

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	12 June 2019
Subject:	Annual Report on the Grant Funding provided to the Voluntary Sector		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	Yes
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Appendices:	1. List of Groups Funded		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline the Council's financial contributions towards the voluntary and community sector during the year 2018-19.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the report be noted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council adopted the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) model in 2012 and this has underpinned our approach to working with communities and partner agencies. ABCD is a philosophy and approach that seeks to identify and mobilise individual and community 'assets', rather than focusing on problems and needs.
- 3.2 ABCD's premise is that communities can drive the development process themselves by celebrating existing strengths, responding to challenges and creating local social and economic improvements. To enable this, they often need a small amount of seed funding.
- 3.3 The Council's role is to support communities to recognise strengths and catalyse activity for themselves, as opposed to be more passive recipients of public services and our approach to funding supports this.
- 3.4 It is important to note that many of the activities funded in 18/19 (see appendix 1) have led to a dynamic and organic growth of projects, events, activities or support – without any additional intervention from the Council.
- 3.5 Community groups are supported by officers to achieve sustainability by making connections with other groups and organisations and sharing venues and equipment or assets. These connections are sometimes made by officers but often happen organically when groups have the chance to get together such as at our Lottery event.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

4.1 Our vision for Asset Based Community Development is a guiding principle for investing our voluntary and community sector budget. At present we invest in the following activities:

- **Grant Funding to advice agencies** (The Law Centre; CAB; Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS)) – who provide advice and very specific support to vulnerable people and communities.
- **Councillor Community Fund** – a fund to enable councillors to support community led projects within their own wards.
- **Your Gloucester** – a small ‘seed funding’ budget for residents who wish to deliver new activities in the City.
- **Gloucester Lottery** – a weekly online Lottery where local good causes can register to raise additional funds. There is a central pot of funding which the Council redistributes to voluntary and community groups on an annual basis.

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

5.1 No longer providing grant funding in any form is an option, however this does not help to realise the ambitions we have for our City and build on the excellent progress which has been made in previous years through small investments in our communities.

5.2 Other Districts in Gloucestershire deliver support to the VCS in a variety of different ways which are similar to Gloucester but reflect the local context and approach. The amount of grant funding available to community groups is similar across the County, however, we are confident that our approach fits with our ethos around ABCD which adds benefit to our residents.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 Cabinet are asked to note the contents of this report.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

7.1 Where possible, Community Wellbeing Officers look out for additional funding from a variety of sources. Most recently, the team were successful in working with a number of community groups to secure £15,000 of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the delivery of Windrush Day Celebrations throughout summer and autumn 2019. The following groups were successful;

- Black Elders Community Day Centre - £1750 for a commemorative lunch
- All Nations Community Centre in partnership with All Nations UK - £5000 (2 x £2500 projects) for Story Catching Events, Community Celebration & Exhibition Day, Windrush Drums & Dance Workshops, Community Book & Video Blog.
- The Melting Pot, Podsmead - £750 towards the creation of a Windrush Ship which will act as a children’s climbing frame and seating area at the front of the café as well as Windrush themed spoken word and poetry at the annual Podsmead Fun Day.
- Global Arts Inc – £3000 to run a number of educational workshops.
- Tredworth High Street Party - £1000

- 7.2 Future grants from the City Council will be made through Councillor's Community Fund, the Lottery and through a small pot of funding through the Community Building Project.
- 7.3 Community Wellbeing Officers will continue to signpost groups to other local grant funders such as the Barnwood Trust and Gloucestershire Community Foundation.
- 7.4 A separate report will be brought to Members regarding the Advice Services grants as they are agreed through a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 Members Grant allocated have been included in the Council Budget for 2019/20.
- 8.2 Funds available through the Lottery will also be available for community groups.
(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 None directly relating to this report.
(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 10.1 There are no risks associated with this update report.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 11.1 This is an update report and not PIA is required.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

- 12.1 The work done through community projects can help increase social interactions and add to a feeling of security thus reducing the fear of crime.

Sustainability

- 12.2 The nature of the grant funding available encourages community groups to sustain themselves and promotes the sharing of resources, equipment and volunteers. The 'Your Gloucester' grant has been successful in terms of sustainability as none of the groups who applied to it since it became available in 2015 have asked for further funding for their core costs.

Staffing & Trade Union

- 12.3 Not applicable

Background Documents: None