



## RECORD OF INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISION MADE BY AN OFFICER

Decision Maker	Decision Type	Date
Bruce Penhale Assistant Director Communities and Early Intervention	Administrative Decision	15/04/19

The award and allocation of Priority Programme, Community Cohesion and Community Festival Funds to the voluntary, community and faith sector for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Exempt/Confidential Report	No	
Key Decision <sup>1</sup>	No	

### Decision (s) <sup>2</sup>

The decision is to grant fund voluntary, community and faith sector organisations for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 as follows:

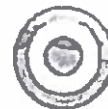
Organisation	Proposed funding allocation April – September 2019
Action Together	£132,500
Greenacres Community Association	£16,000
Werneth and Freehold CDP	£16,000
Oldham Credit Union	£18,000
Oldham Interfaith Forum	£18,000
Stop Hate UK	£2,200
Oldham Carnival	£3,000
National Play Day	£2,000
Oldham Pride	£2,000

### Reasons for the decision(s)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> If the decision is Key Please use Key Decision Template.

<sup>2</sup> Brief details of the decision should be inserted. This note must set out the substance of the decision, options considered and the reason for deciding on the chosen option, although care must be taken not to disclose any confidential or exempt information. Please include proposed timescales for commencement and / or completion of implementation as appropriate.

<sup>3</sup> Reasons for the decision must be given.



The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award grant funding for a period of six months to the voluntary, community and faith sector as above.

The allocation to Action Together is presented for information only, as a separate Cabinet Report will be prepared to seek approval to release funding to the organisation.

#### **Options/Alternatives considered <sup>4</sup>**

The Council currently allocates funding to a number of third sector groups through the Priority Programme Fund, community cohesion and community festival budgets. As a result of proposed reductions to all Council service budgets in 2019/20, there is the potential for funding to the groups specified to be affected. On that basis, the report seeks approval to extend the current Priority Programme and community cohesion funding arrangements for a further six months (i.e. April – September) to allow sufficient time for a range of budget savings options to be presented for consideration. In the event that funding to the groups is to be reduced or withdrawn, the six month extension will allow time for a formal consultation process to be undertaken. Funding for community festivals will also be considered as part of the process for identifying any budget savings.

Providing funding for six months ensures that the groups specified can continue to deliver activities whilst the process for identifying budget savings across the Council is undertaken.

#### **Conflict of Interest declared<sup>5</sup>**

None

**(Signature of Executive Director/Director)**

**Helen Lockwood, Executive Director, People and Place**

#### **Decision made pursuant to:**

- a) General delegation under the Council's officer scheme of delegation. Non-contract decisions up to £250k.**

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<sup>4</sup> Options must be given.

<sup>5</sup> If none, please state none. No Member having a disclosable pecuniary interest or officer having an interest in any matter (whether pecuniary or otherwise required to be declared) should take a decision in relation to that matter. Other interests of a non-disqualifying nature should be recorded here. Any dispensation in place in relation to the matter should also be recorded here. This may include other elected Members, officers, stakeholders and the local community.

<sup>6</sup> The signatory must be duly authorised by Executive Director to make a decision in accordance with the relevant sub-delegation scheme. It is not acceptable for the signature to be 'pp' for the authorised signatory.



## **Delegated Officer Report**

**Decision Maker:** Bruce Penhale  
Assistant Director Communities and Early Intervention

**Date of Decision:** 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Subject:** Award and allocation of Priority Programme Fund,  
Community Cohesion and Community Festival Funds to  
the voluntary, community and faith sector in 2019/20

**Report Author:** Stronger Communities Manager

**Ward (s):** Boroughwide

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**Reason for the decision:** The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award grant funding for a period of six months to the voluntary, community and faith sector as defined at Appendix 1.

**Summary:** The Council currently allocates funding to a number of third sector groups through the Priority Programme Fund, community cohesion and community festival budgets. As a result of proposed reductions to all Council service budgets in 2019/20, there is the potential for funding to the groups specified to be affected. On that basis, the report seeks approval to extend the current Priority Programme and community cohesion funding arrangements for a further six months (i.e. April – September) to allow sufficient time for a range of budget savings options to be presented for consideration. In the event that funding to the groups is to be reduced or withdrawn, the six month extension will allow time for a formal consultation process to be undertaken. Funding for community festivals will also be considered as part of the process for identifying any budget savings.

***What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the***

Providing funding for six months ensures that the groups specified can continue to deliver activities

***reason(s) for recommendation(s):***

whilst the process for identifying budget savings across the Council is undertaken.

***Consultation: including any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted.***

Each organisation affected by the proposals this year have been notified of the budget saving process.

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Community Safety has been consulted

***Recommendation(s):***

It is recommended that the proposed allocations are awarded for a period of six months as listed at Appendix 1.

**Implications:**

***What are the financial implications?***

The Community Cohesion supplies and services budget, which includes grants, has been reduced by £44k in 2019/20 as part of budget option CEX-BR1-249 leaving a supplies and services budget of £400.5k in 2019/10.

By agreeing to the proposal to allocate £204.7k as set out in appendix 1, for the first 6 months of 2019/20. The service would have £200k remaining for the second 6 months of the year. Any pressures remaining within the service would need to be identified from other areas of the Stronger Communities Service Area.  
C. Holdaway

***What are the legal implications?***

There are no immediate legal issues arising from the report, but in due course, should there be a proposal to reduce or withdraw funding, then any such decision should be informed by appropriate consultation and/or equality impact assessment in due course. (Colin Britain)

***What are the procurement implications?***

There are no Procurement implications as this report concerns the commissioning of grants rather than procuring services. However as always when paying out monies to external agency's we should ensure an open and fair process has been followed that will comply with any scrutiny and are in line with the specific grant funding conditions.

***What are the Human Resources implications?***

Not Applicable

**Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment attached or not required because (please give reason)**

An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the event that funding to the groups is to be reduced or withdrawn. At the present time, Council services are still identifying saving options and no proposals to reduce funding to the groups have been formally agreed.

**What are the property implications**

None

**Risks:**

There is a high risk that if funding was to be reduced or withdrawn from October onwards, the ability to deliver activities, pay overheads and staff wages will be affected.

**Co-operative agenda**

The grant awards support the Council's Co-operative Agenda by providing funding which contributes towards the core running costs of voluntary, community and faith sector organisations and ensures that they are able to provide services that help communities address disadvantage, equality of opportunity and improve life chances for residents. Furthermore, core funding helps organisations attract further investment into the borough, as well as providing volunteering opportunities to residents.

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Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? No

**List of Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:**  
None

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<b>Report Author Sign-off:</b>	
Bruce Penhale, Assistant Director Communities and Early Intervention	
Date: 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	

Please list and attach any appendices:-

Appendix number or letter	Description
1	Table of funding awards
2	Background to the decision

In consultation with Executive Director  
Helen Lockwood, Executive Director, People and Place

Signed :  Date: 15.04.19.

**APPENDIX 1      PROPOSED FUNDING AWARD APRIL – SEPTEMBER**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Proposed funding allocation</b>
Action Together	£132,500
Greenacres Community Association	£16,000
Werneth and Freehold CDP	£16,000
Oldham Credit Union	£18,000
Oldham Interfaith Forum	£18,000
Stop Hate UK	£2,200
Oldham Carnival	£0
National Play Day	£0
Oldham Pride	£2,000

## APPENDIX 2: BACKGROUND TO THE DECISION

### 1. Background:

- 1.1 The Council has provided core grant funding to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations through the Priority Programme Fund (PPF) for many years. The allocation of this budget has been reviewed at regular intervals and there are now only a small number of organisations who receive funding as a result of a reduction in the overall budget, changing Council priorities and the need to seek greater efficiencies and value for money.
- 1.2 Grant funding is also allocated as a contribution towards overheads and running costs to organisations which support the Council to deliver community cohesion (CC) related activity. The Stronger Communities Team manage a dedicated budget for community cohesion related activity and along with providing core grant funding, it is used to commission third party support to victims of hate crime, through Stop Hate UK.
- 1.3 The Council also provides a small amount of grant funding as a contribution towards the delivery of annual community festivals which take place in the Borough and meet Council priorities. There is a dedicated Community Festivals (CF) budget for this.
- 1.4 Of note, previous proposals to reduce the 2018/19 budget for the above activity were rejected by Star Chamber following consultation with the third sector.

### 2. Current Position:

- 2.1 The following outlines the proposed funding allocations for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September:

Organisation	Proposed funding allocation in 2018/19	Funding source
Action Together	£132,500	PPF
Greenacres Community Association	£16,000	PPF
Wemeth and Freehold CDP	£16,000	PPF
Oldham Credit Union	£18,000	PPF
Oldham Interfaith Forum	£18,000	CC
Stop Hate UK	£2,200	CC
Oldham Carnival	£0	CF
National Play Day	£0	CF
Oldham Pride	£2,000	CF

- 2.2 Due to the size of the annual grant award, approval to fund Action Together is subject to a separate Cabinet report. On that basis, the proposed allocation is presented for information only.
- 2.3 Oldham Carnival has already received funding for the delivery of the 2019 event and will therefore not be affected by the proposals contained within the report for this financial year.



- 2.4 Oldham Pride takes place within three months of the date of the report and as it is not possible for options to be explored within the timescale. It would therefore be recommended that the allocation of £2,000 is awarded this year.**
- 2.5 National Play Day takes later in the year. In the event that funding for National Play Day will be affected, formal consultation will take place with Oldham play Action Group, as the deliverers of the activity, at the earliest opportunity.**
- 2.6 In addition to the organisations presented above, funding for Legal and Advice Services, currently delivered by Citizens Advice Oldham, has been transferred to the Housing Strategy Team in the interim, as this forms part of a wider commission around Housing and Social Welfare Advice. Once the commission ceases, the budget will be reallocated to the Priority Programme Fund.**

