

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Report Reference: GAR-004-2014/15

Date of meeting: 16 April 2015



Portfolio: Leisure & Community Services.

Subject: Grant Aid Review – Final Report 2014/15.

Responsible Officer: Chris Overend (01992 564247).

Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

(1) That, as attached at Appendix I to this report and subject to any further revisions requested by the Panel, the draft Final Report of the Panel for 2014/15 be agreed; and

(2) That the approved Final Report of the Panel for 2014/15 be submitted to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and recommended for adoption at its meeting scheduled for 27 April 2015.

Report:

1. As Members noted from the first meeting of the Panel, this review is being carried out against the backdrop of a reduction of £11,517 in the Grant Aid Budget for 2015/16. This has reduced the overall budget to £83,453 in the next financial year, of which £43,453 is committed to three-year agreements. In effect, this leaves £40,000 for the consideration of applications for one-off major Grants.

2. Members of the Panel are asked to consider the attached initial draft of the first part of the Panel's Review, dealing with the major grants' aspects of the Scheme. The Panel is asked to make any amendments or additions required and identify any information which should be included for illustrative purposes by way of appendices to the Final Report. At this stage, there is no specific section dealing with 'Acknowledgements' for those assisting in carrying out the review. Members are asked to determine whether to include such a section at this stage or to await the completion of Part 2 of the review in respect of Service Level Agreements to be carried out in 2015/16.

Reason for decision:

To undertake the review of the Grant Aid Scheme, as requested by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 16 September 2014.

Options considered and rejected:

The specific options considered for the allocation of the budget for major one-off Grants have been detailed within the attached Final Report of the Panel for 2014/15.

Consultation undertaken:

No external consultation undertaken during the first part of the review.

Resource implications:

The Grant Aid budget for 2015/16 has been set at £83,453.

There are also separate budgets in the Voluntary & Community Sector for:

- Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF) in the sum of £39,120;
- the Epping Forest District Citizens Advice Bureau (EFD CAB) in the sum of £113,380;
and
- Welfare Transport in the sum of £16,000.

The Communities, Policies and Grants Officer and Assistant are responsible for administrating the scheme. They do so in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Community Services and with the involvement of officers from Community, Arts and Sports Development, and Finance, where necessary and appropriate.

Appendix:

- Draft Final Report of the Panel for 2014/15.