

APPENDIX F

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 7 FEBRUARY 2012

Title:

WAVERLEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP - APPLICATIONS FOR REVENUE FUNDING 2012/13

[Portfolio Holders: Cllrs David Munro & 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 2012/13, taking into account the observations made by the Community O&S Committee and Grants Sub-Committee.

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. Waverley's contribution to the Waverley Voluntary Grants Panel also helps support organisations specifically in the well-being and social welfare area.

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 and up-to-date policies including equality & diversity, child protection etc. Waverley's Partnership Agreements with funded organisations have specific clauses promoting equality and diversity issues.

Climate Change Implications:

Some of the organisations funded by Waverley have a specific environmental remit.

Resource/VFM implications:

This report proposes that the overall grants budget for 2012/13 of £744,530 is maintained at exactly the same level as that in the 2011/12 budget.

Legal Implications:

Having a robust grant scheme that is reviewed annually ensures that the Council is not open to dispute under the Surrey Compact Funding Code 2009.

Background

1. At its meeting on 4 October 2011, the Executive agreed to open the 2012/13 funding round of the Waverley Community Partnership. Given the known pressures on the Council's budget whereby Government grant was expected to be reduced by over 14%, the Executive agreed that, for planning purposes, the overall grants pot would be reduced by 12% in 2012/13. Organisations were therefore advised to assume a 12% reduction in their grant when they did their financial planning for 2012/13.
2. Despite confirmation of the loss of Government grant of over 14%, the huge continuing success of the Star Chamber and Foresight programmes has allowed for **the overall funding available for allocation to Community Partnership organisations, the Waverley Voluntary Grants Panel (WVGP) and Service Level Agreement (SLA) organisations to be kept at the same level as 2011/12, meaning that £744,530 will be once again available in total in 2012/13. This does not mean that all individual applicants will get the same allocation as in 2011/12.**
3. Details of the draft grant awards for 2012/13, as recommended by the Grants Moderation Panel, are set out in Annexe 1 totalling £350,100. Applicants were informed of their proposed grant levels before Christmas, although it was made clear that final awards will not be agreed until full Council in February.
4. In addition, £42,768 has been earmarked to the Waverley Voluntary Grants Panel (WVGP) for 2012/13 and £4,000 to help facilitate the approved allocation of grants from the WVGP.
5. At its meeting on 4 October 2011, the Executive agreed that Citizens Advice Waverley and Waverley Community Transport (Hoppa) might be funded through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) from April 2012 rather than through the Waverley Community Partnership grant pot. Subsequently, following the discussion with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, and endorsed by the Executive, Farnham Maltings was added to the organisations where an SLA might be more appropriate. These organisations have also been planning for a reduction in grant funding of 12%. £304,660 has been earmarked for SLA organisations

Summary of Funding Proposed

Organisations	£
Community Partnership	350,100
Waverley Voluntary Grants Panel	42,770
Service Level Agreement provision	304,660
Contingency	47,000
Total	744,530

Community Overview and Scrutiny Grants Sub-Committee

6. The Community Overview and Scrutiny Grants Sub-Committee observations are attached at Annexe 2.
7. Any observations raised at the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2012 will follow.

Applications

8. A total of 31 applications to the Waverley Community Partnership have been received, with 5 from new applicants. The total level of funding requested by the organisations for 2012/13 was £662,627 and Annexe 1 details all the applications received, which far exceeded the budget, creating an even more challenging decision-making process for 2012/13. Details of the assessment process are included at Annexe 3.

Conclusion

9. The Council has demonstrated its full commitment to partners who deliver valuable services on the Council's behalf and despite huge cuts in its own government grant funding, it is proposed that the overall grant pot is not reduced.
10. Full Council will make their final approval on funding levels on 21st February 2012. Organisations are aware of this and to assist organisations with their financial planning and in the spirit of the Surrey Compact Funding Code 2009, a letter was sent to all applicants informing them of their initial grant allocations in late December 2011.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Executive

1. agrees that £744,530 be made available for the grants budget in 2012/13 (the same amount as in 2011/12);
2. considers the applications for Waverley Community Partnership Funding in 2012/13 and, having regard to the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Sub-Committee, recommends grant levels for each organisation to the Council; and
3. considers the Service Level Agreements with the three nominated organisations at the Executive meeting on 6 March 2012 and decides upon the final grant allocations to those organisations.

Background Papers

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

CONTACT OFFICERS

Name: Kelvin Mills

Telephone: 01483 523432

E-Mail: kelvin.mills@waverley.gov.uk

Name: Graeme Clark

Telephone: 01483 523099

E-Mail: graeme.clark@waverley.gov.uk

Name: Katie Webb

Telephone: 01483 523340

E-Mail: katie.webb@waverley.gov.uk

Name: Jane Todd

Telephone: 01483 523067

E-Mail: jane.todd@waverley.gov.uk

Committees\executive\2011-12\070212\05 final community grants