

# Leadership Advisory Panel

10am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

## Grants to Third Parties: Third Sector Interface and Equality and Rights Network 2020/21

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Agree to the financial proposals set out at paragraphs 4.2 and 4.9.
- 1.2 Note the further planned work which will inform the approach to third sector support beyond 2020/21 as described in paragraphs 4.5 to 4.7.

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## Grants to Third Parties: Third Sector Interface and Equality and Rights Network 2020/21

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report sets out the City of Edinburgh Council's proposed funding for the Third Sector Interface (TSI) and Equalities and Rights Network (EaRN) for 2020/21. The report sets out the further work that will be carried out in the coming financial year to inform approaches to support TSI activity in the longer-term.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The Edinburgh Third Sector Interface (TSI) was established in 2009 as part of a Scottish Government initiative to realign Scotland's third sector infrastructure organisations. The aim was to ensure a co-ordinated approach to volunteering, social enterprise development, and the management and influence of third sector organisations.
- 3.2 This report details proposed funding by the City of Edinburgh Council from the Chief Executive's Divisional budget to support Edinburgh's TSI which is delivered in partnership by three organisations: Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC), Volunteer Edinburgh (VE) and Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network (ESEN). Each contributes to the delivery of the TSI objectives through leading work in their specialist area.
- 3.3 The role of the TSI is to deliver volunteering, social enterprise and third sector development and support, together with supporting the participation of the third sector in community planning arrangements in the city. Support in this latter category, includes contribution of sector views through representation on community planning structures, such as the Edinburgh Partnership Board and Locality Community Planning Partnerships, together with support for a range of networks and forums at both city and locality levels. The role is essential in ensuring that partnership working and collaboration with the third sector shapes and contributes to the development and delivery of strategic planning and service delivery.
- 3.4 A reconfigured funding package for the TSI was agreed by the Culture and Communities Committee in January 2019. This report proposes the continuation of

this funding at current levels for 2020/21. This recognises that 2020/21 represents the final year of a five year in principle grant commitment agreed by Council's Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee for EVOC and VE in 2016/17. ESEN has been supported by one-off payments and is not part of the five year framework.

- 3.5 Continued investment in the TSI will allow further work to be carried out during the new financial year to achieve a shared approach to infrastructure support as part of the Edinburgh Partnership review. This activity was noted by Culture and Communities Committee in January 2019. This is in line with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which places an enhanced duty on public bodies to contribute resources to support and facilitate community planning in the city.
- 3.6 In addition, there is an opportunity, as part of this process, to consider the Council's relationship and financial contribution to TSI activity, with the organisations currently receiving funding from other parts of the Council in addition to the core support from the Chief Executive's Division.
- 3.7 The report also recommends the continuation of funding at the current year's level to the Equality and Rights Network (EaRN), which is managed by VE. In the coming year, and similarly to the TSI funding, there is an opportunity to review the governance and operation of EaRN to strengthen its relationship to the Council in its role as a body for advancing equality, promoting human rights and tackling poverty and inequality in the city.

## 4. Main report

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### TSI Funding

- 4.1 EVOC is the city's anchor organisation working to enable a strong, resilient, enterprising and sustainable third sector. VE is the city's anchor organisation for growing volunteering and supporting volunteer-involving organisations. ESEN is the city's main anchor organisation for advancing social enterprise.
- 4.2 Funding for all three organisations is recommended to continue in the new financial year at 2019/20 levels as follows:

Organisation	Award 2020/21
Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation's Council	£53,500
Volunteer Edinburgh	£70,907
Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network	£10,000

- 4.3 The continued investment in these organisations will provide notable benefits, including:

- 4.3.1 Public and third sector relations in the city will continue to be positively progressed;
- 4.3.2 Third sector strategic input and participation in the Edinburgh Partnership will continue at strategic and local levels;
- 4.3.3 The Council's strategic route for third sector matters will be enhanced;
- 4.3.4 Capacity building and development of the sector will be advanced; and
- 4.3.5 Support to volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations will continue.
- 4.4 Funding at existing levels is recommended to allow further work to be carried out to develop a shared approach to future investment in TSI infrastructure with partners as part of the Edinburgh Partnership review.
- 4.5 This review of infrastructure support is underway with initial work carried out with the third sector and wider stakeholders. However, more detailed consideration is required to define a sustainable model and the consequent resource requirements. It is planned for the outcome of this activity to be reported to the Edinburgh Partnership Board later in the new financial year.
- 4.6 Whilst core funding to support TSI activity is provided through the Chief Executive's Division, support is also provided from other sources in the Council. Initial consideration has been given to reviewing this Council funding to achieve a better alignment and targeting of resources.
- 4.7 Given the inter-dependent nature of the two streams of activity, there is an opportunity in the new financial year to combine the activity into one process. Doing this will ensure a more coherent and joined up approach to the outcomes sought from a future funding model.

### **EaRN Funding**

- 4.8 The aim of EaRN is to enable individuals, groups, organisations and communities of interest to work in partnership with public services to advance equality, promote human rights and tackle poverty and inequality. The EaRN service assists the Council to better deliver equality and rights outcomes and the public sector duties of the Equality Act 2010.
- 4.9 Funding is recommended as follows:
  - 4.9.1 £40,000 to VE for 2020/21 to manage EaRN
- 4.10 Funding to support the work of the network of £5,000 from NHS Lothian is confirmed based on last year's contribution. This will maintain the current total funding level of £45,000.
- 4.11 The continued investment will support the development of the new Equalities Framework required by 2022, together with capacity building and promotional activities on equalities to inform strategic policy, planning and decision making in the city. During 2020/21 there is also an opportunity to review the governance and operation of EaRN to strengthen its role as a body for promoting equality awareness and influencing practice to inform its future relationship with the Council.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Following the Committee report, and subject to approval, letters of award and funding agreements will be put in place with each of the organisations.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 The proposed investment as set out in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.9 is contained within available budgets.
- 6.2 Any risks associated with the awards of grant to EVOC, VE, ESEN and for EaRN will be mitigated by grant monitoring and annual assessment and reporting arrangements with these set out in the funding agreement.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 Engagement relating to the above has been the subject of discussion with EVOC, VE and ESEN as part of the annual assessment process.
- 7.2 The proposals will assist the Council to better deliver its equality and rights outcomes and the delivery of the Equality Act 2010 public sector equality duties to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.
- 7.3 The proposals will support and strengthen engagement and capacity building activity with third sector organisations and communities, including groups involved in tackling poverty and inequality and promoting and protecting human rights.

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

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- 8.1 Culture and Communities Committee January 2019 [Culture and Communities Committee papers January 2019](#)

## **9. Appendices**

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None.