

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 1 February 2022

Grants to Third Parties: Third Sector Interface and Equality and Rights Network 2022/23

Executive/routine Executive
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

1.1 Approve the financial proposals set out in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.6 of this report.

Stephen S. Moir

Executive Director of Corporate Services

Contact: Michele Mulvaney, Strategy Manager (Communities),

Policy and Insight Team, Corporate Services Directorate

E-mail: michele.mulvaney@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3541

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2. Executive Summary

- 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 2022/23.

3. Background

- 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 Corporate Services Directorate 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 Funding for the current financial year was agreed by the Culture and Communities Committee in March 2021. One year was approved at that time to enable further work to be carried out within the Council and with partners, under the auspices of the Edinburgh Partnership, to develop a sustainable model of infrastructure support. The pandemic caused delays in progressing this work although a shared outcome agreement with Education and Children’s Services Directorate and the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board is in place. This provides for a shared investment approach improving synergies from the different funding streams.
- 3.5 This report proposes the continuation of funding at current levels for 2022/23 to enable the outstanding work to be taken forward. This includes the opportunity to ensure the future approach is informed by the ambition to have a new working relationship with the third sector to deliver against the Council objectives of tackling poverty, sustainability and wellbeing as set out in the new Business Plan.
- 3.6 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.

4. Main report

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 2021/22 levels as follows:

Organisation	Award 2022/23
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 sustainable approach to future investment in the TSI aligned to delivery of the Council objectives, set out in the new Business Plan, together with partners commitments through the Edinburgh Partnership.

EaRN Funding

- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 £40,000 for funding is recommended to VE for 2022/23 to manage EaRN.
- 4.7 The continued investment will support the implementation and ongoing engagement on the new Equalities Framework approved by the Policy and Sustainability Committee in April 2021, together with capacity building and promotional activities on equalities to inform strategic policy, planning and decision making in the city.

5. Next Steps

- 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

- 6.1 The proposed investment as set out in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.6 is contained within existing and recurring 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

- 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

- 8.1 None

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None.