

# **Information/Discussion Paper**

## **Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 1st March 2010**

### **The final review of the council's three year community investment grants (2008-2011)**

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

#### **1. Why has this come to scrutiny?**

- 1.1 This paper is being submitted to inform members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that they will be required to elect three representatives to support the final community investment grant review process, and to also consider the review process proposed in this paper

#### **2. Summary of the Issue**

- 2.1 The council's community services division is responsible for three community investments grants, which provide funding to support the following voluntary and community organisations with their development and governance from 1 April 2008, up until 31 March 2011.

<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Annual funding</b>	<b>Total funding (2008-2011)</b>
Cheltenham Voluntary and Community Action	£34,000	£102,000
Oakley Regeneration Partnership	£42,200	£126,600
Hesters Way Regeneration Partnership	£42,200	£126,600
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£118,400</b>	<b>£355,800</b>

- 2.2 These community investment grants are now required to be reviewed as part of the council's final review process. This paper details the process for undertaking this review, as well as the involvement of representatives from the O+S committee as part of the review working group.

- 2.3 This paper details the review process as well as the timetable for undertaking the review.

#### **3. Summary of evidence/information**

- 3.1 The final review process that was agreed by both the Social and Community Overview Scrutiny Committee: meeting dated 15 October 2007 and Cabinet: meeting

dated 30 October 2007, agreed that representatives from the Social and Community, who played an integral role in the final review of the previous review process (2005-2008), would continue to be a vital part in the imminent review process. In addition, it was agreed that officers would also establish new and improved monitoring and review procedures to support this process, as part of the implementation of the new community investment grants.

- 3.2 In addition to these undertakings, the recommendations coming out of the Cabinet paper: **Future procurement of services from the third (voluntary) sector in Cheltenham** – 30 October 2007, agreed that more robust funding provisions would be established
- 3.3 This paper made the following recommendations:
- that new three year community investment grants would replace the previous conditional offers of grant
  - the new agreements would be clear about what is being commissioned, the outcome expectations, and how these agreements would be closely performance monitored
  - that organisational requirements would be robust and demonstrable
  - the new community investment grants would be used to build the capacity of these organisations to a position where they could compete for a future contract, at the end of the three year funding period (2008-2011) and that the council endorse a move towards joint procurement of services by contract from third sector organisations,
- 3.4 The new robust community investments grants (CIGs) were established by the Assistant Director Community Services, working in conjunction with the legal services team, making it much clearer what the council is commissioning and also establishing improved and more robust monitoring procedures. These new agreements commenced in April 2008, and are due to run until 31 March 2011.

## The review process and role of the working group

- 3.5 In order for the reviews to meet the council's annual budget setting round timetable (2011-2012); it will be necessary to undertake the reviews undertaken during the final year's operation
- 3.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be required to elect three representatives to support the final community investment grant review process, ideally endeavouring to demonstrate cross-party involvement in the review.
- 3.7 The review group, will utilise a range of information submitted by the organisations, in addition to an interview panel, where each of the organisations will be required to demonstrate their achievements and performance
- 3.8 Agreement of the membership of the review group will need to be concluded at the date of the next committee meeting: 7 June 2010, in order to support the review process, and achieve the timetable for the review meetings, which requires the reviews to be undertaken during w/c 14 June and w/c 21 June (Dates yet to be agreed). A review timetable (**See Appendix A**) has been drawn up to provide a timetable to detail this process
- 3.9 To achieve this timetable, the final reviews will be based on these organisations achievements and performance during the last two years, along with what they hope

to achieve by 31 March 2011

- 3.10** The role of the review group, is to determine: the overall performance and achievements of these organisations over the funding period, against the outcomes and targets required to meet the terms of the community investment grant.
- 3.11** This will include determining and identifying (*evidence will be presented to demonstrate this*):
- the overall performance and achievements of these organisations during the funding period, against the outcomes and expectations detailed in the community investment grant
  - how these organisations have used the investment grants to help build and secure the capacity of the organisation, and its internal governance procedures, to a position where it could compete for any future contracts
  - whether the organisation is providing much needed community resources, and a resource (service) which is clearly meeting the demands and aspirations of its users and/or it's community as a whole
  - whether the organisation has, and is continuing to demonstrate value for money, best practice, as well as savings and economies of scale
- 3.12** The overall findings of the review group along with its recommendations will then be formally presented to the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, by the Chair of the review group with the support of officers, at its meeting of 12 July. The recommendations of the O+S Committee will then subsequently be submitted to the Cabinet at its September meeting (21 September), for its consideration and to influence any decisions regarding possible future funding arrangements, which will need to be considered as part of the council's annual budget setting round timetable (2011-2012)

## **Review information**

- 3.13** To support the review process and the members of the review group, information will be provided detailing the performance and achievements of the organisation, along with other supporting and useful information.
- 3.14** This will include:
- a summary of the collated quarterly performance information submitted by each of these organisations to date, as required under the terms of the new agreements,
  - a final report to be issued by each of the organisations which will include details of outcomes and budgets
  - a forward looking action plan identifying their future plans, as well as a future predicted and costed business plan
  - an expression, which demonstrates the reasons why the organisation believes the council might wish to consider the potential of any longer term funding commitments to support the organisations with their work and on-going developments.

## **4. Next Steps - possible next steps for the committee to consider eg potential witnesses, further report, site visit etc.**

- 4.1** The overall findings of the review group along with its recommendations will be formally presented to the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, by the Chair of the review group with the support of officers, at its meeting of 12 July

2010.

- 4.2** The recommendations of the O+S Committee will then subsequently be submitted to the Cabinet at its September meeting (21 September) for its consideration, in order to determine the basis of any future funding arrangements. This will need to be considered as part of the council's annual budget setting round timetable (2011-2012)

---

<b>Background Papers</b>	Final review of the council's 2005-2008 conditional offers of grant - Social and Community Overview Scrutiny Committee: meeting dated 15 October 2007  Final review of the council's 2005-2008 conditional offers of grant - Cabinet: meeting dated 30 October 2007  Future procurement of services from the third (voluntary) sector in Cheltenham – Cabinet meeting: 30 October 2007
<b>Report Author</b>	Geoff Sloman, Community development outreach team leader, 01242 775213, geoff.sloman@cheltenham.gov.uk
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Kathryn Chamberlain, Head of service, community services, 01242 775205, Kathryn.chamberlain@cheltenham.gov.uk
<b>Accountability</b>	Cllr. John Webster - Cabinet member finance and community development
<b>Scrutiny Function</b>	Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee