

## Cheltenham Borough Council

### Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 9th July 2007

#### Update - three year review of the 2005-2008 conditional offers of grant

#### Report of the Community Development Service Manager

### 1. Executive Summary and recommendation

#### 1.1 The issue

1.1.1 The council's three year funded conditional offers of grant, awarded by the Social and Community Group, are now in their final year, and are therefore subject to a final review which the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed they would co-ordinate.

1.1.2 In line with the review process which was agreed by the O+S Committee and Cabinet, as laid out in the Cabinet report dated 24 January 2005, the O+S Committee now needs to agree the membership of its review group, and agree the timetable for the reviews. A proposed timetable for these reviews and future commitments is attached in Appendix A

1.1.3 In light of the proposed introduction of the new single advice contract covering housing and advice services, I recommend that the O+S Committee consider reviewing only those organisations which are not subject to this process, as these organisations have already undergone a separate review, as part of the development of this new contract. This would exclude the following organisations from this year's review (1) Cheltenham, Cirencester and Tewkesbury Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), (2) Cheltenham Community Support Centre (CCSC), (3) Cheltenham Community Projects (CCP) and (4) Cheltenham Housing Aid Centre (CHAC)

#### 1.2 I therefore recommend that the O+S Committee:

1.2.1 **agree the membership of its conditional offer of grant review group** (*three O+S Committee members in addition to the relevant Cabinet member and suitable officer support*);

1.2.2 **agree to adopt the review timetable which is detailed in Appendix 1**

1.2.3 **agree not to review the four advice agencies listed in 1.1.3**

#### 1.3 Summary of implications

**1.3.1 Financial** Future funding commitments by the council will be dependent upon the outcome of the 2007-2008 review of conditional offers of grant, the Cabinets decision regarding the Single Advice Contract and the 2008-2009 budget round process

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**1.3.2 Legal** New contracts / commissioning agreements are being developed by legal services and the conditional offer of grant working group to replace the existing conditional offers of grant funding format which, subject to Cabinet approval, will come into effect from 1 April 2008

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**1.3.3 Human Resources** None as a direct result of this report

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## **1.4 Implications on corporate and community plan**

**1.4.1** The work of the organisations funded by the council through its three year conditional offers of grant assists the council in delivering many of its corporate priorities as set out in Our Business Plan

## **1.5 Statement on Risk**

**1.5.1** See the attached risk register

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## **2. Introduction**

**2.1** The current conditional offers of grant with voluntary and community organisations are due to end on 31 March 2008, having been in place for a three year funding term (2005-2008).

**2.2** In line with the review process which was adopted by the O+S Committee and Cabinet, these agreements are now due to be reviewed by the O+S Committee.

**2.3** The reviews will be used to consider the performance of the organisations, look at how problems and issues were addressed by the organisations during this period, look at the organisation's governance and sustainability during this period, and to ultimately reflect upon whether the council should consider any future funding commitments to support these organisations from 1 April 2008, which will be subject to the outcome of the final review and the council's 2008-2009 budget round process.

**2.4** Conditional offers of grant co-ordinated by the council's Social and Community Group include:

- Cheltenham, Cirencester and Tewkesbury Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)  
*funding for 2007-2008 is £139,600 (which currently includes an annual rent of £39,000 I respect of 14 Royal Crescent) with total funding for the three year period £412,100*
- Cheltenham Community Support Centre (CCSC)  
*funding for 2007-2008 is £74,000 with total funding for the three year period £217,600*
- Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project (HWNP)  
*funding for 2007-2008 is £35,000 with total funding for the three year period £102,900*
- Whaddon, Lynworth and Priors Neighbourhood Project (WLPNP)  
*funding for 2007-2008 is £35,000 with total funding for the three year period £102,900*
- Cheltenham Voluntary and Community Action (Cheltenham VCA)  
*funding for 2007-2008 is £34,000 with total funding for the three year period £99,900*
- Cheltenham Regeneration Partnership  
(Two year funding agreement for 2006-2008)  
*funding for 2007-2008 is £25,000 with total funding for the two year period £50,000*
- Cheltenham Housing Aid Centre (CHAC)  
*funding for 2007-2008 is £45,400 with total funding for the three year period £143,493*
- Cheltenham Community Projects (CCP)  
*funding for 2007-2008 is £42,000 with total funding for the three year period £123,568*
- Care and Repair Cheltenham  
*funding for 2007-2008 is £35,400 with total funding for the three year period £103,100*
- Cheltenham Tenants and Leaseholders Federation  
*funding for 2007-2008 is £86,000 with total funding for the three year period £250,614*
- The Everyman Theatre  
*funding for 2007-2008 is £148,800 with total funding for the three year period £486,400*

**2.5** The total amount of funding that has been awarded during the three year funding period (2005-2008) equates to an investment in the voluntary and community sector of £2,092,575

### **3. Background**

- 3.1** The O+S Committee agreed, in accordance with the Cabinet's report dated 24 January 2005, that the community services division would implement officer led annual reviews during years 1 and 2 of the conditional offer of grant, and that during the third and final year of the grant, a formal review would be conducted by a review group to be established by the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with representation from the relevant Cabinet members and suitable officer support.
- 3.2** Officer led interim reviews were undertaken during 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 and the findings of these reviews, along with officer recommendations were subsequently reported to both the O+S Committee and Cabinet.
- 3.3** In line with the recommendations detailed in the last conditional offer of grant report submitted to the Cabinet on 27 March 2007, an officer working group is continuing to work on developing a new funding format. The new format would replace the existing conditional offers of grant format which officers, audit service and legal service have identified as having a number of weaknesses. The findings of this work will be reported at a later date.

### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1** The funding review process was agreed by members of both the O+S Committee and the Cabinet, as laid out in the Cabinet report dated 24 January 2005
- 4.2** Consultation with each of the organisations currently being funded by the council, in relation to any on-going funding commitment from the council, will be undertaken in line with the requirements of the Gloucestershire Compact

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#### **Background Papers**

Cabinet report 27 March 2007 – Annual review of the council's conditional offers of 2006-2007

Cabinet report 24 January 2006 – Annual review of the council's conditional offers of 2005-2006

O+S Committee information/discussion paper 11  
January 2006 – Annual review of the council's conditional offers of grant 2005-2006

Cabinet report 24 January 2005 – Annual review of the council's conditional offers of 2004-2005

O+S Committee information/discussion paper 12  
January 2005 – Annual review of the council's conditional offers of grant 2004-2005

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**Accountability**

Cllr. Chris Ryder - Cabinet Member Quality of Life

Cllr. Diggory Seacome – Cabinet Member Arts and  
Culture

**Scrutiny Function**

Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee