

# **APPENDIX F**

## **WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE – 7 OCTOBER 2008**

---

**Title:**

**GRANT INCOME AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

**[Portfolio Holders: Cllrs Bryn Morgan and Mike Band]  
[Wards Affected: All]**

---

**Summary and purpose:**

This report seeks the Executive's agreement to:

- endorse the proposals to extend the information and support service to community organisations in the Borough on external funding opportunities
- endorse the proposals to identify and secure new funding opportunities to support the Council's own service provision
- request officers to report to the November meeting of the Executive on the proposed framework for utilising developers' contributions to deliver projects in partnership with community organisations

This report links to the report elsewhere on the agenda on the future revenue funding for community organisations.

---

**How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:**

Increasing the ability to secure funding to support service provision and projects provided either by Waverley or in partnership with community organisations will potentially bring benefits that cut across the delivery of all corporate objectives as the services could fall in any of the key areas. Specific examples could be schemes to deliver:

- tackling climate change and waste reduction
- working with locality-based partnerships
- Improving uptake of services among vulnerable and excluded communities
- Enhance the environment for leisure and recreation
- Improved play opportunities for children
- Improving Value For Money by delivering outcomes in partnership

**Equality and Diversity Implications:**

The proposed package of support would help Waverley, and its partner organisations, to improve the range and quality of services to Waverley's residents. It is likely that this will benefit a wide range of users including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the Borough and in some cases may improve access to services. Detailed criteria for funding will ensure that services focus on need.

### **Resource/Value for Money implications:**

It is proposed that Jane Todd will be the lead officer delivering the advice and support service to community organisations and coordinating the work of departmental link officers to identify and maximise funding opportunities. Jane is an experienced grants officer and has worked with many of Waverley's partner organisations. It is proposed to undertake a review of duties in the financial support team to enable Jane to have sufficient time to implement the actions outlined in this report and it is currently anticipated that no additional staff resource will be required. However, if there is a significant demand for advice and support, beyond expected levels, it will be necessary to review and seek further resources to operate the service.

The other resource needed is a funding database giving up to date access to the full range of funding opportunities, enabling funds to be quickly matched to needs and giving assistance to making successful applications. Officers have researched the products available and have identified a fund-finder package which costs £7,000 for 2 years licence and support. Waverley can have many users and the option, at further cost, of opening access to outside organisations, although this is not proposed initially. A proposal has been submitted to utilise some of the projected capital underspend in 2008/09 to fund this system. This report is elsewhere on the agenda.

### **Legal Implications:**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

---

### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of the report is
  - to consider how best to coach and support external organisations that receive grants from the Council so that they become less dependent on Waverley's funding, and to prepare them for potential reductions in grant in coming years
  - to ensure that Waverley optimises the amount of grant income it receives across all services

### **Background and Current Funding Landscape**

2. The current funding landscape is set out in the annexes as follows:

Annexe 1 - illustrates the different ways that Waverley currently provides, or has provided in recent years, financial assistance to outside organisations.

Annexe 2 - shows the financial value of the assistance given to each organisation across all funding sources in 2007/08

### **What is Waverley trying to achieve with its grant programmes?**

3. The Council recognises that there is a vast network of organisations in the community that are providing services and infrastructure in the Borough that benefit residents and are in line with Waverley's priorities and objectives. The key objectives of Waverley's grant-giving programmes are to:
  - support the joined-up delivery of services in partnership with outside organisations
  - help lever in additional funds that may not have been received without the Council's support
  - to achieve community value from council taxpayer's money
  - help deliver Waverley's performance targets

### **Actively engage with community organisations**

4. Members and officers who are nominated representatives to external organisations need to fully understand the business and financial arrangements of the Council's partner organisations. There needs to be regular communication from link officers and member appointees on the performance and financial strength of each organisation. Support for organisations to identify and apply for funding elsewhere may relieve pressure on the Council's finances. Also supporting organisations to develop an approach which 'turns revenue into capital' thus opening up potential funding opportunities. It is proposed that a 'role profile' setting out the council's expectations of representatives on outside bodies is developed to assist with this.
5. It is proposed that Waverley's grants officer extends the advice and support service to community organisations in the Borough on external funding opportunities by working with link officers and the organisations to identify opportunities and to offer support in applications for funding. The acquisition of a specialist system will assist with up to date alerts and a database of funding and support. Officers will be pro-active in contacting organisations to encourage take-up of this service.

### **Grants for projects**

6. Now that the community partnerships funds have been used and with the Council facing major pressures on its capital funds, the use of developers' contributions to finance the delivery of projects that provide new or improved community infrastructure facilities in partnership with community organisations is an opportunity that will be developed. Whilst the timing and value of funds is uncertain, a funding scheme will be developed that 'fast-tracks' the award of grants rather than having an annual bidding round. To react to emerging applications for grant, the scheme would need approved criteria and delegated authority to assess and award grants. A framework for such a scheme is being developed and will be presented to members in November.

7. Very little planning tariff money has been received so far but Waverley currently has some S106 funds on its balance sheet that could kick-start this fund, although there are restrictions on the use of these. The development tariff is broken down into contribution elements eg. Health, Highways, Education, leisure etc. The Council has indicated that the leisure element would be utilised to invest in the proposed capital improvement works at the existing leisure facilities. One other element is to support new community facilities and it is this element that could be spent according to this new scheme. A new dimension to the criteria would be geographical location of proposed projects as improvements would need to have regard to the origin of the tariff.
8. In terms of the other elements, the Waverley Strategic Partnership could play a role in the evaluation and award of grants to cross-cutting projects in the Borough that will help meet LAA targets eg. health/education.

### **Opportunities to optimise the amount of grant income it receives**

9. Whilst generally grants sources for local authorities to apply for have reduced in recent years, there are still funds available. Issues can be lack of awareness of the funds and lack of staff capacity or expertise to apply for funding. Some of the funding opportunities may be available for Waverley directly or in partnership with others (eg funding for projects through the South East Centre of Excellence) or for communities to deliver outcomes that support Waverley priorities (eg (i) the new grassroots funds managed by the Surrey Community Foundation which provides grants of up to £5,000 for community groups with a turnover of less than £20,000 per annum or eg (ii) the new Rural Access to Services Programme that will support 9 rural hub projects and three rural transport related projects over the next three years).
10. Sources of potential further funding for WBC include:
  - Big lottery fund
  - WRAP Waste development grants
  - Target-related grants via Local Area Agreement
  - Increasing Planning Delivery Grant
  - Capital funds for swimming development
  - Surrey Hills Leader Programme
  - EU funding pots
11. Some funding enables Waverley to gain significant added value by taking advantage of the contribution and enthusiasm of volunteers in the Community. For example a number of the successful activities delivered through the Town Initiatives have been achieved with minimal Waverley staff time and generated significant external income as a result of the commitment of local volunteers supported and led by Waverley staff e.g the Cranleigh enhancement project (£400,000 investment, the Haslemere Place to be project for young people, the Haslemere Food Festival, the Wonerish Shop retention, countryside conservation etc)

## **Actions**

- Jane Todd becomes the key officer implementing the actions from this review.
- Jane prepares a funding toolkit for officers and provides support for them to help identify, apply and secure grants for Waverley
- Jane procures and operates a web-based grant availability alert system funded from underspends in the 2008-09 capital programme – GrantFinder is a widely-used system and would cost up to £7,000 for a two-year licence/support contract.
- Officers to meet with other community grant/support providers, such as Voluntary Action South West Surrey and Surrey Community Action to discuss how Waverley can work in partnership in the future to increase the financial self-dependency of community organisations, starting with those currently receiving SOS funds.
- Link officers and appointed members to meet with the current SOS organisations to inform them of the financial pressures ahead and discuss performance targets and monitoring, and potential grant reductions over the medium term and which arrangements may be more suited to more formal contractual arrangements.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Executive:

1. endorses the proposals to extend the advice and support service to community organisations in the Borough on external funding opportunities;
2. endorses the proposals to identify and secure new funding opportunities to support the Council's own service provision noting the need to acquire a system as requested in the capital report at Agenda Item 8 of this agenda; and
3. requests officers to report to the November meeting of the Executive on the proposed framework for utilising developers' contributions to deliver projects in partnership with community organisations.

---

## **Background Papers (DCEX)**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

---

## **CONTACT OFFICER:**

**Name:** Graeme Clark

**Telephone:** 01483 523236

**E-mail:** [graeme.clark@waverley.gov.uk](mailto:graeme.clark@waverley.gov.uk)