

CABINET

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

17th February 2009

Report of the Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
This report details all grant funding levels in the current financial year to enable Cabinet to give consideration to the level of funding for 2009/10			
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Officer Referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date Included in Forward Plan	4 th September 2008		
This report is public			

RECOMMENDATIONS

That consideration be given to the future level of funding to those external organisations set out in paragraph 1.1.

1.0 Introduction

The report outlines all the financial support to outside bodies from the various services of the Council. Detailed below, sub divided by service, are the details of specific grant aid or support by way of rent allowance. Following consideration by Star Chamber recommendations are attached to each grant. Further information, where available is also detailed.

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

There are thirteen Service Level Agreements listed below. In general these are three year agreements, eleven of which have been drawn up by the Council and indicate that they are not legally binding, although they are subject to budgetary considerations each year and with a termination clause of 6 months written notice in each case. Two of the SLA's – the CVS and the Rainbow Centre - are joint agreements with the County Council. The termination clause in these agreements is for 12 months and 6 months written notice respectively.

The Morecambe and Lancaster Citizen Advice Bureaux agreements expire on 31st March 2009; Lune Valley Transport (Dial a Bus) on 31st March 2009; the Lancaster District CVS on 30th June 2009; the Rainbow Centre on 31st March 2010 and all the remainder on 31st March 2011.

In addition Democratic Services manage the Miscellaneous and Welfare grant provision on behalf of the Council. The Welfare Grant allocation is shown as half the available funds due to the remainder being match funded by the County Council.

	Name of Organisation	Grant £	Recommendation	Savings for 2009/10
1	Age Concern, Lancashire	3,800 (no inflation)	This is match funded by the County Council. Recommended - no reduction.	
2	CAB Lancaster	87,300 + £7,200 rent (no inflation)	Consider options to reduce total support to CAB's by between £20 - 50,000	
3	CAB Morecambe	88,300 (no inflation)	“ “ “ “ “	
4	CVS	18,900 (including inflation)	Joint agreement with County Council. No recommendation to date.	
5	One Voice	6,000 (no inflation)	This organisation, similar to Thumbprint below, operates out of the Cornerstones in Lancaster and provides advice and support to the disabled. No recommendation to date.	
6	Lune Valley Transport (Dial a Bus)	3,300 (no inflation)	Continue with grant following consideration at Cabinet on 20 th January, 2009	
7	Relate	6,800 rent (no inflation)	No recommendation to date	
8	Rainbow Centre	2,500 (no inflation)	Joint agreement with the County Council. Recommended – no reduction.	
9	Samaritans	1,500 (no inflation)	Recommended – no reduction	
10	Shopmobility (Preston Community Transport)	12,900 (including inflation)	Operates mobility scooters for hire one day per week in Lancaster and Morecambe. No recommendation to date	
11	Thumbprint	4,000 (no inflation)	See One Voice at 5 above. No recommendation to date.	
12	Twinning Association (includes grant of 4,100 and sundry expenses)	6,300 (including inflation)	The service level agreement requires the Twinning Association to 'assist in the organisation of cultural, sporting, socio-economic and educational exchanges, between Lancaster and its official and associated twin towns of a non-Civic nature' and 'to strengthen links between Lancaster and its official and associated twin towns.' Whilst it could be argued that following the decision of Council to cancel the Youth Games for 2009 this would assist in maintaining relationships with our twin towns, the anticipated hosting of guests and assisting in arrangements for the Games in Lancaster will not now be necessary and anticipated expenditure will be reduced. Recommend withdraw funding for 2009/10 (in line with decision not to host the Youth Games in 2009).	6,300

	Name of Organisation	Grant £	Recommendation	Savings for 2009/10
13	Victim Support	5,000 (no inflation)	No recommendation to date.	
		=====		=====
	Sub Total	253,800		6,300
1	Miscellaneous Grants	7,500 (including inflation)	Recommend - discontinue funding	7,500
2	Welfare Grants	4,100	This is a net figure and is match funded by the County Council but has been reduced in line with previous years spending patterns. Recommended - no further reduction.	2,600
		=====		=====
	Sub Total	11,600		10,100

CULTURAL SERVICES

	Name of Organisation	Grant £	Recommendation	Savings for 2009/10
1	Dukes Playhouse	167,800	Options requested for reduction up to £75,000	
2	Friends of the Storey Institute	35,000	Recommended - no reduction	
3	Groundwork Trust	18,500	Agreement already terminated – adjusted in base budget.	
4	Ludus	29,900	Recommended - reduce grant	10,000
5	Morecambe Music Residency	11,400	Recommended - reduce grant	5,000
6	Lancaster Lit Fest	9,100	SLA linked to the Storey Institute Recommended – no reduction	
7	Community Projects	10,800	Recommended discontinue funding	10,800
		=====		
	Sub Total	282,500		25,800

PLANNING SERVICES

	Name of Organisation	Grant £	Recommendation	Savings
1	Heysham Heritage Centre	5,100	Officer Recommendation - Discontinue grant	5,100
2	Countryside Projects	9,600	Recommended - no reduction	
3	Arnside &	13,900	Recommended - no reduction	

	Name of Organisation	Grant £	Recommendation	Savings
	Silverdale AONB			
4	Forest of Bowland AONB	7,000	Recommended - no reduction	
		=====		=====
	Sub Total	35,600		5,100

HEALTH & STRATEGIC HOUSING

	Name of Organisation	Grant £	Recommendation	Savings
1	Signposts	95,300	Following the development of the Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013, the City Council resolved to put contracts with voluntary organisations out to tender to target the money much more closely on the priorities identified in the Homelessness Strategy. It is anticipated that greater value for money will be gained by one contract as opposed to the six current SLA's. The 3 year contract to 31.3.2012 has just been awarded to YMCA/Signposts. These are the savings are as a result of this approach.	6,700
2	Portland Street Night Shelter			
3	L/C Homeless Action Service			
4	M/C Homeless Action Service			
5	Women's Aid			
6	YMCA			
		=====		
	Sub Total	95,300		6,700

	Total of Support 2008/09	678,800		54,000
--	---------------------------------	----------------	--	---------------

2.0 Proposal Details

The Cabinet is asked to approve the above recommendations listed above and to make additional recommendations where required

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 No consultation has taken place.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

4.1 The risk in any grant reduction will be born by the individual organisations. However, Members should be aware that some of these organisations contribute to the aims of the Sustainable Community Strategy

5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

5.1 Details of previously agreed recommendations are included in the list.

- 5.2 Officer comments are included in the tables above where appropriate.
- 5.3 Where Service Level Agreements exist, Members should be aware that any reduction in funding will result in a re-negotiation of the level of service to be provided.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The grants schemes recognise the Council's corporate priorities to support local initiatives and the aims of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

Resources are available to be used to enable local initiatives to be developed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2009/10 draft budget includes £678,800 for the support to outside organisations listed above. Some savings relating to the Groundwork Trust have already been included in the base budget for 2010/11 and these have not been included in the total saving figure above.

In a small number of cases 50% of grant aid is recovered by match funding from the Lancashire County Council and the figure shown for the grant is net of this amount.

DEPUTY SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

In reaching a decision, Members are advised to consider the options in context of the budget position and the need to make ongoing savings and achieve value for money, as well as proposed priorities and the impact on service users.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS
SLA and Grant Agreements

Contact Officer: Ron Matthews
Telephone: 01524 582074
E-mail: rmatthews@lancaster.gov.uk