
TITLE: Review of Grant to Voluntary and Community Action East Cambridgeshire

Committee: Operational Services Committee

Date: 16th November 2020

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[V96]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To consider the outcome of a review of the grant awarded to Voluntary and Community Action East Cambridgeshire (VCAEC).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i) Note the review findings
- ii) Award a grant to VCAEC for a Service Level Agreement for 2021/22 as set out at 6.0 and 7.0.
- iii) request that VCAEC report to this Committee three times a year on progress against the Service Level Agreement

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council currently provides grant funding (through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to VCAEC to provide a 'one stop shop' which delivers quality services, through volunteers, to local people; and advice and information to voluntary and community groups and volunteers. It is an umbrella organisation providing generic infrastructure support to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations within East Cambridgeshire.

3.2 In 2020/21 a grant of £19,928 was awarded to VCAEC.

3.3 This grant is not guaranteed to VCAEC beyond 2020/21. A decision to award a grant is undertaken on an annual basis.

4.0 REVIEW

4.1 The Council is committed to ensuring that all residents have access to services that meet their needs. It is recognised that the district is evolving as well as dealing with the impacts of Covid-19 therefore it is essential that services are in place to effectively meet the needs of communities, in particular those that are most vulnerable. A review has been undertaken to establish whether a future grant to VCAEC is effectively meeting the aims of the Council to deliver the required services and to ensure that best value is being achieved.

4.3 A full copy of the Review is located at Appendix 1 of this report.

5.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

Three options have been identified and presented in the format of an Options Appraisal (included in the Review at Appendix 1 of this report).

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 For the reasons set out in the Review (Appendix 1) and Option 1 of the Options Appraisal included in the Review, Members are recommended to enter into a SLA with VCAEC for 2021/22 using the existing criteria with the inclusion of support towards Covid-19 Recovery efforts and Think Communities approaches. The SLA will include new measures for reporting against performance including presentations from VCAEC to the Council's Operational Services Committee three times a year and quarterly meetings between VCAEC, Director of Operations and the Communities and Partnerships Manager to benchmark performance against the SLA.

6.2 The outputs of the 2020/21 Service Level Agreements will be used as the baselines for 2021/22.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The SLA for 2021/22 will cost £19,928 and is funded from resources in the Communities & Partnerships budget.

Equality Impact Assessments attached at Appendix 2.
Carbon Impact Assessment attached at Appendix 3.

8.0 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1 - Review of SLA Provided to VCAEC
Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix 3 - Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Documents

VCAEC Service Level
Agreement 2020/21

Location

Room
F008, The
Grange

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