

APPENDIX D

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 2 FEBRUARY 2010

Title:

**WAVERLEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP – APPLICATIONS FOR REVENUE
FUNDING 2010/11**

[Portfolio Holders: Cllrs Stefan Reynolds & Mike Band]

[Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

The purpose of this report is to consider the applications to the Waverley Community Partnership for revenue funding in 2010/11 and to make recommendations on grant levels to the Council.

The Executive is also requested to recommend the amount of contribution the Council makes to the Waverley Voluntary Grants Partnership.

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

The Waverley Community Partnership awards funding towards the running costs of organisations that provide high priority services for the benefit of Waverley residents, in partnership with the Council. The services that the partner organisations deliver cut across all corporate objectives and could fall in any of the 5 priority areas. In addition the Council made a specific commitment in the Corporate Plan to work with the voluntary sector organisations that Waverley supports to ensure that from April 2008, there is a year-on-year increase in the number of people assisted by these services.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

The organisations that Waverley supports under the Waverley Community Partnership provide access to key services in the borough which benefit a wide range of users including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Applicants to the scheme are required, where applicable, to have appropriate & up-to-date policies including equality & diversity, child protection etc.

Resource and Value for Money implications:

At its meeting on 29 September 2009, the Executive agreed to open the 2010/11 funding round of the Waverley Community Partnership. Given the Council's current pressures on its budget, the Executive agreed that existing partner organisations should be notified that the overall revenue grants pot would not be increased in 2010/11 from the current year's level of £638,926 and that there was the potential of grant reductions to individual organisations in future years. A table detailing the grants requested by each organisation for 2010/11 and grant awards in the previous

2 years is detailed in Annexe 1. Following initial officer recommendations the moderation panel, chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships, has made recommendations on levels of funding within the current year's budget of £628,926.

Information on other discretionary financial support that Waverley provided to the partner organisations in 2009/10 is detailed in Annexe 2.

In addition, at its meeting on 29 September 2009, for budget planning purposes, the Executive agreed that the total amount of money that Waverley contributes to the Waverley Voluntary Grants Partnership (WVGP) for 2010/11 should be frozen at the 2009/10 level, £54,000. The budget also includes an annual revenue contribution of £4,000 to help facilitate the approved allocation of grants from the WVGP. A separate report detailing the grant awards to each organisation for 2010/11 is also on this agenda.

Legal Implications:

There are no direct legal implications relating to this report.

Background

1. The principle aim of the Waverley Community Partnership is to 'provide financial support for the on-going revenue costs of voluntary and charitable organisations that are delivering high priority service for the benefit of Waverley residents in partnership with the Council'. A copy of the criteria for the scheme is provided in Annexe 3.

Applications

2. A total of 28 applications to the Waverley Community Partnership have been received, with 2 from new applicants. The total level of funding requested by the organisations for 2010/11 is £736,281 and Annexe 1 details all the applications received and the level of grants requested.

The Assessment Process

3. Each application has been assessed against the Waverley Community Partnership grant eligibility and criteria by the relevant 'link officer' within each service area. The application form asks organisations to explain how their services fit into the Council's priorities and this was also taken into account. In addition, a financial assessment of each organisation's annual accounts has been undertaken to identify any changes/concerns in the financial position of partner organisations. Members are encouraged to read the application documentation from each organisation and should contact the Grants Officer for copies. Should Members require further information on each organisation they are advised to contact the appropriate link officer, detailed in Annexe 1.

4. Link officers assessed applications against 6 criteria which gave a scoring out of 30 and recommended the level of grant that should be awarded. A copy of the assessment pro forma is provided in Annexe 4.
5. A moderation panel, made up of the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and the link officers, met to discuss initial suggested grant levels and made recommendations on levels of funding ahead of the Overview & Scrutiny consideration taking into account:
 - The overall budget
 - The outcomes of the recent Participatory Budgeting exercise
 - Previous and current financial support provided to organisations by the Council
 - The degree of priority of services that organisations provide.
6. Annexe 1 shows notes on the reasons for the recommended grant levels for some organisations that are considered particularly relevant.
7. To help the panel in their consideration of grant levels, they were provided with a summary evaluation for each application and a copy for each organisation is included at Annexe 5. Each summary shows the key purposes for the requested grant, which was detailed in the organisation's grant application, the key financial information taken from the organisation's accounts and the Waverley link officer's grant recommendation justification.

Three-Year Intention-to-Fund Agreements

8. The Council agreed the principle of three-year intention-to-fund agreements for larger partner organisations with approved grants of £10,000 and above. The current agreement covers the period 2008/09 to 2010/11. The agreements are made subject to sufficient funding being available and subject to an annual appraisal of the organisation's performance and an update of its financial status. Recognising the challenging financial conditions facing Waverley's partner organisations, members are keen that, in future, these agreements give greater reassurance that the Council will endeavour to continue to provide funding at the current level. Whilst these agreements would still be subject to annual budget approval, this move to strengthen the Council's stated intentions should help organisations make medium-term plans.

Partnership Agreements

9. Once a revenue grant is approved and a grant offer made, a partnership agreement is prepared by each organisation and the relevant Waverley service officer, who forms the key link officer during the funding period. The partnership agreement details the key outputs and achievements for the year and is signed by both parties. The partnership agreement enables service officers to monitor each organisation's performance against stated outcomes. In 2010/11, particular emphasis will be placed on the Council's requirement for publicity and visible evidence of Waverley's funding and on the need for

the organisation to monitor and report on performance. Reports were made to the November meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on partner organisations' performance in the first half of the year.

Observations from The Overview and Scrutiny Committees

10. The Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report at its meeting on 11 February and made the following observations:

- It was observed that the grant award report provided an impression of financial support but did not include other grants and concessions made by Waverley to individual Partners.
- Members noted that whilst Annexe 2 to the report provides some information for the following years grant allocations, more information should be provided on the property and financial arrangements of Partner organisations.
- The use of the evaluation sheets were felt to have been very useful to members who could see how each Partner's need had been assessed.
- Age Concern, Farncombe had not arranged a minibus lease arrangement with Hoppa, but had gone to a different supplier. It was explained that Hoppa was not always able to supply the right vehicles to Partners at the time of need.

The Committee RESOLVED that the following observations should be passed to the Executive for consideration:

1. an exercise should be undertaken to present the full extent of Waverley's support of its Community Partners, particularly day centres, so as to quantify all concessions, relief and waiving of fees/rents etc. This would help to produce a more transparent picture of the circumstances of individual Partners; and
2. officer feedback be sought in order to inform members how Waverley was supporting its Partners in terms of negotiations with Hoppa and other transport contractors.

The Environment & Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report at its meeting on 12 February and made the following observations:

- The Committee considered the applications to the Waverley Community Partnership (for Community Partnership funding) within its remit and noted that the recommendations for grant, as set out in Annexe 1, were only recommendations at this stage and would be finally determined by the Executive in February. The Chief Accountant outlined the new arrangement that had been followed this year in determining the grants.

The Committee RESOLVED that the following observations should be passed to the Executive for consideration:

1. The Committee expressed disappointment that there was not a Member Group set up to consider the officer recommendations prior to them being brought to Committee. Members felt that a new arrangement should be put in place for next year to ensure substantial and decisive Member input in order to question the continuity of the proposals and to provide local expert knowledge. Officers responded to Members concerns that these were recommendations only and Members comments would be taken into account before the actual proposal was taken forward to the Executive.
2. Despite their concern and disappointment in terms of the process, Members noted that only minor changes in grant levels were proposed and the proposals were accepted.

Recommendation

That the Executive:

1. considers the Waverley Community Partnership applications for 2010/11 and the allocations proposed in Annexe 1 and, having regard to the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, recommends grant levels for each organisation to the Council; and
2. recommends to the Council that the level of Waverley's contribution to the Waverley Voluntary Grants Partnership in 2010/11 should be £54,000.

Background Papers (DCEX)

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

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