

Cheltenham Borough Council

Cabinet - 25th January 2005

Annual Review of the Council's Conditional Offers of Grant 2004-2005

Report of the Deputy Neighbourhood and Community

1. Executive Summary and recommendation

- 1.1 This report outlines the recommendations arising from the annual review of the council's conditional offers of grant to its voluntary and community sector partners. The review was undertaken by a newly established Corporate Funding Review Group, in November 2004, and concentrated on the ten organisations covered by the Social and Community Portfolio.
- 1.2 This year's annual review adopted the approach previously agreed by the Cabinet and the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3 **I therefore recommend that:**
- 1.3.1 Cabinet agree the recommendations proposed by the council's funding review group, as detailed in this report.
- 1.3.2 Cabinet agree in principle to award three year funding agreements to all of the organisations currently being funded by the Social and Community Group so that the reviews are all aligned over the period 2005-2008 in order to make monitoring and co-ordination more effective.
- 1.3.3 Cabinet agree, that the next major reviews be conducted in the latter part of 2007 ready for the new 2008-2009 financial years, and that annual monitoring reviews be conducted in the interim using the standard procedures outlined in Appendix A and Appendix B.
- 1.3.4 Cabinet agree that while interim reviews will be conducted by an Officer Review Group and that its findings be reported to Cabinet and the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the major funding reviews at the end of the three year funding term should include a similar panel make-up to this year's review.
- 1.3.5 Cabinet agree that a supplementary report be prepared for it to consider the role and legal implications of councillor representatives on the management committees of outside bodies to be brought forward at a future date.

1.4 Summary of implications

Cabinet, 25th January 2005

Annual Review of the Council's Conditional Offers
of Grant 2004-2005. Version 1
Last updated 23 December 2004

- 1.4.1 Financial** Funding for the next financial year is built into in the base budget, and while there is agreement in principle to award three year cycles, this will always be subject to the budget round and satisfactory performance.
- As part of the Council's annual budget setting process, Cabinet will recommend which grants are subject to inflationary increases based on the agreements outlined in the conditional offer of grant.
- The total amount of this year's allocation is £666,514
- 1.4.2 Legal** None arising directly from this report where the review has been carried out in accordance with the agreed procedures. The legal implication of councillors being nominated to voluntary and community sector organisations will be the subject of a subsequent report
- 1.4.3 Human Resources** None as a direct result of this report
- 1.4.4 Equal opportunities, social justice and anti-poverty** The services and provisions which result from this grant support contribute to the majority of the council's corporate priorities
- Social justice and the combating of poverty and disadvantage are key elements of these organisations' activities and this funding supports the majority of the most vulnerable people within the community, and often those living in areas with the highest deprivation within the borough
- 1.4.5 Environmental** None as a direct result of this report
- 1.5 Links to Business Plan and Corporate Objectives**
- 1.5.1** The funding allocated through the conditional offers of grant assists the council in delivering the majority of the its corporate priorities as set out in 'Our Business Plan 2004-2007'
- 1.6 Statement on Risk**
- 1.6.1** Risks identified within the Community Services Service Plan (2004-2005)
- Increasingly fewer external funding streams are available to contribute to the ongoing revenue costs of new and existing projects, including special needs projects
 - Partnerships managed by the community services division are vital to delivering the council's corporate priorities
 - Developing and rolling out conditional offers of grant is being led by the community development manager with limited resources

2. Introduction

- 2.1** The council has conditional offers of grant with 10 organisations covered by the Social and Community portfolio for amounts exceeding £10,000 per annum. The conditional offers of grant run for differing periods of time varying from one year to three years. The aim is to establish an annual system of review and monitoring, with a major review when the grant comes up for renewal every three years.
- 2.2** To support this year's review, and the aim outlined in 2.1, a specially formed funding review group was established. (See section 3.2)
- 2.3** The funding reviews were conducted during November 2004 and involved the ten following voluntary and community organisations (see Appendix C).
- Cheltenham, Cirencester and Tewkesbury Citizens Advice Bureau (£133,000 including rent)
 - Cheltenham Community Support Centre (£69,700)
 - Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project (£33,000)
 - Whaddon, Lynworth and Priors Neighbourhood Project (£33,000)
 - Cheltenham Community and Voluntary Action (£32,600)
 - Cheltenham Community Projects (£39,576)
 - Cheltenham Housing Aid Centre (£42,738)
 - Care and Repair (Cheltenham) (£33,300)
 - Cheltenham Federation of Tenants and Leaseholders (£80,300)
 - The Everyman Theatre (£168,800)
- 2.4** The results of these reviews are detailed in Section 4 of this report
- 2.5** In light of the experience gained in undertaking this year's reviews, the funding review group recommends that a revised format should be introduced for future years.
- 2.6** The funding review group recommends that the review process should be seen as an appraisal of partners engaged in achieving the strategic objectives contained in the Community Plan and the council's corporate plan. This review process would follow a structured review template which will provide a standard list of what the council will be looking at to make sure that all organisations are appraised comprehensively (Appendix A) and a standard reporting mechanism (Appendix B).
- 2.7** The general criteria outlined in Appendix B include:
- Strategic Role of the Organisation
 - Performance
 - Governance

- Value for Money
 - Future Direction
- 2.8** The different nature and constituencies served by the various organisations and the difference between core funding and project funding were also noted. Core funding is necessary for the basic running costs of the organisation: project funding is necessary to fund specific initiatives that are normally intended to be time limited and is available from external organisations such as the Lottery and various Government initiatives.
- 2.9** Organisations providing routine advice are dependent on the council for core funding because they are limited by their very nature in their ability to be involved in projects, whereas other organisations, such as the Neighbourhood Projects, which focus on specific project delivery are more attractive to funders, but require core funding in order to secure it. This is demonstrated when the amount of council funding is compared to total income (Appendix C).
- 2.10** Of particular importance in the review was the identification of the different constituencies served by the different advice-giving organisations and the measures being taken to avoid the duplication of resources. The Corporate Funding Review Group noted that organisations were increasingly referring clients to the most appropriate advice agency for their specific needs, and were considering a referral protocol as part of this.

3. Background

- 3.1** The annual review process conducted this year by the council followed the recommendations that were agreed by the Cabinet and the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 September 2004. This report recommended that the council should adopt a more robust and effective funding review process to monitor its conditional offers of grant and the performance of the organisations being funded. In addition the report also proposed that to support the annual review process, a permanent funding review group should be established.
- 3.2** In response to this report the council has:
- Established a new funding review group, in accordance with the recommendations of the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report dated 13 September 2003. This included council officers representing the Community Services and the Business Support divisions. In addition the group also included representation from the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee (3 representatives) and the relevant Cabinet Deputy (either the Deputy Neighbourhood and Community or the Deputy Health, Well-being and Economy)
 - Requested additional monitoring and performance information as part of the terms and conditions of the conditional offers of grant. This has resulted in more qualitative information being provided to support the review process.

4. Annual funding reviews – review findings and recommendations

4.1 Cheltenham, Cirencester and Tewkesbury Citizens Advice Bureau

- 4.1.1** The Cheltenham, Cirencester and Tewkesbury Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) currently receive £133,000 of funding support from the council. This funding is based on £94,000 for core services and staffing costs and a further £39,000 as the cost of

its office accommodation at 14 Royal Crescent. This is a council leased building whose lease will expire in April 2008.

4.1.2 During the last 12 months the geographical area covered by the CAB has grown considerably beyond the boundaries of Cheltenham as CAB in the county have reorganised and merged. A single organisation now covers half the population of Gloucestershire. In response to these developments the Cheltenham CAB has been reconstituted to form the Cheltenham, Cirencester and Tewkesbury Citizens Advice Bureau and it now provides the CAB services in each of the three districts. This annual review has concentrated specifically on the services provided in Cheltenham.

4.1.3 The funding review group has concluded that the council continues to receive good services from the CAB, and recommends that the CAB be awarded a three year conditional offer of grant for the period 2005-2008. However it agreed that when the lease on its premises expires in April 2008, this element of its funding should not be renewed. This gives the new organisation over three years to acquire a new headquarters.

4.1.4 Summary of the main points raised in the review :

- the number of clients seen by the CAB continues to grow annually, and in particular the CAB has seen a significant rise in the amount of debt advice that it gives (690 cases in the last six months). The majority of the CAB's clientele are employed and are in the 25 to 65 year old range
- 12,439 new clients have been seen by the CAB during the current financial year Note ~ the CAB's monitoring system records each case separately, thus one person with four credit card debts and one employment issue will be recorded as five separate cases
- the CAB has produced a new business plan following the merger of the three CAB services to reflect its new remit. The new CAB service now covers 50% of the county's population and 70% of the geographical area
- the CAB have achieved the specialist quality mark status from the Community Legal Services Partnership which requires the CAB to be audited on an annual basis
- the CAB is monitored annually by the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) and follows the monitoring systems that it has laid down nationally. Note ~ a recent review by the NACAB has required the CAB to implement a number of new performance measures
- the CAB with the support of other agencies is proposing to establish a Cheltenham wide advice agencies forum which will look at the range of advice services being provided to Cheltenham's residents and to determine whether these services can be streamlined
- the CAB like many of the other advice providers in Cheltenham find that their main function of advice is a repetitive service which relies heavily on core funding which generally does not attract much project finance. Any cuts in funding for the CAB would lead to both redundancies and a diminution of the services provided by the CAB

4.2 Cheltenham Community Support Centre

4.2.1 The Cheltenham Community Support Centre, previously known as the Cheltenham Centre for Unemployed People (CCUP), currently receives £69,700 of funding support from the council for its core services and staffing costs.

4.2.2 The funding review group recognises that CCSC continues to provide valuable advice and support services aimed at both the unemployed and at people who are on low incomes or who are at risk of social exclusion, and as such it recommends that the CCSC be awarded a three year conditional offer of grant for the period of 2005-2008

4.2.3 The funding review group in making its decision however urged the CCSC to continue to develop its business plan and to identify additional funding sources it could apply for, whilst recognising that its role as an advice centre did not make it attractive to all funders.

4.2.4 Summary of the main points raised in the review :

- the CCSC was incorporated as a new independent organisation in April 2004 and is currently applying for charitable status. The creation of this new company is an important transition and one of its early objectives is to achieve the Community Legal Services quality mark
- the CCSC have recently appointed an independent advisor to help them develop their strategic direction and to help develop a new business plan. In addition the advisor will also be looking for additional funding streams which will help secure the on-going sustainability of the CCSC.
- the CCSC specialise in providing debt and benefit advice, and report that they are dealing with increasing numbers of tax credit overpayments. The majority of this work is extremely time intensive. Over the years this provision has helped re-cycle hundreds of thousands of pounds of benefit back into the community.
- Housing advice cases are generally referred on to the Cheltenham Housing Aid Centre (CHAC) and in turn they have a reciprocal arrangement whereby they refer debt and benefit cases to the CCSC
- in addition to the core services provided by the CCSC it also helps co-ordinate the Spa Credit Union which now has more than 500 members and has loaned out more than £100,000

4.3 Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project

4.3.1 The Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project currently receives £33,000 of funding support from the council towards its core services and staffing costs.

4.3.2 The funding review group recognises that the Neighbourhood Project continues to provide valuable services to their local community, and also that this funding support helps lever in additional funding of £390,000, which is used to help provide a broad range of community services including advice, training, outreach work, child-care, health support and community involvement. As such the review group recommends that the Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project be awarded a three year conditional offer of grant for the period 2005-2008.

4.3.3 Summary of the main points raised in the review :

- 10% of the town's population is now covered by the Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project
- The HWNP now employ 25 paid staff and has 50 volunteers with a turnover of over £500,000 per annum
- The HWNP is part of the Neighbourhood College Network which is deemed to be one of the best examples of a Neighbourhood College in the country.
- HWNP are working in partnership with the council to support the development of the Springbank Community Regeneration Project (SACS) and will ultimately be responsible for the provision of services in the new SACS Community Resource Centre, which should be operating from April 2006
- The Hesters Way Resource Centre is seen as a national example of good practice and as a result, a number of organisations and external funding providers visit the centre annually to see the centre in operation
- The HWNP have achieved the Community Legal Services general advice quality mark status
- The HWNP continue to work closely with a wide range of voluntary and community groups both locally in Cheltenham as well as across the county.
- Because of the nature of its work and the many projects it is involved in the HWNP is attractive to funders, but normally this is for limited three year timeframes and a big problem is continuity, which makes the core funding provided by the council extremely important.

4.4 Whaddon, Lynworth and Priors Neighbourhood Project

4.4.1 The Whaddon, Lynworth and Priors Neighbourhood Project currently receive £33,000 of funding support from the council towards its core services and staffing costs.

4.4.2 The funding review group recognises that the Neighbourhood Project continues to provide valuable services to their local community, and also that this funding support helps lever in additional funding of £300,000, which is used to help provide a broad range of community services including advice, training, outreach work, child-care, health support and community involvement. As such the review group recommends that the Whaddon, Lynworth and Priors Neighbourhood Project be awarded a three year conditional offer of grant for the period 2005-2008.

4.4.3 Summary of the main points raised in the review :

- The WLPNP now employs 18 paid staff (11 full time equivalents) with a turnover of £350,000 a year
- the Neighbourhood Project has built up good reserves that will help ensure its on-going existence
- WLPNP continues to run an extremely successful summer play scheme for local young people and has Investors in People accreditation.
- The Neighbourhood Project expressed concerns that it has been neglected by the

council over the last few years whilst increasing efforts and funding have been put into supporting the regeneration projects and initiatives in the Hesters Way area, the new Springbank Community Regeneration Project and in to the emerging St. Paul's Community Project. This decision left both the Neighbourhood Project and the Whaddon Regeneration Partnership feeling isolated.

In response to this situation the Council, working in partnership with the Cheltenham Strategic Partnership, established an independent review to look at the problems being experienced in Whaddon and at the role and effectiveness of the Whaddon, Lynworth & Priors Regeneration Partnership. This review has subsequently enabled the partnership to move on, and it has set out the basis for developing a new regeneration strategy for the Whaddon area.

4.5 Cheltenham Community and Voluntary Action

4.5.1 Cheltenham Community and Voluntary Action (CCAVA) currently receives £32,600 of funding support from the council towards its core services and staffing costs

4.5.2 The funding review group recognises that the CCAVA is an advocate for the voluntary sector in the town and provides valuable advice and support services to this sector. The review group recommends that CCAVA be awarded a three year conditional offer of grant for the period 2005-2008.

4.5.3 CCAVA are currently on a rolling programme of one year conditional offers of grant. In light of the funding review group's recommendation (see recommendation 1.3.2) it is proposed that all of the organisations currently being funded by the Social and Community Group should now be placed on a three-year funding term for the period 2005-2008

4.5.4 Summary of the main points raised in the review :

- **Note:** *As the council's representative on CCAVA's management committee (observer status only) I declared an interest in CCAVA and in this review process.*
- CCAVA confirmed that they have progressed well over the last year and that they have appointed a number of new trustees/directors as well as additional members of staff. In addition CCAVA's internal structures and management systems are continuing to be developed
- CCAVA highlighted that they have exceeded their business plan goals and objectives, and that they are working towards achieving a much clearer and defined future for their organisation
- CCAVA's membership continues to grow and the range of services they provide to Cheltenham's voluntary and community sectors continues to grow in order to meet identified demands.
- CCAVA's move to the Lower High Street Community Resource Centre has made them much more accessible to groups and they continue to act as a key infrastructure organisation for the town's voluntary and community sectors. Note: CCAVA are currently considering moving into an additional office premises in the Lower High Street which would enable them to expand their service provisions, and it is also hoped that this facility will potentially provide a new home for the town's community forums (pensioners, disability and ethnic minorities).
- CCAVA continue to seek additional funding to support its services from external funding providers. This year they have brought in an additional £22,000 of

external funding to support a wide range of projects and initiatives.

- CCAVA stated that they are continuing to raise their profile in Cheltenham, as well as at a countywide level, and they are seeking to attract new members by continually extending their service provisions to meet the growing demand.

4.6 Cheltenham Community Projects

4.6.1 Cheltenham Community Projects (CCP) currently receives £39,576 of funding support from the council. This funding is used specifically by CCP for advice and support to young people aged 16 to 25 years of age.

4.6.2 The funding review group has concluded that the council continues to receive substantive and qualitative services from the CCP, and as such it recommends that CCP be awarded a three year conditional offer of grant for the period 2005-2008.

4.6.3 *Summary of the main points raised in the review :*

- CCP now employ 53 full time staff and 70 volunteers and has an annual income of £1.5 million
- CCP have been identified by the Big Issue as a one of the leading youth support agencies in the country. CCP also have a number of quality marks including – Investors in People, the Community Legal Service quality mark and it has recently been successfully inspected by the Adult Learning Inspectorate (Ofsted equivalent – top 15% nationally).
- 1024 young people have utilised the services provided by CCP through its Children's Youth Information Centre
- CCP is now looking at a new one-stop-shop advice provision on the High Street where it plans to offer office space to a wide number of advice and support agencies including the council's Housing Services Team
- CCP are working in partnership with the council and Cheltenham Borough Homes (CBH) to support the development of the St. Paul's Community House Project. CCP will work in partnership with CBH and other partners at the house, which will provide a range of community services for local residents. The Community House should be operating from April 2005

4.7 Cheltenham Housing Aid Centre

4.7.1 The Cheltenham Housing Aid Centre (CHAC) currently receives £42,738 of funding support from the Council towards its core services and staffing costs. The services CHAC provides are statutory obligations for the Council imposed under the Homelessness Act 2002 and the council funds CHAC to provide these services.

4.7.2 The funding review group has concluded that CHAC continues to provide a valuable housing advice service to Cheltenham's residents, and as such recommends that it be awarded a three year conditional offer of grant for the period 2005-2008.

4.7.3 *Summary of the main points raised in the review :*

- The demand for CHAC's services continues to rise, and in particular with

homelessness applications (739 cases last year). Based on the current five month performance figures, CHAC is looking at working with approximately 900 new clients this year.

- CHAC confirmed that it using its financial reserves to help support the increase in demand as well as for employing a small number of sessional workers as a one-off project, but it is unlikely that it will be able to support these costs in future years without bringing in any additional funding
- General advice work is aimed at people aged over 25 years of age and referrals are received on a regular basis from Cheltenham Community Projects (CCP)
- CHAC are considering extending their office premises, subject to obtaining suitable funding.
- CHAC confirmed that they are working on a mental health bid which will look at the growing demand for emergency housing in Cheltenham
- CHAC again wish to bring to the council's attention their desire to increase their level of service provision, this will require increased funding to support additional staffing levels and would be an additional increase over their current base budget.

4.8 Care and Repair (Cheltenham)

4.8.1 Care and Repair (Cheltenham) currently receive £33,300 of funding support from the council towards its core services and staffing costs in order to serve a mainly elderly and/or disabled clientele through its Home Improvement Agency.

4.8.2 The funding review group has concluded that the council continues to receive an excellent service from Care and Repair, and as such recommends that it be awarded a three year conditional offer of grant for the period 2005-2008.

4.8.3 It was noted by the funding review group that the future funding regime for the Home Improvement Agency was subject to a countywide review under the Supporting People programme. It was agreed that to award a three year conditional offer of grant would give Care and Repair financial security until the degree of funding from the 'Supporting People' programme has been finalised.

4.8.4 Summary of the main points raised in the review :

- Care and Repair confirmed that they are achieving their objectives and targets, and that through prudent financial management, they are financially sound.
- Care and Repair stated that they have experienced a significant period of instability as a result of changes in government's legislation regarding the allocation of the housing renovation grant funding, and in particular, the changes in the Supporting People programme
- Care and Repair have built up considerable financial reserves over the years. These reserves are now being used to support the organisation during the current period of change. In addition, Care and Repair's ability to earn fees has been dramatically reduced because of recent moves to award loans rather than grants.
- Whilst Stuart Hobbs the Manager at Care and Repair has now passed retirement age, he has continued to work at Care and Repair in order to establish new management structures which will hopefully enable a smooth transition to be

made once he retires

4.9 Cheltenham Federation of Tenants and Leaseholders

4.9.1 The Cheltenham Federation of Tenants and Leaseholders currently receive £80,300 of funding support from the council towards its core services and staffing costs. This funding comes from the Housing Revenue Account and not the General Fund and therefore has no bearing on council tax levels.

4.9.2 The funding review group has concluded that the council continues to receive a valuable service from the Federation, and as such it recommends that the Federation be awarded a three year conditional offer of grant for the period 2005-2008.

4.9.3 The funding review group in making its decision however urged the Federation to continue to develop its business plan, to seek more active ways of attracting members to join the Federation, and establish new resident associations across Cheltenham. In addition the review group also urged the Federation to become more involved in the town's regeneration agenda and projects.

4.9.4 Summary of the main points raised in the review :

- The Federation recruited a new organiser recently whose main aim will be to develop it and raise its profile.
- The Federation is currently conducting a training and skills survey to determine the skills level of the Federation's management committee
- It was recognised that the development of Cheltenham Borough Homes (CBH) had required an enormous amount of time, energy and commitment from the Federation and individual tenant representatives, a number of whom have subsequently become directors of CBH. Now that CBH has been established, the Federation is able to refocus on the development of its own organisation through the delivery of their business plan.

4.10 The Everyman Theatre

4.10.1 The Everyman Theatre currently receives £168,000 of funding support from the Council towards its core services and staffing costs.

4.10.2 The funding review group recognises that the Everyman Theatre offers a first rate cultural asset for Cheltenham, as well as providing valuable services to its local communities through its community outreach programme. The review group recommends that the Everyman be awarded a three year conditional offer of grant for the period 2005-2008

4.10.3 The theatre is currently on a rolling programme of one year conditional offers of grant. In light of the funding review group's recommendation (see recommendation 1.3.2) it is proposed that all of the organisations currently being funded by the Social and Community Group should now be placed on a three-year funding term for the period 2005-2008

4.10.4 Summary of the main points raised in the review :

- 306,000 people attended performances or accessed services provided by the Everyman theatre in 2003-2004. This included 38,121 people who attend the theatre's annual pantomime 'Aladdin' The average attendance in the main auditorium was 78.4%, whilst the other theatre space attracted an average

attendance of 80.4%

- According to a review which was undertaken by the Arts Council and the Government Office South West, the Everyman attracts around £8.1 million of additional annual income into Cheltenham's economy.
- The Everyman's out-reach work (community arts: lifelong learning, community projects, youth theatre and new writing projects) had contact with over 30,000 people and worked closely with over 200 schools, as well as a range of local community groups. Out-reach projects include workshops offering art, drama, dance, creative writing and video making
- The Everyman stated that they are now recognised as a bench-mark venue for touring productions and as such they attract a wide variety of production companies to Cheltenham.
- The Everyman is now working towards Investors in People status and is due to be assessed in the New Year.
- The Everyman confirmed that over the last four years it has invested over £500,000 into maintaining and improving the theatre, which is a council-owned building

4.11 General Comments and recommendation arising from this year's review

4.11.1 There is a general feeling that the all of the groups being funded would welcome a more pro-active working relationship with the council and that they would also like to explore further opportunities to support the council and the Cheltenham Strategic Partnership in delivering their priorities.

4.11.2 The current review process is still seen by many of the funded organisations as being an inquisition rather than an appraisal of their work and the review funding review group noted that this approach is damaging to the trusting relationship which needs to be established between the council and its Voluntary Sector Partners.

4.11.3 Council officers plan to work more closely with the funded organisations, individually and collectively, to determine whether a more suitable range of monitoring and review measures can be adopted to support the annual reviews of these organisations and their activities along the lines contained in Appendix A

4.11.4 I would also like officers to explore the role that the council's representatives (councillor observers) play on the management committee's of grant-funded organisation, and the role these representatives could be playing in the annual review process. This review will enable officers to explore what opportunities would be available in order to keep the council, and officers who are responsible for the management and co-ordination of the conditional offers of grant, up to date with the organisation's performance as well as regarding any developments that are being proposed, and/or problems that are being experienced by the organisation. It is hoped that the supplementary review that has been proposed to look at the role of, and legal implications of council representatives on the management committee's of outside bodies will support this review (see recommendation 1.3.5)

4.11.5 The council's Business Support division have stated that they wish to work more closely with the organisations being funded, and as such they have offered to undertake a review of each of the organisations' management and financial controls to help ensure that their management systems are appropriate and reflect good-

working practices

4.11.6 The council is reminded that it has a responsibility to support and work more closely with the voluntary and community sector following its adoption of the Gloucestershire Compact. The underpinning Funding and Finance code of practice also places a number of undertakings on both the council and the voluntary and community sector organisations to be more committed to work together and in establishing more effective funding relationships.

5. Consultation

5.1 The funding review process adopted this year by the council was agreed in consultation with members of the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Deputy Neighbourhood and Community and the Cabinet.

5.2 The funding review group, which was established this year, included representation from council officers (from the Community Services and Business Support division), in addition to councillor representation from the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet deputies representing Neighbourhood and Community and Health, Well-being and the Economy.

Background Papers	<i>13 September 2004 – Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee report – 2004-2005 Annual Reviews of Conditional Offers of Grant (SLAs)</i> <i>21 October 2003 – Cabinet report – Funding of External Organisations ~ Report from the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee</i>
Contact Officer	Geoff Sloman, Community Development Manager, 01242 264142, geoff.sloman@cheltenham.gov.uk
Accountability	Deputy Neighbourhood and Community
Scrutiny Function	Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee