

**BUDGET AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL**

4.30 P.M.

15TH JANUARY 2008

PRESENT:- Councillors Jim Blakely (Chairman), Jean Dent, Keran Farrow, Sarah Fishwick, Ian McCulloch, John Whitelegg and Roger Dennison (substitute for Mike Greenall)

Apologies for absence:-

Councillors Tina Clifford and Mike Greenall

Officers in attendance:-

Roger Muckle	Corporate Director (Finance and Performance)
Suzanne Smith	Senior Democratic Support Officer
Jon Stark	Democratic Support Officer

42 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made at this point.

43 GRANTS TO NON-HOUSING VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Senior Democratic Support Officer introduced a report for the Panel to consider the recommendations of the Sub-Panel for the review of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and Grants to Non-Housing Voluntary Organisations. The Panel was requested to formalise recommendations that would then be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration as part of the budget process.

The Panel was advised that some additional information had been received for consideration relating to concessionary benefits received by some of the organisations under consideration for funding and that this would be considered in addition to the details considered within the report.

In particular, Members were advised that additional information had been received from the Parking and Administration Manager that some of the organisations with pending SLA applications for grant funding also received free parking permits detailed in the table below:-

Organisation	Permits	Price	Total
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

The Panel received further information relating to a future review of Community Transport Contracted services to support the new statutory Concessionary Travel scheme, which could impact on a future SLA with Lune Valley Transport. This information was considered along with that application.

Members gave further consideration to additional recommendations in the report regarding the administration, monitoring, reporting and allocation of SLAs and grant funding to non-housing voluntary organisations to ensure the Council receives value for money and secures improved services for the community.

Members considered each application for Grant Funding and agreed the following recommendations for Cabinet's consideration:-

Resolved:-

- (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 administrating, 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.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 5.54 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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