

Planning Committee

10am, Thursday, 26 February 2015

Grants to Third Sector Organisations 2015/16

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| Item number | 7.1 |
| Report number | |
| Executive/routine | |
| Wards | |

Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Committee's approval for a grant of £48,750 to Edinburgh World Heritage and a grant of £27,144 to Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust. Additionally, Committee is asked to note the allocation of small grants to The National Trust for Scotland, The Scottish Civic Trust, the Architectural Heritage Society for Scotland (AHSS), the Access Panel and Archaeology Scotland.

The report recommends maintaining grant awards at 2014/15 levels, with a view to securing savings of 10% with grant recipients during 2015/16, as part of the grant award process for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Links

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| Coalition pledges | P40 |
| Council outcomes | CO19, CO23, CO26 |
| Single Outcome Agreement | SO4 |

Grants to Third Sector Organisations 2015/16

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Planning Committee:

- 1.1 Approves a grant of £48,750 to Edinburgh World Heritage and £27,144 to Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust;
- 1.2 Notes the grant awards to the National Trust for Scotland, the Scottish Civic Trust, the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland (AHSS), the Access Panel and Archaeology Scotland; and
- 1.3 Agrees that savings are sought from grant recipients during 2015/16, with a view to making recommendations to Committee on grant awards from 2016/17 onwards.

Background

- 2.1 On 11 February 2014, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee agreed “To approve the transfer of responsibility for developing future grant programmes and making grant awards to executive committees and policy development sub-committees”.
- 2.2 The Committee has also agreed that all grant programmes should be aligned to meet strategic plan, commissioning and capital coalition pledge priorities. The Review of Grants to Third Parties also set out a requirement that all grant award recommendations should be co-produced with service users, carers and third sector organisations by April 2016. The review also recommended that co-produced grant programmes should ideally be funded for a period of three years to provide financial stability for recipient organisations.
- 2.3 In addition, the Better Outcomes Leaner Delivery (BOLD) workstream on third sector expenditure set out a recommendation to reduce third sector spend by 10% over three years. This report recommends that the grant awards for existing providers are maintained for 2015/16, but that savings are sought for the 2016/17 budget through negotiation with grant recipients during 2015/16. This will be undertaken through a collaborative approach with voluntary sector partners to co-produce grant programmes.

Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH)

- 3.1 EWH provides support to the historic environment through the conservation and repair of historic buildings in partnership with communities across the World Heritage Site.
- 3.2 EWH has applied for £75,000. It was awarded £48,750 in 2015/16 and it is recommended to maintain the grant award at £48,750 for 2016/17.
- 3.3 Discussions to move EWH onto a Service Level Agreement are currently underway. It is hoped this will be in place for 2016/17.

Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust

- 3.4 EGLT works to enhance the quality of life for Edinburgh communities by improving their local environment. It works with Council, communities, agencies and partners to create sustainable, well managed and accessible green spaces. The Trust is funded jointly by Services for Communities and Health and Social Care, with the latter awarding £75,096 in 2014/15.
- 3.5 The Trust has applied for £27,723. It was awarded £27,144 in 2014/15 and it is recommended to maintain the grant award at £27,144 for 2015/16.

Other Organisations

- 3.6 Other organisations which provide assistance to the formulation of planning policies and/or advice on development proposals, that receive smaller amounts have their grant dispersal delegated to the Service Director. These grants are also maintained at 2014/15 levels and are:
 - National Trust for Scotland - £3000
 - Scottish Civic Trust - £1850
 - Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland - £700
 - Access Panel - £660
 - Archaeology Scotland - £500

Grants Programme 2016/17

- 3.7 No savings will be sought in 2015/16. However, savings of 5% will be sought in years 2016/17 and 2017/18. It is proposed that negotiations start with grant recipients during 2015/16, with a view to achieving savings through co-production of services and assessing alignment with Council strategy and policy. Recommendations, including three year grant awards from 2016/17 onwards, will then be made to the Planning Committee for its consideration.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Each grant recipient is required to complete a funding agreement which details SMART targets that the recipient agrees to achieve. Achievement of these targets will contribute to departmental objectives and service plans.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The total grant award for 2015/16 remains the same as that for 2014/15 at £55,460. These awards are met from third sector spend identified in service area budgets.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee in February 2014 accepted the recommendations of the Third Party Grants Review.
- 6.2 The third sector Co-production Steering Group, chaired by EVOC, has been set up to share good practice and ensure consistency as grant programmes are developed.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 No infringements of rights or negative impact on equalities have been identified. The award of third sector grants enhances the ability of the people of Edinburgh to participate in the operation of the Council.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The recommendations of grants to the listed organisations have significant positive impact on the environment and people's understanding of Edinburgh's built heritage.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 There was engagement involving stakeholders to review the third party grants process throughout 2013.
- 9.2 The savings proposals have been part of the wider corporate consultation for the 2015/16 budget.

Background reading/external references

[Review of Council Grants to Third Parties 2013/14, Communities and Neighbourhoods, 11 February 2014](#)

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Links

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| Coalition pledges | P40 Work with Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and other stakeholders to conserve the city's built heritage. |
| Council outcomes | CO19 Attractive Places and Well Maintained - Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards. CO23 Well engaged and well informed - Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community. CO26 The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives. |
| Single Outcome Agreement | S04 Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric. |
| Appendices | None. |

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