the service priorities and other influences detailed above, the proposed grants priorities for 2010-12:

- Strengthen city community and voluntary groups particularly those providing infrastructure to support the work of other groups promoting community development
- Provide funding for community activities in neighbourhoods and across the city
- Make funds available to tackle the impact of the recession
- Support the development of good relations between people of different backgrounds in the city
- Help develop strong communities in growth areas and adjoining neighbourhoods

3.3.2 The diagram in Appendix 3 links the proposed new grant priorities to the Medium Term Objectives and Community Development Service Strategy.

3.3.3 Applications for grant aid would be assessed using the following proposed criteria:

- Evidence of financial and community need
- Outcomes must help achieve MTOs and service objectives
- The capacity to deliver the programmes and projects for which grant aid is being sought
- The ability to demonstrate a commitment to tackle the causes and effects of climate change
- Groups must be properly managed with a constitution or set of rules, a voluntary management committee accountable to its members and have policies and systems in place to manage its affairs efficiently

3.3.4 The following table details the priorities and percentage of the budget allocation, using the current 2009/10 budget total as an example of funding allocation.

<b>Proposed Priorities 2010-12</b>		<b>% of budget</b>	<b>Funds £ (2009/10)</b>	<b>Priority totals</b>	
Ref				<b>%</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>CD 1</b>	<b>Community Activities</b>			<b>29</b>	<b>217,500</b>
<p>Specific activities and services that enable the following groups and individuals to participate in their communities and improve their own well-being. Priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ supporting those who are disadvantaged by low income/ disability/ discrimination</li> <li>▪ proposals that enable people to participate in decisions and influence the services that affect their lives</li> <li>▪ bringing people together to identify common issues and to bring about change</li> <li>▪ investigating local needs and developing responsive projects</li> <li>▪ increasing the awareness of and celebrating the city's cultural diversity</li> </ul> <p>It is not for: - Personal care services - Proselytising or worship - Services which are the responsibility of other statutory agencies unless part of a formal partnership arrangement</p>					
CD1.1	<p>Children, Young People. Families living in disadvantaged areas</p> <p>Link to Big Plan 2 priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To help children and young people to feel safe and happy in their communities</li> <li>▪ To meet the needs of children and young people in the areas of growth or demographic change</li> </ul>	14	105,000		
CD1.2	<p>Equality &amp; Diversity</p> <p>Support for BME and LGBT groups, people with disabilities, , women lacking opportunities to live safe and fulfilling lives</p>	11	82,500		
CD1.3	<p>Activities for Older People</p> <p>Providing opportunities to help older people live socially and physically active lives</p>	4	30,000		
<b>CD2</b>	<b>Social and Economic Deprivation</b>			<b>38</b>	<b>285,000</b>
CD2.1	<p>Legal Advice Services</p> <p>To improve access for disadvantaged city residents to legal, welfare benefits and money/debt advice which have appropriate Quality Mark and referral systems</p>	35.5	266,250		
CD2.1	<p>Economic Downturn</p> <p>Projects to respond to the impact of the economic downturn and its impact on the quality of community life</p>	2.5	18,750		
<b>CD3</b>	<b>Voluntary Sector Infrastructure</b>			<b>17</b>	<b>127,500</b>
<p>Development agency work, especially with new, emerging or fragile groups and those working to help achieve Community Development priorities. Priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improving skills and knowledge: sharing expertise and good working practice</li> <li>▪ Participation in the local Compact, relevant local partnerships and civic life</li> <li>▪ Identifying and seeking different sources of income and partnership potential</li> <li>▪ Stimulating and supporting good volunteering practice</li> <li>▪ Encouraging innovation and joint working where appropriate</li> </ul>					

<b>CD4</b>	<b>A Growing City</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>22,500</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community development on fringe sites (see Community activities above)</li> <li>▪ Building capacity in and making links with adjoining neighbourhoods</li> </ul>				
<b>CD5</b>	<b>Community Cohesion</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>22,500</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Helping people from different backgrounds to integrate into the Cambridge community and to get on well together</li> </ul>				
<b>CD6</b>	<b>Area Committees</b>			<b>10</b>	<b>75,000</b>
CD6.1	North	2.46	18,489		
CD6.2	South	1.38	10,334		
CD6.3	East	2.21	16,615		
CD6.4	West	0.70	5,217		
CD6.5	Community Initiatives	1.08	8,115		
CD6.6	Youth Work – Commissioning targeted work	2.16	16,230		
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>100</b>	<b>750,000</b>

### 3.4 Process

3.4.1 As part of a review of the grants process, a business process re-engineering (BPR) exercise was carried out to review the way grants were being managed and to prepare for integration with the Customer Access Centre. The BPR found that a disproportionate amount of resource was being invested in the application assessment at the expense of the analysis of the impact and achievements arising from the use of grant aid. This conclusion was largely supported by a recent audit of the grants management process. To address this along with the need to create efficiencies in the management of grants the following improvements are being implemented:

- Restructure of the grants and support service teams
- The design and implementation of new assessment criteria and scoring system for grant applications
- New monitoring procedures looking at different levels of monitoring for different levels of funding
- Joint contracts and monitoring with other funders – we are currently participating in the County-wide funders group
- The introduction of longer term funding (up to 3 year agreements) for 2010
- Investigation of longer term contracts and commissioning options as appropriate
- The implementation of policies to ensure consistent practice around bids for trips, food at events, equipment and in the repayment of any unspent or misused award

### **3.5 Implementation Programme**

3.5.1 This report is for consultation and will be sent to all members and the voluntary and community organisations we currently fund and via the CCVS. Feedback will be sought by a questionnaire and voluntary and community organisations will be invited to two meetings, one in the evening and one in the afternoon, in September. The consultation will include:

- The new thematic priorities
- The reallocation of funds to the revised priorities
- Periods of notice
- Longer term funding
- Consistent approaches around funding for similar activities. E.g. trips, equipment, food
- Clarification of funding around activities associated with Children's Centres and Residents Associations

3.5.2 The current method of awarding grants has resulted in some groups receiving funding from the Council over a sustained period of time, so any changes to priorities and processes will need to be carefully communicated and implemented in phases to ensure groups are able to manage the changes and protect services. There is a need for flexibility to support those groups who may face changes to their funding structure. This will be managed by a phased introduction, exit strategies for those affected and support to secure alternative funding linked to our partnerships with the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and the Cambridge Council for Voluntary Support and other funders.

3.5.2 Community Development grants currently include several Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) awards. There is a notice period of 12 months from the beginning of a financial year to amend or terminate such agreements. This commits us to the current level of funding for 2010/11 for DRR for current beneficiaries unless they cease to operate from the premises for which the award has been granted.

### **3.6 Area Committee Grants**

3.6.1 A key part in the overhaul of the grants management involves the development of a partnership with the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF). The CCF is the distributor of Grassroots Grants for the Government Office for the Third Sector within Cambridgeshire and also manages a range of other funds including: High Sheriff's Awards, the Fund for Cambridgeshire, and Donarbon Community Fund. The partnership with the CCF in regard to the administration of Area

Committee grants will enable applicants to access a wider range of funding opportunities.

Area Committees will still make the final decisions on applications for City Council funding. The Head of Community Development and representatives from the CCF are attending the current cycle of area committees to undertake face-to-face briefings and answer member's questions. The Partnership is also planning to launch the 'Cambridge City Fund' to establish an endowment, with initial investment of £170,000 from government sources, to help meet the demand for voluntary sector funding for the future. The Local Strategic Partnership will provide initial funding for this. The allocation of funds to each area committee has been revised following the 2008 Mapping Poverty report and is included in the Area Committee briefing paper attached as Appendix 4.

### **3.7 2008/9 Awards**

3.7.1 The following 2 awards were made in 2008/9:

- £15,000 to the Cambridge & District Citizens Advice Bureau for the search for their new premises and the increase in demand on services arising from the economic downturn
- £15,000 to the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum to assist with the costs of establishing services for refugees, asylum seekers and economic immigrants

## **4. Implications**

4.1 Financial Implications

- The funding amounts is dependent on 2010/11 budget approval
- Any revisions to individual awards will be undertaken with support

4.2 Staffing Implications

- Services restructure implications as documented in report to Community services Scrutiny Committee in January 2009

4.3 Equal Opportunities Implications

- The grant aid policies are based on the Council's medium term Objective to secure a healthy and thriving community, especially through the provision of services to areas and communities that are the most disadvantaged.
- A condition of grant aid is the effective implementation of equal opportunities policy and practice

4.4 Environmental Implications

- All applicants are required to have environmental/green policies

## **5. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Community Development Service Review & Strategy 2009-12
- Compact
- Mapping Poverty 2008

## **6. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Community Development Service Review – Executive Summary

Appendix 2 – Compact & NI 7

Appendix 3 – Diagram linking the proposed grant priorities to the MTOs and Service Priorities and Objectives

Appendix 4 – Area Committees briefing paper including the updated allocation of funds

## **7. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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