

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE FUNDING OF EXTERNAL BODIES

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The first phase of the best value review of the funding of external bodies is now complete. The findings and action plan were approved by cabinet on 28th May. The improvement points are:

1. the council should facilitate the development of a proper community plan
2. the council should establish a central point of contact
3. the council should seek to achieve greater transparency and consistency in the allocation, monitoring and evaluation of grants
4. the council should strengthen and standardise its funding agreements
5. the council should provide secure, long term funding to its partners
6. the council should consider streamlining its external funding
7. the council should measure more effectively what it is achieving for local people through the allocation of grants
8. the council should use management information to influence the nature of its funding relationships
9. the council should ensure that the amount of management information it demands is proportionate to the amount of money it provides
10. the council should seek to minimise the amount of officer time spent allocating small grants

The social and community overview and scrutiny committee wishes to support the best value process by instigating a review of those council funded voluntary sector partners that have a social and community focus. This will enable the council to enter into appropriate long term service level agreements from April 2003 onwards.

This review will not include those bodies that have an economic nor environmental brief. For this reason, additional work needs to be undertaken by the council to develop the corporate approach to funding all external bodies. This review will inform that process.

Progress to date

During the period of the review a new format for service level agreements has been produced. In addition, the annual grants to small voluntary organisations' process has been revised and this year's round is to be launched soon.

Aims and Objectives

The intention of this review is that it provides a mutually supportive process that will lead to improvements in the way that the council and partners manage funding. As such, the aim of this review is two-fold:

1. to help the council make the right decisions about the funding it provides to voluntary sector partners that have a social and community focus
2. to provide a supportive process for partners to implement improvements in their organisations in order that they better meet the funding aspiration as set out in the best value review

In the first stage, it is proposed to review those organisations in receipt of funding of £10,000 or more.

The objectives are as follows:

1. to determine the extent of council support for partner organisations; through service level agreements, one-off payments, subsidies and officer support
2. to determine what the council and the wider community receives for this funding in terms of leverage, outputs and outcomes
3. to determine how partner organisations currently meet the strategic aims of the emerging community plan
4. to determine how well partner organisations meet the council's funding expectations, as set out in the BV action plan

5. to identify the specific steps that each partner agency needs to take over the next few months to meet these aspirations
6. to recommend to cabinet a framework for the future funding of partner organisations

Timetable

Due to the ongoing best value review, the council has been unable to enter into long term funding agreements with partner organisations for some time. This financial year is the third year running that annual holding agreements have provided the funding framework. This is undesirable for both parties and the intention of this review will be to put the framework in place for longer term funding arrangements from April 2003 onwards.

With this in mind, the review will split into two phases:

Phase 1 - the review will provide an initial assessment against the six objectives outlined above. This will be carried out by February 2003 in order that the council can enter into SLAs from April onwards.

Phase 2 - as the best value review is an ongoing process, the O+S review will continue to monitor, evaluate and support the council and partners in the management of funding.

Methodology

The review will comprise both desk-top work, together with individual sessions with partners. This will culminate in presentations to committee by individual partners.

A small review group could be established to support the work and to meet with partners.

Objective	Methodology	Responsibility
agree terms of reference		O+S committee
identify those council funded bodies that meet the criteria of the review		O+S committee
to determine the extent of council support for partner organisations; through service level agreements, one-off payments, subsidies and officer support	desk-top review and written report to committee (partly done through best value review)	Community development team co-ordinator
to determine what the council and the wider community receives for this funding in terms of leverage, outputs and outcomes	through working group sessions with partners or presentation to committee	Community development team co-ordinator / review group
to determine how partner organisations currently meet the strategic aims of the emerging community plan	through working group sessions with partners or presentation to committee	Community development team co-ordinator / review group
to determine how well partner organisations meet the council's funding expectations, as set out in the BV action plan	through working group sessions with partners or presentation to committee	Community development team co-ordinator / review group
to identify the specific steps that each partner agency needs to take over the next few months to meet these aspirations	through working group sessions with partners or presentation to committee	Community development team co-ordinator / review group
to recommend to cabinet a framework for the future funding of partner organisations	presentation by partners and the review group	O+S committee

Proposed List of organisations to be included in the review

Name	purpose	amount of direct	contact
-------------	----------------	-------------------------	----------------

		funding (2002/03) and responsible division	
Care and Repair	Care & Repair makes life easier for elderly people and other vulnerable people who wish to remain in their own homes but are worried about maintenance and repairs.	£33,300 Housing	Stuart Hobbs 01242 512280
Cheltenham Centre for Unemployed People	To be a community resource that delivers advice, welfare and training services for people who are unemployed, on low incomes or who are at risk of social exclusion	£65,900 Community and Project Services	Sue Larkman 01242 584853
Cheltenham Citizens Advice Bureau	To provide independent, confidential, impartial and free advice to everybody who seeks it.	£66,000 + £18,000 Community and Project Services	Andrew Banfield 01242 531313
Cheltenham Community Projects	to support young people and their families through providing; suitable accommodation, practical and emotional support, advocacy work and access to employment and training	£28,800 Housing	Sylvia Salmon 01242 228999
Cheltenham Community Transport	To provide a door to door service for Cheltenham residents who cannot access conventional means of transport through limited mobility.	£25,000 Community and Project Services	Hazel Lonsdale 01242 257727
Cheltenham Council for Voluntary Services	CVS works to support local voluntary organisations through providing information, advice, resources and training as well as representation.	£31,200 Community and Project Services	Andrew Banfield 01242 531313
Cheltenham Housing Aid Centre	To provide free and independent advice and information to the homeless and those in housing need.	£34,400 + £7,500 Housing	Vivienne Northcote 01242 226672
Cheltenham Housing Aid Centre through contract with Shelter and County Council	To provide youth housing support	£10,000 - Housing	Vivienne Northcote 01242 226672
Everyman Theatre	To provide high quality entertainment, arts and education	£185,500 - Health and well-being	Philip Bernays 01242 572573
Gloucestershire Race Equality Council	The Race Equality Council for Gloucestershire is working towards the elimination of racial discriminations and the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups in Gloucestershire.	£10,300 Community and Project Services	Sukjinder Sangha 01452 301290
Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project	A locally owned and managed community development project that provides local and accessible services as a response to needs identified by residents. These services are open to everyone. All services are offered free or at an affordable cost.	£31,500 Community and Project Services	Bernice Thomson 01242 521319
Severn Wye - Home Energy Efficiency	To provide energy efficiency advice for the town	£10,000 - Housing	Kay Welfair 0800 512 012
Stonham Housing Association	To provide the women's refuge for women at risk from domestic violence	£15,700 - Housing	Dave Arnott 01242 257275
Whaddon, Lynworth and Priors Neighbourhood Project	Working together to improve and enhance the neighbourhood's quality of life by creating opportunities for residents to take responsibility for their neighbourhood and the decisions that affect it.	£30,900 Community and Project Services	Caroline Ward 01242 516960

Emerging strategic priorities of the community plan

The community plan will include policies that will improve the well-being of the town under the following eight strategic priorities:

1. a thriving economy
2. a safe town
3. healthy living
4. a learning town
5. an attractive town
6. neighbourhood improvement
7. supporting people
8. the built environment