

# Planning Committee

10.00am, Thursday 25 February 2016

## Grants to Third Sector Organisations 2016/17

Item number

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

### Executive Summary

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The purpose of this report is to seek Committee's approval for a grant of £46,300 to Edinburgh World Heritage and a grant of £25,800 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 Edinburgh Access Panel and Archaeology Scotland.

The reduced level of grant award sought within 2016/17 reflects the agreed budget reduction in third party spend by 10% between 2015/16 and 2017/18 originally made under the BOLD programme.

### Links

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Coalition pledges	P40
Council priorities	CO19 CO23 CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4

## Grants to Third Sector Organisations 2016/17

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
  - 1.1.1 approves a grant of £46,300 to Edinburgh World Heritage and £25,800 to Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust;
  - 1.1.2 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
  - 1.1.3 implements the savings previously agreed under the BOLD programme for the period 2015/16 to 2017/18.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 In 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 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 3rd 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 BOLD work stream on third sector expenditure set out a recommendation to reduce third sector spend by 10% over three years and that service departments decide how best to implement these proposals. This report recommends that a 5% reduction of the grant awards for the existing recipients is applied to the recommended award for 2016/17 with a further 5% applied to the award recommended for 2017/18.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 A budget reduction in third part organisation spend of 10% between 2015/16 to 2017/18 was agreed under the BOLD programme. However, the Council agreed that for the 2015/16 period awards would be maintained at the 2014/15 levels. In order to meet the BOLD programme targets, a 5% reduction is now proposed for the grant awarded for the 2016/17 and the 2017/18 periods respectively.

#### **Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH)**

- 3.2 EWH provides support to the historic environment through the conservation and repair of historic buildings in partnership with communities across the World Heritage Site
- 3.3 EWH has applied for £75,000. It was awarded £48,750 in 2015/16. It is proposed that the first of two 5 % reductions over a period of two years is applied to the grant award for 2016/17. It is therefore recommended that a sum of £46,300 be awarded to the EWH for 2016/17.
- 3.4 The shortfall in support has been built into EWH's budgeting for 2016/17. Although EWH have identified potential sources to make up this deficit, there are a number of small projects that could be sacrificed to address the £2,450 loss including support for World Heritage Day, 'Friends' events and school workshops. Discussions to move EWH onto a Service Level Agreement are ongoing and it is anticipated that this will be in place for 2017/18. Completion of this process would clarify the areas where the EWH contribution would be reduced.

#### **Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT)**

- 3.5 ELGT works to enhance the quality of life for Edinburgh communities by improving their local environment. It works with the Council, communities, agencies and partners to create sustainable, well managed and accessible green spaces. The Trust has been jointly funded by Services for Communities and Health and Social Care, with the latter awarding £74,495.00 in 2015/16.
- 3.6 The Trust has applied for £27,746.00. It was awarded £27,144.00 in 2015/16. It is proposed that the first of two 5 % reductions over a period of two years is applied to the grant award for 2016/17. It is therefore recommended that a sum of £25,800 be awarded to ELGT for 2016/17.
- 3.7 The 5% reduction in the award over the 2016/17 period will be primarily met from the budgets of the greenspace improvement projects themselves. However, the reduction will present challenges for the organisation.

### **Other organisations**

- 3.8 Other organisations which provide assistance to the formulation of planning policies and/or advice on development proposals, that receive smaller amounts have their grant delegated to the Service Director. It is recommended that the first of two 5% reductions over a period of two years is applied to the grant award for 2016/17 for these organisations:

- National Trust for Scotland - £2,850
- Scottish Civic Trust - £1,760
- Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland - £655
- Edinburgh Access Panel - £630
- Archaeology Scotland - £475

### **Grants programme 2017/18**

- 3.9 The 5% savings sought in 2016/17 will be repeated at the same level 5% saving in years 2017/18 in order to achieve the targeted 10% reduction agreed under the BOLD programme. This has been achieved through negotiation with grant recipients during 2015/16 and has been undertaken through a collaborative approach with voluntary sector partners to co-produce grant programmes.

## **4. Measures of success**

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- 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.
- 4.2 The success of the review will be measured by whether or not its implementation can be shown to maximise best value and sustainability of third parties, improve satisfaction with the Council's grant to third parties arrangements and improve Council governance arrangements.

## **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The total grant award for 2016/17 is £78,428 saving a total of £4,176 from total grant of £82,604 awarded in 2015/16. These savings have been achieved through a 5 % reduction in award across all of the recipients of the grants awarded. The required savings are expected to further reduce this to £74,252 in 2017/18.

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

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- 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.

## **7. Equalities impact**

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- 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.

## **8. Sustainability impact**

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

## **9. Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 There has been engagement involving stakeholders to review the third party grants process throughout 2015. Specifically this included:
  - 9.1.1 Report to Planning Committee covering the Grants to Third Sector Organisations 2015/16 - 26 February 2015; and
  - 9.1.2 Report to the Services for Communities Senior Management Team addressing the proposal to reduce third party spend by 10% between 2015/16 and 2017/18 originally made under the BOLD programme. - December 2015.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/46279/item\\_no\\_71\\_-\\_grants\\_to\\_third\\_sector\\_organisations\\_201516](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/46279/item_no_71_-_grants_to_third_sector_organisations_201516)

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## 11. Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	P40 Work with Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and other stakeholders to conserve the City's built heritage.
<b>Council priorities</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>CO23 Well engaged and well informed - Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community.</p> <p>CO26 The council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives.</p>
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SO4 Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.
<b>Appendices</b>	None.