

# Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 19 June 2018

## Community Grants Third Sector Interface Funding

<b>Item number</b>	9.7
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	Executive
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Council Commitments</b>	2, 47

### Executive Summary

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This report informs Committee of the awarding of grant funds under urgency provisions to EVOC and Volunteer Edinburgh, as part of their continued role as the Third Sector Interface (TSI) and for the management of the Equality and Rights Network, and that a review of grant funding to the three Third Sector Interface organisations (EVOC, Volunteer Edinburgh and Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network) is underway.

## Community Grants Third Sector Interface Funding

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note that the grant funds awarded under urgency provisions.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to note that work is underway to carry out the review of grant funding to the three Third Sector Interface organisations, as agreed at C&N Committee in March 2017.
- 1.3 A report detailing the outcome of the review will be provided to the committee in September 2018.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 The Council contributes funding to the Third Sector Interface (TSI), which is provided by three organisations, EVOC, Volunteer Edinburgh and Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network (ESEN). The Council's Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee in 2015 committed in principle to 5 year funding for EVOC and Volunteer Edinburgh covering the period 2016/17 to 2020/21. ESEN has been supported by one-off payments and is not part of the 5 year framework.
- 2.2 The Council also made provisions in the council budget for £45,000 for Volunteer Edinburgh to manage the Equality and Rights Network (EaRN). EaRN works to enable any group, forum, organisation or individual to work in partnership with public services to advance equality, promote human rights, and to tackle inequality and poverty. It supports the Council to meet its duties under the Equality Act 2010. Funding for EaRN was agreed for the three year period 2015-18.
- 2.3 At its March 2017 meeting, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee agreed to consider options for the future management and administration of the Social Justice Fund and the Third Sector Interface funding agreements, and the co-production of the new programme to enable the new Council administration to shape TSI agreements from 2018/19 onwards. The review outcomes, and any requisite changes to outcome funding agreements, were to be subject to a Council Committee report by the end of 2017.
- 2.4 Subsequent to the March 2017 meeting, the Social Justice Fund was reduced by £130k as part of the Council's revenue budget framework 2018-23. In addition to core funding from the council, EVOC and Volunteer Edinburgh were among the recipients of this fund. At the same time, new timescales were set for the review of

the Edinburgh Partnership and the development of the LOIP and the decision was taken to align the funding review to these timescales. The Social Justice Funding for EVOC and VE was extended to cover this period and ensure stability through the review process.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 Whilst the core funding was agreed in principle for a 5 year period to 2020/21, the administrative provision to grant these monies still requires to be taken annually.
- 3.2 Committee schedules meant that the next opportunity to politically approve these grants was June 2018. Given that this funding was required for the continuation of the ongoing TSI commitments, the Chief Executive in consultation with the Convenor of the Culture and Communities Committee agreed – in keeping with political decisions already made - to commit the current year’s funding under urgency provisions as follows:
  - £58,500 to EVOC for 2018-19 (year 3 of 5) in its role as TSI
  - £75,907 to Volunteer Edinburgh for 2018-19 (year 3 of 5) in its role as TSI
- 3.3 The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Convenor of the Culture and Communities Committee also agreed provide the funding to Volunteer Edinburgh for the Equality and Rights Network (EaRN) described at paragraph 2.2 and confirmed below
  - £45,000 to Volunteer Edinburgh for 2018-19 to manage EaRN
- 3.4 The review of the grant funding arrangements to support the TSI is now underway, to identify options for the future management and administration of the Third Sector Interface funding agreements and the co-production of the new programme to for 2018/19 onwards to take account of:
  - 3.4.1 the requirements arising from the new localities structure within Edinburgh, including the Local Outcome Improvement Plans
  - 3.4.2 requirements arising from the review of the Edinburgh Partnership
  - 3.4.3 options for the role and funding of ESEN
  - 3.4.4 the overall reduction in the level of funding available from the Council, following the ending of the Social Justice Fund as part of the 2017/18 budget
- 3.5 Discussions are also underway with Volunteer Edinburgh to agree the priorities of EaRN over the next year, and to review and strengthen governance arrangements for the network.
- 3.6 A report will be provided to committee detailing the outcome of the review in Sept 2018.

#### **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 A co-produced and jointly owned funding framework with clear objectives and outcomes for the TSIs and EaRN.

#### **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The Council's revenue budget includes funding at 2017-18 levels for the Third Sector Interface and EaRN. No additional funding is sought at present.

#### **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 The risk of future use of such measures is being managed by a funding review involving the third sector.

#### **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 The review of governance arrangements and priorities for the Equality and Rights Network will bring a positive contribution to the Council's equalities activities.

#### **8. Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 This report has been assessed in respect of the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties and there are no impacts to note.

#### **9. Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 Dialogue with the key voluntary sector organisations is ongoing.

#### **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 [Corporate Governance Payments to Third Parties: Proposals to establish a Strategic Partnership, C&N Committee, Nov 2015](#)
- 10.2 [Edinburgh's Third Sector Interface-Chief Executive Funding 2016-17 and 2017-18, C&N Committee, March 2017](#)

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