

# CABINET

## Grants to Non-Housing Voluntary Organisations – Review of Service Level Agreements

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008

### Report of Budget & Performance Panel

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
That Cabinet consider the recommendations of the Budget and Performance Panel regarding the Review of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and Grants to Non-Housing Voluntary Organisations, as part of the budget process.				
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Budget & Performance Panel
Date Included in Forward Plan				August 2007
This report is public				

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PANEL:-

To consider the recommendations of the Budget & Performance Panel resolved at their meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008:-

- (1) That officers explore the opportunity to offer a three year SLA for £2,000 per annum with no inflation for the provision of equality and diversity assistance and advice in the district.
- (2) That the Council offers a further three year SLA to Relate toward the rent of a fixed £6,800 per annum with no inflation.
- (3) That the Council offers a further three year SLA to One Voice at £6,000 per annum with no inflation via a joint SLA with Thumbprint if possible.
- (4) That the Council offers a further three year SLA to Lancaster International Twinning Society at £4,100 per annum, with inflation, and that the Council offers assistance/promotional material where possible.
- (5) That the Council offers a further three year SLA to Lancaster Citizens Advice Bureau at £87,300 per annum with no inflation and £7,200 for rent with no inflation. Furthermore the new SLA must include the provision for a money advice case worker to be located in the Customer Service Centre within Lancaster Town Hall at no additional cost to the Council, and the requirement for both Citizens Advice Bureaux to continue to explore potential efficiency savings through closer working.

- (6) That the Council offers a further three year SLA to Morecambe and Heysham Citizens Advice Bureau at £88,300 per annum with no inflation and that the opportunity be explored for a money advice case worker to be located in the Customer Service Centre within Morecambe Town Hall at no additional cost to the Council. Furthermore a requirement be included in the SLA for both Citizens Advice Bureaux to continue to explore potential efficiency savings through closer working.
- (7) That the Council offers a further three year SLA to North Lancashire Victim Support at £5,000 per annum with no inflation.
- (8) That the Council offers a further three year SLA to Preston Community Transport at £12,600 with inflation per annum.
- (9) That the Council offers a one year SLA to Lune Valley Transport at £3,300 with a future SLA subject to consideration of further information arising from the review of Community Transport Contracted services to support the new statutory Concessionary Travel scheme.
- (10) That the Council offers a further three year SLA to Age Concern Lancashire at £7,500 per annum with no inflation.
- (11) That the Council offers a new SLA to the Samaritans of Lancaster and District for three years at £1,500 per annum with no inflation.
- (12) That the Council offers a new three year SLA to Thumbprint at £4,000 per annum with no inflation via a joint SLA with One Voice if possible.
- (13) That officers report back on options to improve the administering, monitoring, reporting, and allocating of SLAs and grant monies to non-housing voluntary organisations to ensure that the Council receives value for money. The scope of the report should also include:-

  - (a) how links can be made with the relevant Head of Service, where appropriate, to enable closer working and monitoring of services and the commissioning of relevant services
  - (b) opportunities for future SLAs to be explored with existing and alternative service providers, where possible, in order to secure improved services and value for money
  - (c) whether a Cabinet Member should be appointed with responsibility for each Service Level Agreement.
- (14) That the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to negotiate and sign Service Level Agreements in accordance with (1) to (12) above in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.
- (15) That the Budget and Performance Panel recommends that SLAs do not include elements of free parking and further that Cabinet consider ending the system of free parking permits to outside bodies.

- (16) **That a report be brought back before the Budget and Performance Panel regarding all free and subsidised parking permits authorised by the City Council.**

## **1.0 Introduction and background**

- 1.1 The Budget & Performance Panel considered the recommendations of a Sub-Panel appointed for the purpose of monitoring the performance of non-housing voluntary organisations which whom a Service level Agreement is in place and reviewed the funding of those organisations whose SLA is due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. Two new applications for funding have also been included in the process.
- 1.2 When considering the applications in the main report the Budget and Performance Panel were presented with some additional information regarding concessionary parking allocations made in respect of some of the grant applicants and other outside bodies. The Panel made additional resolutions in light of the new information which are reflected in Recommendation (15) and (16) above.
- 1.3 The table below illustrates the projected 2008/09 value of the free parking permits subject to being authorised by Cabinet, of which both CABs, Relate and the Samaritans are subject to SLA grant applications:-

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Permits</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Total</b>
Citizens Advice - Lancaster	4	770.00	3080.00
Citizens Advice – Morecambe	1	475.00	475.00
Relate – Lancaster	2	770.00	1540.00
Samaritans	1	770.00	770.00
Age Concern - Lancaster	3	770.00	2310.00
WRVS - Morecambe	1	475.00	475.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>8650.00</b>

The permits issued to these bodies in the past have been concessionary only, and they have no legal entitlement to free parking.

- 1.4 There are only two other arrangements in place for assisted parking that are based on longstanding legal agreements linked to land and property issues.

In these two cases where the parking permits are part of a land transaction, the Council cannot unilaterally remove these permits without negotiating appropriate compensation with the other parties involved.

The City Council does receive free parking requests from time to time and these are refused as the only free parking approved by the Council is for Christmas and the recently approved Remembrance Sunday arrangement.

## **2.0 Proposal details**

- 2.1 A copy of the Sub-Panel's report, from which these recommendations were agreed, was distributed for Cabinet's information.

### **3.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)**

3.1 In considering the recommendations of the Budget & Performance Panel, options open to Cabinet are as set out in paragraph 3 of the report included in the main Agenda.

### **4.0 Details of Consultation**

As set out in paragraph 5 of the original report.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The work of voluntary organisations funded by the Council supports many of the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan.

#### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

There are no direct implications.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Funding for grants to voluntary organisations is allocated to specific organisations with SLAs for any funding over £1,000. The total amount of funding allocated to the above voluntary organisations with SLAs amounted to £227,900 for 2007/08.

Indicative budgets for future years are currently £232,100 in 2008/09, £236,400 in 2009/10 and £240,700 for 2010/11. The allocations recommended by the Sub-Panel as set out in the attached report would result in an increase of £3,500 in 2008/09, a reduction of £400 in 2009/10 and a reduction of £4,400 in 2010/11 and would need to be built in to the 2008/09 budget process if supported.

The report identifies that additional financial assistance totalling £8,650 in respect of free car parking for some of these voluntary organisations is also included in the draft budget.

#### **SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The s151 officer would highlight that the provisional implications have been built into the Budget Report (Appendix F) elsewhere on the agenda although a small adjustment would be required in 2009/10. The recommendations should be considered in context of the Budget Report.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Services have been consulted and have no comments to add other than the contents of all new or amended SLA's should be agreed by Legal before implementation.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

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

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Existing Service Level Agreements with and monitoring information provided by organisations listed in the report.

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