

Delegated Officer Report

Decision Maker: Rebekah Sutcliffe
Strategic Director of Reform

Date of Decision: 16th July 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: Natalie Downs, Stronger Communities Manager
Neil Consterdine, Assistant Director Youth, Leisure and
Communities

Ward (s): Boroughwide

Reason for the decision: The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award grant funding for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 to the voluntary, community and faith sector as identified at Appendix 1.

Summary: This proposal supercedes a recommendation, approved on 15th April 2019, to award funding to a number of third sector groups for a period of six months through the Priority Programme Fund, community cohesion and community festival budgets. At that time, options were being explored to reduce funding for this strand of work as part of wider in-year budget saving options for 2019/20.

Since the report was produced, the Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has identified the £44k required to bridge the shortfall in funding and this report therefore seeks approval to award funding as per the revised allocations listed at Appendix 1.

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

presented at Appendix 1 is for information only.

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):

There are no alternative options to be considered at this stage.

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

Consultation was undertaken with groups affected by the initial proposals. Once approval has been granted to award the full allocations to the voluntary, community and faith groups listed, confirmation will be provided in writing.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the proposed allocations are awarded in 2019/20 as per Appendix 1.

Implications:

What are the financial implications?

The cost of this proposal is £412,400 (as detailed in appendix 1) of which there is £386,940 in the mainstream budget. The shortfall in the budget is to be met by the CCG.

During Quarter 1 expenditure totals £95,250. The financial risk is that the funding from the CCG, which has not yet been received, is withdrawn leaving the council with an overspend of £25,460 which would need to be met from within the service area.
(Carl 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 Brittain)

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 agencies, 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)

There are no adverse equality and diversity implications arising from the proposals contained within this report. However, an Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the event that funding to the groups is to be reduced or withdrawn at any future point.

What are the **property** implications

None

Risks:

There is a high risk that if funding was to be reduced or withdrawn at any future point, the ability to deliver activities, pay overheads and staff wages would 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.

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

Report Author Sign-off:	
Neil Consterdine, Assistant Director Youth, Leisure and Communities	
Date: 16th July 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
Rebekah Sutcliffe, Strategic Director of Reform

Signed : Neil Cusker Date: 16/07/19

I My father Howard Sutcliffe is
chair of the Wetherby Freehold
CDP & hence I consider I
may have a conflict of interest
& am delegating this to my
Deputy Neil Cusker.
Rebekah 16/7/19

APPENDIX 1 PROPOSED FUNDING AWARD 1st APRIL 2019 – 31ST MARCH 2020

Organisation	Proposed funding allocation
Action Together	£265,000
Greenacres Community Association	£32,000
Werneth and Freehold CDP	£32,000
Oldham Credit Union	£36,000
Oldham Interfaith Forum	£36,000
Stop Hate UK	£4,400
Oldham Carnival	£3,000
National Play Day	£2,000
Oldham Pride	£2,000
Total	£412,400

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.

2. Current Position:

- 2.1 The following outlines the proposed funding allocations for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020:

Organisation	Proposed funding allocation in 2018/19	Funding source
Action Together	£265,000	PPF
Greenacres Community Association	£32,000	PPF
Werneth and Freehold CDP	£32,000	PPF
Oldham Credit Union	£36,000	PPF
Oldham Interfaith Forum	£36,000	CC
Stop Hate UK	£4,400	CC
Oldham Carnival	£3,000	CF
National Play Day	£2,000	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 In addition to the organisations presented above, funding for Legal and Advice Services, currently delivered by Citizens Advice Oldham, will be subject to a separate report.