

CABINET – 18TH JANUARY 2018

Report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services Lead Member: Cllr Brian Page

Part A

ITEM 6 CHARNWOOD GRANTS STRATEGIC PARTNERS 2018/19 – 2019/20

Purpose of Report

To put forward proposals for Strategic Partner Grant Scheme funding for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Recommendations

1. That the following Strategic Partner Grants be approved, subject to budget approval:

| Organisation | Amount Awarded 2018/19 (Year 1) | Amount Awarded 2019/20 (Year 2*) |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Charnwood Citizens Advice Bureau | £60,185 | Year 1 + Inflation + 1% |
| Charnwood Twenty Twenty | £9,287 | |
| Clockwise Credit Union | £8,000 | |
| Equality Action | £20,224 | |
| Fearon Hall Community Association | £29,393 | |
| Gorse Covert Community Association | £19,698 | |
| John Storer Charnwood | £83,542 | |
| Shepshed Volunteer Centre (John Storer Charnwood) | £9,430 | |
| Living Without Abuse | £16,549 | |
| Rosebery St Peters Community Centre * | £5,122 | |
| Syston Volunteer Centre | £9,430 | |

*Funding approved in principle for Roseberry St Peters Community Centre – see recommendation 4

2. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services be given delegated authority to finalise the terms and conditions of the Strategic Partner Grants awarded and Service Level Agreements.

3. That Clockwise Credit Union be added as a new Strategic Partner.
4. That a Strategic Partner Grant be awarded in principle to Rosebery St Peters Community Centre, subject to them continuing to work with the Council and receipt of evidence demonstrating that they are financially sound and a new Business Plan is implemented before 1st April 2018, and that the Head of Neighbourhood Services be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Lead Member, to determine the most appropriate way forward.

Reasons

1. To provide appropriate levels of financial support to those organisations that have submitted applications and been assessed as meeting the criteria for the Strategic Partner Grant Scheme.
2. To enable the grants awarded to be finalised with an approved Service Level Agreement and appropriate information to be supplied to the Council about the outcomes of the projects/services.
3. To bring Clockwise in line with other Strategic Partner arrangements.
4. To ensure that the Community Centre is in a sustainable and stable position before any funding is awarded.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Following recommendations made to Cabinet in March 2013, in a report considering the Council Strategic Partners, the Cabinet agreed, (Min. 124), that a review of the Strategic Partners takes place.

Existing Strategic Partners and one new Strategic Partner (Clockwise Credit Union) were invited to apply for funding for a two-year period ending in March 2020.

As the current Service Level Agreements will be coming to an end in March 2018, Strategic Partners have again been invited to apply for funding for a further two-year period (2018/19 and 2019/20) to ensure that the organisations are still meeting the expectations of the Strategic Partner Grant scheme, and the aims of the current Corporate Plan.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

Following approval of the recommendations, the Strategic Partners will be notified of the outcome and the level of funding awarded over the two years. Officers will agree their Service Level Agreement and the schedule of grant payments for 2018/19 from 1st April 2018.

Each Strategic Partner will have a Borough Council Lead Officer, who will visit the organisation at least twice a year, usually in June and November. They will complete a Monitoring Return at each meeting, and submit this to the Grants

Administrator. The payments will then be released subject to the Monitoring Return being approved by the Neighbourhoods and Partnerships Manager.

At the end of the year each organisation will supply overall monitoring and evaluation evidence for the full year and subject to approval, they will then receive the agreed level of funding for 2019/20.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

Strategic Partner Grant Scheme Funding

It has been proposed as part of the 2018/19 budget that the Strategic Partner Grant Scheme will have an increase of 1% plus inflation. The maximum amount that each Strategic Partner can apply for is reflected in Appendix 1 and the second year of funding will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval as part of the 2019/20 budget setting process.

The budget for the Strategic Partner Grant Scheme for 2018/19 will be £270,860, subject to budget approval.

For the past four years there have been separate arrangements and funding with regard to Clockwise Credit Union. After a review it is felt that these arrangements needed to be brought into line with the rest of the Council's Strategic Partners. The remaining budget for Clockwise Credit Union is £33,900, which will fund between three to four years of Strategic Partner grant based on a starting point of £8000 per annum. It is proposed that once this current funding has come to an end, the Strategic Partner will be reviewed and an additional service pressure submitted at this point as part of the budget process.

Risk Management

The risks associated with the decision Cabinet is asked to make and proposed actions to mitigate those risks are set out in the table below.

| Risk Identified | Likelihood | Impact | Risk Management Actions Planned |
|---|------------|----------|--|
| The grants do not deliver the objectives of the Charnwood Grants scheme | Unlikely | Moderate | The grants have been assessed against the scheme's criteria and will be linked to the provision of appropriate monitoring information. |

| | | | |
|--|----------|----------|---|
| That Strategic Partner Organisations cannot demonstrate sustainability | Unlikely | Moderate | That the financial profile of the organisations is reviewed at application and after the first year. Where there are concerns about sustainability further assurance is required before funds are released. |
|--|----------|----------|---|

Equality and Diversity

There is a requirement in the grants criteria for each organisation that applies to either have their own Equal Opportunities Policy or provide a statement that the organisation will abide by the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy. An Equalities Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 3.

Crime and Disorder

The grants criteria specifically cover crime and disorder with projects needing to outline how the proposed project reduces the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour and promotes stronger, cohesive and balanced communities.

Sustainability

Many of the grants criteria are concerned with sustainability.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Papers: None

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Part B

Review of Strategic Partner Scheme

1. Following the decision by Cabinet in March 2013, officers undertook a full review in late 2013 of the current Strategic Partner Grant Scheme, looking at its financial support to community and voluntary organisations. The review included information taken from a consultation with all current Strategic Partners and an analysis of delivery against the corporate objectives. A further review has been undertaken during 2017.
2. The findings showed that for many years the Council has allocated funding to support the delivery of services across the borough by key voluntary and community sector organisations and groups. The majority of these organisations became Strategic Partners after delivering a particular piece of work or service on the Council's behalf on an ongoing basis. As a Strategic Partner they have received an agreed level of funding based on a Service Level Agreement (SLA).
3. Following the consultation and review it was agreed:
 - That an agreed timeframe and process for future funding rounds to allow Cabinet to make decisions in early January be put in place.
 - That grants will be awarded for two years and then reviewed to avoid running a rolling programme and allow for any changes in priorities. Year 2 funding will be subject to monitoring and evaluation of Year 1 delivery against Service Level Agreement (SLA.)
 - That all organisations wishing to access the Strategic Partner Grant Scheme will need to complete the application form and will be assessed against the evaluation criteria. That the Council's corporate objectives will continue to serve as the overarching framework for the Strategic Partners priorities.
 - That Strategic Partners are expected to demonstrate:
 - Organisational robustness
 - That they are viable, sustainable organisations that have the resources/commitment to undertake these responsibilities
 - Produce a two-year Business or Development Plan, which includes systems for effective financial management and sustainability
 - That they can demonstrate that they do not directly duplicate services already delivered by other Strategic Partners
 - That they can deliver against a minimum of 5 of the Council's Strategic Objectives

4. As part of the 2018/19 and 2019/20 process a review of existing Strategic Partner outcomes against the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives was undertaken and it was established that all existing Strategic Partners were still playing a key role in enhancing service delivery and were still relevant and appropriate as a Council Strategic Partner. (Appendix 2).
5. All current Strategic Partners were notified of the application process and funding levels. A Strategic Partner Grant Application Form, along with guidance notes were sent out with an accompanying letter highlighting the maximum amounts that would be awarded during 2018/19 and 2019/20 to each organisation.
6. In addition, a review of the existing arrangements with Clockwise Credit Union were undertaken and a decision that they should be bought in line with the rest of the Council's Strategic Partner arrangements and therefore were invited to apply along with the other Strategic Partners.
7. Appendix 1 provides detail of the current Strategic Partners and proposed grant amounts for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Strategic Partner Grant Scheme Application Process

8. The application process required the following:
 - That each organisation has a maximum amount that can be awarded
 - That the award is for two years, subject to evaluation after year one
 - That each organisation must meet at least five of the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives
 - That the organisation has a robust two year business plan
 - That the organisation delivers its services directly into Charnwood
9. All applications are assessed against two measures of need: how the project/service delivers the Council's aims and objectives in meeting identified community needs and the organisational need of the Council's grant funding to enable the project to succeed. Both measures seek to demonstrate the value for money to be obtained in providing grant funding. Twelve criteria are used to assess community need based on the aims and objectives set out in the Corporate Plan and nine criteria are used for organisational assessment.
10. How does your project promote stronger, cohesive and balanced communities (in particular encouraging people from different backgrounds to get along together)?
 - How does your project promote well-supported volunteering opportunities?
 - How does your project promote health and well-being (in particular promoting healthy eating, physical activity, sexual health and reduced substance misuse)?

- How does your project promote and support improved mental health and emotional wellbeing?
- How does your project reduce the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour?
- How does your project improve the quality of life of people living in priority neighbourhoods?
- How does your project improve the well-being of residents through acknowledging their diverse needs?
- How does your project enable children, young people and older people to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live?
- How does your project enable older people to live independent lives?
- How does your project promote access of local people to green spaces and the countryside?
- How does your project add value to Charnwood's commitment to reduce the impact of climate change?
- How does your project help promote local businesses and farming to prosper and develop vibrant towns and villages and support rural enterprise?

11. Nine criteria are for the Organisational Assessment. Organisations must demonstrate that their service/projects are prepared and managed well and will be encouraged to explore other funding sources where appropriate. This section has been modified from that used for the Community Development Grant Scheme to reflect what we would expect from Strategic Partners.

- That the organisation has identified a realistic total cost and timetable for the service/project that the grant is sort for? (Demonstrates that costs and timescales have been researched)
- Has provided evidence of a robust two year business plan?
- Has demonstrated that the organisation has capacity to deliver the service/project effectively and within the agreed timescales.
- Has demonstrated that the service/project provides value for money?
- That the application has demonstrated that the service/project is not duplicated by another organisation?
 - Has joint working been considered
 - Has evidence shown how the work is different from others
- That the application provides strong evidence of how delivery of the service/project will be monitored
 - How outcomes will be monitored
 - What statistical information can be provided
 - How feedback will be collected by 'users'
 - Other evidence that can be provided
- That the balances and reserves demonstrate the stability of the organisation? (Demonstrates that it follows relevant guidance on maintaining general balances, and reserves that are earmarked reserves reflect its long term strategy and has considered whether it can fund the activity from its balances.)

- What proportion of the cost of the service/project is the Council being asked to fund? (Demonstrates that the level of funding sought from the Council is justified.)
- Geographical location (No specific conditions or targets will be applied to grant awards but the assessment of need will take the geographical distribution of grants across the Borough into account)

12. Applications are assessed qualitatively against these criteria and rated high, medium or low. These ratings are converted to a score on the following basis which rewards those applications which rate highly in meeting community need and provide a maximum possible score of 117.

Table 1 – Conversion of rankings into scores

| Ranking | Community Need Score | Organisation Need Score |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| HIGH | 6 | 5 |
| MEDIUM | 2 | 3 |
| LOW | 1 | 1 |
| Maximum Score | 72 | 45 |

Levels for funding

| Score | Level of funding |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Less than 35 | Nil |
| 35 – 50 | Some of grant applied grant for |
| More than 50+ | Most or all of funding applied for |

13. The Grants Panel received the applications and completed the Assessment Forms using the scoring method described above. One of the requirements for being considered for Strategic partners funding is that the organisation can demonstrate that they deliver against at least five of the Corporate Plan objectives.

Appendix 2 shows the Grants Panel's assessment of delivery against the Council's corporate objectives for each of the applicants.

Strategic Partner Grant Scheme Applications

14. Eleven applications for funding were invited, received and assessed. They have been assessed against the Strategic Partner Grant Scheme criteria and all eleven have been recommended for support.

Grants Panel Recommendations

15. A summary of the applications and comments made by the grants panel are set out below:

Charnwood Citizens' Advice Bureau – Score 64.8 - Recommendation to award £60,185 in 2018/19 (amount for 2019/20 to be confirmed and subject to budget approval)

16. Aims are to inform and advise people of their rights and responsibilities and to influence policy makers through social policy work. The bureau deals with around 5,000 clients per year with over 14,000 issues. Debt, welfare benefits and employment are consistently the most common areas of enquiry.
17. Charnwood CAB is seeking funding for their 'core' service. This includes clients being offered a 'Gateway Assessment' (brief assessment of their advice needs), and referrals to Volunteer Advisers.
18. The organisation has 10 paid staff, and 56 trained volunteer advisers and support staff.
19. Will enhance quality of life, especially those with long term health problems, by improving socio-economic conditions. Will combat poverty by maximising income.
20. Significant volunteering opportunities which develops people's confidence and skills, which are then transferable.
21. The organisation has applied for £60,185.
22. The officer assessment scored this scheme at 64.8 and recommends that a grant of £60,185 is awarded for 2018/19. Funding for 2019/20 will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval. This award is subject to the organisation continuing to commit to outreach sessions at Syston and other Priority Neighbourhoods.
23. Panel comments on Application:
 - Robust application which demonstrates that the organisation has worked positively to ensure that it is sustainable in the longer term
 - Organisation is committed to outreach work and envisage this to continue and be expanded, especially in Priority Neighbourhood areas
 - Organisation has a strong volunteer development programme
 - Young people are being encouraged to access the service.

Charnwood Twenty Twenty – Score 73.2 – Recommendation to award £9,287 in 2018/19 (amount for 2019/20 to be confirmed and subject to budget approval)

24. A charity providing specialist education and intensive support to disadvantaged and disengaged young people aged 11 to 24 years, to help them succeed in education, thrive in their personal lives, improve their physical and mental wellbeing and achieve long-term employment. Services

include their Lifeskills Centres, Journey to Work, Mentoring and Love4Life. The Charity supports 250 young people in Charnwood.

25. The Lifeskills centre provides bespoke training, developing confidence, skills, qualifications and attitudes – allowing young people to become re-engaged with school/work. Mentoring allows the young people to have a positive role model. Love4Life provides one to one support and small group work to young girls, to develop self-esteem, confidence in education, encourage positive relationship choices and reduce incidences of self-harm.

26. The organisation has applied for £10,000, although they were informed that the maximum they could apply for was £9,287, based on 2017/18 allocation plus inflation and 1%.

27. The officer assessment scored this scheme at 73.2 and recommends that a grant of £9,287 is awarded for 2018/19. Funding for 2019/20 will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval.

28. Panel comments on Application:

- Wide range of services targeting hard to reach and disengaged young people, impacting significantly on ASB
- A high-scoring application
- Organisation continues to deliver, and contributes toward a significant number of the Councils corporate objectives
- Value for money is excellent
- Good outcomes for hard to reach young people

Clockwise Credit Union – Score 61.6 - Recommendation to award £8,000 in 2018/19 (amount for 2019/20 to be confirmed and subject to budget approval)

29. Clockwise is a not-for-profit Credit Union in Leicester City and Leicestershire able to offer banking services providing affordable loans, safe savings and ethical financial products and services.

30. Clockwise has been established since 1992, are members of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) and Financial Ombudsman so members money is assured.

31. In September 2017 Clockwise had over 10,000 adult members and 750 junior members.

32. Clockwise employs 18 full and part time staff running the main office in Leicester. Charnwood residents have online access and access to a 'branch' service in Loughborough.

33. Clockwise have been working with the Council since 2014 to ensure that access to credit union services are provided within Charnwood. Since that time they have refined their offer and are now delivering two access sessions a week, one at the Library and one at the Council offices. In addition, they have been working closely with the Council to drive their membership and target services in priority neighbourhoods. They are also working closely with DWP.
34. As part of a review of current arrangements it was decided that it would be appropriate to bring Clockwise in line with the Council's other Strategic Partners and put them on the same two year Service Level Agreement arrangements.
35. The organisation has applied for £8,000.
36. The officer assessment scored this scheme at 61.6 and recommends that a grant of £8,000 is awarded for 2018/19. Funding for 2019/20 will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval.
37. Panel comments on Application:
- The Panel support community access to Credit Union services in Charnwood.
 - Specially assists those residents who are excluded from mainstream banking and being forced into high cost borrowing.
 - Face to face service provided weekly from Loughborough Library and Council offices.

Equality Action – Score 67 – Recommendation to award £20,224 in 2018/19 (amount for 2019/20 to be confirmed and subject to budget approval)

38. Aims to eliminate discrimination, campaign for equality of opportunity, promote good relations between all persons in the Borough and Leicestershire.
39. Provides advice and information on welfare benefits, health, housing, adult social care, and immigration.
40. The grant will be used towards running costs and will enable them to maintain the delivery of their key services in Charnwood, including advice and information, particularly to those facing barriers to accessing vital information.
41. 3,500 people benefit from community cohesion events each year.

42. The organisation has 3 staff, 12 committee members and 6 volunteers at present. There are up to 50 volunteers when co-ordinating events such as the Loughborough Mela.

43. The organisation:

- Promotes community cohesion
- Empowers women and men with South Asian background
- Builds confidence and self-esteem.

44. The organisation has applied for £20,224.

45. The officer assessment scored this scheme at 67 and recommends that a grant of £20,224 is awarded for 2018/19. Funding for 2019/20 will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval. The grant award is also subject to the following:

- Equality Action to provide a robust Business Plan which covers 2018/19 and 2019/2020.

46. Panel comments on Application:

- Provides positive targeted support for Black Asian communities
- Working closely with CBC Officers to further develop their Business Plan and range of service offered to ensure they are sustainable into the longer term
- Have been supportive of and contributed to the Prevent work

Fearon Community Association – Score 84.2 – Recommendation to award £29,393 in 2018/19 (amount for 2019/20 to be confirmed and subject to budget approval)

47. Fearon Community Association exists to maintain and improve the quality of life for people in East Loughborough, especially Hastings / Lemyngton wards, and promote equality of opportunity between individuals and groups of people from different backgrounds. The venue is used for community and private events.

48. The grant will cover running costs of the various projects/ areas of work/ services offered, including youth provision, health, advice and outreach to BAME community, community learning, communication and cohesion.

49. The organisation has 2 staff, 3 committee members, and 9 volunteers.

50. The organisation provides the following services and caters for:

- Older people – to maintain / regain their independence

- Vulnerable adults – improved self-esteem and engagement with adult social-services
- Young people – provides a meeting point and fills gaps in local youth services, provides diversionary activities
- Unemployed people – increase skills base and employability
- People with drugs / alcohol problems – minimises the negative impact of substance misuse.

51. The organisation has applied for £29,393.

52. The officer assessment scored this scheme at 84.2 and recommends that a grant of £29,393 is awarded for 2018/19. Funding for 2019/20 will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval

53. Panel comments on Application:

- Very high scoring application
- Organisation has made significant progress to transform their organisation and business plan
- Key community facility in a Priority Neighbourhood
- Wide range of activities and services meeting the needs within their locality
- Strong commitment to helping the most vulnerable
- Wide range of activities and services

Gorse Covert Community Association – Score 62 - Recommendation to award £19,698 in 2018/19 (amount for 2019/20 to be confirmed subject to budget approval)

54. The Community Centre is situated on the edge of Loughborough West Priority Neighbourhood area. It offers a wide range of activities over a 7-day programme through third party providers, catering for pre-natal to elderly residents in the immediate area, Loughborough and Charnwood.

55. It aims to provide and promote social, recreational educational and community development support for local people.

56. The grant would be used towards running costs, enabling the centre to expand and promote services to the local neighbourhood and targeted work with the more vulnerable and hard to reach communities.

57. There are 7 members of staff and 12 volunteers including Trustees (75% of the current user groups are serviced by volunteers).

58. Health and well-being issues are supported through provision of the following groups:

- The Alzheimers Society

- Parkinsons UK
- Stroke club
- Coping with Cancer
- Breathe Easy
- Let's Talk (one-to-one sessions for mental health issues)

59. The majority of sessions are universal, however a number are targeted at specific groups, such as Breathe Easy for people with respiratory issues, a playgroup and toddler groups are provided for young families, and the Youth service targets young people aged 14+. Services are also provided where older people are empowered to become an active part of the community.

60. The organisation has applied for £19,698.

61. The officer assessment scored this scheme at 62 and recommends that a grant of £19,698 is awarded for 2018/19. Funding for 2019/20 will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval.

62. Panel comments on Application:

- Community centre has good relationship with community groups
- There are a wide range of positive activities/sessions provided
- They are very focused on health outcomes
- Financially stable
- Strong group of trustees
- Panel would like the organisation to develop their work with the Warwick Way estate, and encourage more involvement from Warwick Way residents.

John Storer Charnwood – Score 83.2 – Recommendation to award £83,542 in 2018/19 (amount for 2019/20 to be confirmed and subject to budget approval)

63. John Storer Charnwood (JSC) employs mainly part-time staff and co-ordinates hundreds of volunteers to provide services and activities from and at John Storer House (JSH).

64. Approximately £39,500 of the grant would go into the John Storer House cost centre and would pay for administration, house-keeping, security staff, and premises costs – including servicing and replacing equipment. The remaining £44,042 would be used to support John Storer Charnwood which includes:

- VCS support, development and representation
- VCS forums and representation

- Outward facing strategic management and participation in partnership working within the wider community with key partners in the third sector, statutory and private sectors
- Volunteering support, training, pathway development and promotion within JSC, but also within the wider community sectors
- Facilitation of three well-being groups which meet monthly around the Borough
- Development and delivery of a subsidised programme of training suitable for all VCS groups

65. The organisation has 27 staff, 12 committee members, and 184 volunteers. 150-200 people use the building daily.

66. Open to the public Mondays to Saturdays, and available for private room hire, group conferences etc. It is a well-being centre for all; activities and services enrich lives through mind, body and spirit.

67. Community transport service assists the elderly and disabled, and enables them to attend activities in Loughborough and local places, including JSH.

68. The organisation has applied for £83,542.

69. The officer assessment scored this scheme at 83.2 and recommends that a grant of £83,542 is awarded for 2018/19. Funding for 2019/20 will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval.

70. Panel comments on Application:

- Strong application
- Robust business plan
- Key community based provision with evidence of strong partnership working and meeting a number of CBC priorities.
- Panel need to be clear about what roles the John Storer House and VAC elements will play
- Panel would encourage the organisation to work with Syston Volunteer Centre.

Shepshed Volunteer Centre – Score 65.2 – Recommendation to award £9,430 in 2018/19 (amount for 2019/20 to be confirmed and subject to budget approval)

71. Shepshed Volunteer Centre (SVC) employs 3 staff including a part-time Centre Co-ordinator, and a part-time Administrative Assistant. There are 10 committee members and 59 volunteers fulfilling over 100 roles.

72. Provides services for vulnerable residents of Shepshed and surrounding area, enabling them to maintain independent lives in their own homes.

Services include: a social car scheme, gardening scheme, befriending scheme.

73. A grant would contribute towards core funding for all activities, along with £6,000 from Shepshed Town Council. This includes salary, running costs and servicing and replacing of equipment.

74. The organisation:

- Enables inclusion of all disadvantaged communities and groups
- Enables disabled and elderly to remain independent and to stay in their own homes
- Encourages social cohesion, and community engagement
- Reduces isolation.

75. The organisation has applied for £9,430.

76. The officer assessment scored this scheme at 65.2 and recommends that a grant of £9,430 is awarded for 2018/19, and funding for 2019/20 will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval.

77. Panel comments on Application:

- Wide variety of community projects
- Provides a local infrastructure support for Shepshed
- Strong approach to volunteering
- Good delivery of local schemes, welcome resource
- Strong links and supports from John Storer Charnwood.

Living Without Abuse – Score 78.4 – Recommendation to award £16,549 in 2018/19 (amount for 2019/20 to be confirmed and subject to budget approval)

78. Living Without Abuse exists to relieve the distress and suffering felt by anyone who has experienced any form of domestic abuse.

79. Provides one to one outreach services to male and female survivors, offering information, advice and support on all issues relating to domestic abuse, including legal options, housing, safety planning, health and well-being, and issues relating to children and young people.

80. A grant would be used to support their outreach service.

81. The organisation has 23 staff, 3 committee members, and 7 volunteers.

82. The organisation provides counselling / emotional support offered to service users once the domestic abuse issues become historic, practical and

emotional support, encourages victims to report to the police.

83. Prevents homelessness, increases safety, develops self-esteem / confidence.

84. The organisation has applied for £16,549.

85. The officer assessment scored this scheme at 78.4 and recommends that a grant of £16,549 is awarded for 2018/19. Funding for 2019/20 will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval.

86. In previous years Living Without Abuse have been allocated funding re-directed from Victim Support, whose Strategic Partner agreement was terminated in October 2015. Due to service demand and waiting lists, the funding will be added directly to Living Without Abuse's Strategic Partner grant, and this funding has been included in the total amount to be awarded, as detailed above.

87. Panel comments on Application:

- Specialist provider of an essential and critical service in Charnwood
- Consistently meets performance targets
- Good user feedback.

Rosebery St Peter's Community Centre – Score 54.6 - Recommendation to award £5,122 in 2018/19 (amount for 2019/20 to be confirmed and subject to budget approval)

88. Rosebery St Peters provides a centre for community use, and over 28 different groups who cover the spectrum of demand including: Health and well-being, fitness, education, arts and leisure, befriending the elderly, clubs, and is a community venue for festivals, events and ceremonies.

89. A grant will help them maintain a good quality of service, by contributing towards staffing costs, and overall running costs. This will enable them to promote their services and recruit new members and users.

90. 27,756 people used the centre last year. 3 staff, 27 committee members, and 28 community groups use the centre and engage volunteers.

91. The organisation promotes empowering people as active citizens, building stronger communities and encourages social cohesion. They provide unrestricted access to services including under-represented and disadvantaged groups. Provide activities to support individuals in gaining skills for employment.

92. The organisation has applied for £5,122.

93. The officer assessment scored this scheme at 54.6 and recommends that in principle a grant of £5,122 is awarded for 2018/19, subject to advanced discussions with CBC Officers. Funding for 2019/20 will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval. The grant award is subject to them continuing to work with the Council and providing a viable Business Plan, demonstrating that they are financially robust and that appropriate governance structures are in place and implemented before 1st April 2018.

94. Officers are currently working with Rosebery St Peters to support changes required to finalise details of their financial situation which need to be resolved before moving forward.

95. Panel comments on Application:

- The organisation has survived a significant increase of rent to the Diocese, and the opening of a newly refurbished church next door to the premises, indicating a strong, loyal base of volunteers and user groups.
- Facility is well used by regulars, but more work is needed to widen their user groups.
- Award is subject to a review of the organisations financial position and Business Plan

System and District Volunteer Centre – Score 69 - Recommendation to award £9,430 in 2018/19 (amount for 2019/20 to be confirmed and subject to budget approval)

96. Objectives are to have a pool of volunteers to provide support and develop new opportunities for the benefit of the local community and those in need across the South Charnwood area.

97. To recruit, support and train volunteers.

98. The organisation currently provides:

- Social car and community mini-bus
- Monthly community lunch
- Wheelchair and mobility aid hire
- MIDAS mini bus training
- Community development initiatives, eg System Community Garden Project and 'Make a Difference' days
- New pilot partnership in 2018 planned with Citizens Advice Bureau to deliver general help and advice in System twice a month.

99. The grant would provide some financial security while allowing the Centre to continue providing an excellent service. It will allow the business to grow and for them to diversify into other areas, providing further volunteering opportunities.

100. The organisation has 2 full time and 3 part time staff, 9 committee members, and 38 volunteers.

101. Positive outcomes:

- It improves life chances for vulnerable individuals and families
- Older people empowered to play an active role in the community
- Opportunities for residents to improve their health and well-being
- Developing supported volunteering opportunities across the Borough with a focus on priority neighbourhoods.

102. The organisation has applied for £9,430.

103. The officer assessment scored this scheme at 69 and recommends that a grant of £9,430 is awarded for 2018/19, subject to them delivering the points outlined in the Business Plan, such as the gardening project and community lunches. Funding for 2019/20 will be confirmed following an evaluation at the end of Year 1, and will be subject to budget approval.

104. Panel comments on Application:

- A positive organisation, open to suggestions. Have been working with CBC Officers
- School and community garden projects positive
- Provides a service for South Charnwood, an area which otherwise would not have support
- Organisation currently has staffing issues, and needs to focus on progression, delivering wider community projects other than transport.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Strategic Partner Grants

Appendix 2: Delivery Against Corporate Objectives

Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment

APPENDIX 1

| | Maximum | Maximum |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Strategic Partner | Grants for 2018/19 | Grants for 2019/20 |
| Charnwood Citizens Advice Bureau | £60,185 | Year 1 + Inflation + 1% |
| Charnwood Twenty Twenty | £9,287 | |
| Clockwise Credit Union | £8,000 | |
| Equality Action | £20,224 | |
| Fearon Hall | £29,393 | |
| Gorse Covert Community Association | £19,698 | |
| John Storer Charnwood | £83,542 | |
| Shepshed Volunteer Centre | £9,430 | |
| Living Without Abuse | £16,549 | |
| Rosebery St Peters Community Centre | £5,122 | |
| System & District Volunteer Centre | £9,430 | |

Delivery Against Corporate Objectives

| Corporate Objectives | Promotes Stronger Cohesive & Balances Communities | Promotes well supported Volunteering opportunities | Promotes health & wellbeing (including reduced substance misuse) | Promotes and supports improved mental health and emotional wellbeing | Reduces the impact of crime and ASB | Improves the quality of life for people in our Priority Neighbourhoods | Improves wellbeing of residents through acknowledging their diverse needs | Enables children, young people & older people to make a positive contribution | Enables older people to live independent lives | Promotes access to green spaces and countryside | Adds value to Charnwood's commitment to reduce impact of climate change | Helps local businesses to prosper, develops vibrant towns & social enterprise |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Charnwood Citizens Advice Bureau | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Charnwood Twenty Twenty | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Clockwise Credit Union | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Equality Action | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Fearon Hall | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Gorse Covert Community Association | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| John Storer Charnwood | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Shepshed Volunteer Centre | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Living Without Abuse | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Rosebery St Peters Community Centre | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Syston Volunteer Centre | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

Charnwood Borough Council

**Equality Impact Assessment
'Knowing the needs of your customers and employees'**

■ **Background**

An Equality Impact Assessment is an improvement tool. It will assist you in ensuring that you have thought about the needs and impacts of your service/policy/function in relation to the protected characteristics. It enables a systematic approach to identifying and recording gaps and actions.

■ **Legislation- Equality Duty**

As a local authority that provides services to the public, Charnwood Borough Council has a legal responsibility to ensure that we can demonstrate having paid due regard to the need to:

- ✓ Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- ✓ Advance Equality of Opportunity
- ✓ Foster good relations

For the following protected characteristics:

1. Age
2. Disability
3. Gender reassignment
4. Marriage and civil partnership
5. Pregnancy and maternity
6. Race
7. Religion and belief
8. Sex (Gender)
9. Sexual orientation

What is prohibited?

1. Direct Discrimination
2. Indirect Discrimination
3. Harassment
4. Victimisation
5. Discrimination by association
6. Discrimination by perception
7. Pregnancy and maternity discrimination
8. Discrimination arising from disability
9. Failing to make reasonable adjustments

■ **Step 1 – Introductory information**

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Title of the policy | Strategic Partner Grants |
| Name of lead officer and others undertaking this assessment | Julie Robinson |
| Date EIA started | November 2017 |
| Date EIA completed | December 2017 |

■ **Step 2 – Overview of policy/function being assessed:**

| |
|--|
| Outline: What is the purpose of this policy? (Specify aims and objectives) |
| <p>Charnwood Borough Council recognises the value and contribution of individuals, voluntary sector organisations and other community-led projects and the benefits they provide to the residents of Charnwood.</p> <p>Through our Charnwood grant schemes we provide a range of grants including Strategic Partner grants to help organisations, groups and individuals access the funding support they need.</p> <p>Strategic Partners are those organisations who contribute significantly to delivering key services that meet the Council's corporate objectives.</p> <p>It is the Council's aim to ensure the grants process is inclusive of all community groups and funding supports projects targeting individuals across a range of protected characteristics, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.</p> |
| What specific group/s is the policy designed to affect/impact and what is the intended change or outcome for them? |
| <p>It is the Council's aim to ensure that the grants process is inclusive of all community groups and funding supports projects targeting individuals/ residents across a range of protected characteristics, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Analysis is therefore undertaken to ensure that the grant are distributed in a reasonable and proportionate manner.</p> |
| Which groups have been consulted as part of the creation or review of the policy? |
| <p>Evaluation takes place on successful Strategic Partner applications to analyse whether there any gaps with regards to the protected characteristics in order to ensure the grants process is fair and equal to all. In particular analysis is undertaken to determine any barriers which may prevent specific community groups/ communities of interest accessing provision.</p> |

Step 3 – What we already know and where there are gaps

| |
|---|
| <p>List any existing information/data do you have/monitor about different diverse groups in relation to this policy? Such as in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation etc.</p> <p>Data/information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consultation ▪ Previous Equality Impact Assessments ▪ Demographic information ▪ Anecdotal and other evidence |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analysis of Strategic Partner applications and monitoring and evaluation data and information |
| <p>What does this information / data tell you about diverse groups? If you do not hold or have access to any data/information on diverse groups, what do you need to begin collating / monitoring? (Please list)</p> |
| <p>The information tells us that the voluntary sector organisations supported provide a range of services that acknowledge individuals from protected characteristics.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that some of the voluntary sector organisations support individuals with multiple characteristics and those projects supporting the wider community have a wide range of beneficiaries.</p> <p>Where possible equalities information is provided as part of the monitoring data from voluntary sector organisations that are awarded a grant by the Council. There are a number of organisations that specifically cover age, disability, race, religion, sex.</p> |

Step 4 – Do we need to seek the views of others? If so, who?

| |
|--|
| <p>In light of the answers you have given in Step 2, do you need to consult with specific groups to identify needs / issues? If not please explain why.</p> |
| <p>However, at this stage of analysis it is felt the information currently held is sufficient to analysis trends and determine any barriers or negative impacts.</p> |

Step 5 – Assessing the impact

| |
|--|
| <p>In light of any data/consultation/information and your own knowledge and awareness, please identify whether the policy has a positive or negative impact on the individuals or community groups (including what barriers these individuals or groups may face) who identify with any 'protected characteristics' and provide an explanation for your decision (please refer to the general duties on the front page).</p> |
| <p>Comments</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| Age | There is a reasonable proportion of grant funding awarded to projects relating to Age. Of the grants awarded, there is a reasonable proportionate spread between projects for older and younger people. The process has therefore created a positive impact in relation to the protected characteristic of Age. |
| Disability (Physical, visual, hearing, learning disabilities, mental health) | There is a reasonable proportion of grant funding awarded to projects relating to disability. In addition it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. Therefore, creating further positive impacts for people with disabilities. The process has therefore created a positive impact overall in relation to the protected characteristic of Disability. |
| Gender Reassignment (Transgender) | Neutral Impact - No projects have been specifically funded to support the protected characteristic of Gender Reassignment. In addition it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. |
| Race | There is a reasonably large amount of grant funding awarded to projects relating to Race. In addition it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. The process has therefore created a positive impact overall in relation to the protected characteristic of Race. |
| Religion or Belief (Includes no belief) | <p>Whilst Charnwood Grants do not specifically support religious groups/ activities, it does provide funding to faith groups who are delivering activities for the wider community.</p> <p>The impact is therefore neutral with regards to the protected characteristic of religion or belief with the acknowledged that wider benefits are created for the wider community.</p> |
| Sex (Gender) | There is some grant funding awarded to projects relating to Gender. In addition it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. The process has therefore created a positive impact in relation to the protected characteristic of Gender. |
| Sexual Orientation | Neutral Impact - No projects have been specifically funded to support the protected characteristic of Sexual Orientation. In addition it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross - cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Other protected groups (Pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership)</p> | <p>There is some grant funding awarded to projects relating to Pregnancy & Maternity. In addition it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross-cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. The process has therefore created a positive impact in relation to the protected characteristic of Pregnancy & Maternity.</p> |
| <p>Other socially excluded groups (carers, low literacy, priority neighbourhoods, health inequalities, rural isolation, asylum seeker and refugee communities etc.)</p> | <p>The grants which focus on the wider community have a wide range of benefits, particularly for residents from priority neighbourhoods or areas of deprivation.</p> |

| |
|--|
| <p>Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/ or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination.</p> <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately. b) Additionally, if you have identified adverse impact that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people. |
| <p>No negative impacts or potential barriers have been identified. However it is acknowledged that specific marketing / promotion for the protected characteristics of Gender Reassignment and Sexual Orientation may be required.</p> |
| <p>Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Charnwood Borough Council's responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity (please refer to the general duties on the front page).</p> |
| <p>It is the opinion that the Strategic Partner Grants comply with Charnwood Borough Council's equality and diversity responsibilities. It will further promote equal opportunities and achieve positive outcomes.</p> |

Step 6- Monitoring, evaluation and review

| |
|--|
| <p>Are there processes in place to review the findings of this Assessment and make appropriate changes? In particular, how will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?</p> |
| <p>Monitoring will continue on a quarterly and annual basis to assess the grant applications that are successful. Continuous monitoring and analysis will aim to identify gaps which may potentially highlight barriers or negative impacts towards specific community groups/ communities of interest.</p> <p>Further equalities monitoring will be explored for those projects which have applied and are deemed unsuccessful, for the further identification of issues or potential barriers.</p> |
| <p>How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes? e.g. policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems.</p> |
| <p>Where barriers/ negative impacts are identified, the mitigating action and progress against this will be included within the relevant service plan.</p> |

■ **Step 7- Action Plan**

| Please include any identified concerns/actions/issues in this action plan: The issues identified should inform your Service Plan and, if appropriate, your Consultation Plan | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Reference Number | Action | Responsible Officer | Target Date |
| 001 | Continue to monitor the Grants on a quarterly and annual basis to assess the grant applications that are both successful and unsuccessful. | J. Robinson | March 2019 |

■ **Step 8- Who needs to know about the outcomes of this assessment and how will they be informed?**

| | Who needs to know (Please tick) | How they will be informed (we have a legal duty to publish EIA's) |
|---|---|---|
| Employees | ✓ | This EIA will be published on the Council's website. |
| Service users | ✓ | |
| Partners and stakeholders | ✓ | |
| Others | ✓ | |
| To ensure ease of access, what other communication needs/concerns are there? | ✓ | |

| |
|--|
| Please delete as appropriate |
| I agree with this assessment / action plan |
| If <i>disagree</i>, state action/s required, reasons and details of who is to carry them out with timescales: N/A |
| Signed (Service Head): Julie Robinson |
| Date: 15.12.2017 |

Please send completed & signed assessment to Suzanne Kinder for publishing.