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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>23 January 2018</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/22/18/MM</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Martin McNab</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 71246</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Grants to Voluntary Organisations</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give consideration to funding from the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Budget in 2018/19 and 2019/20 and to seek approval for amendments to the GTVO Guidance Notes.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Three year awards from GTVO were last approved in 2014/15. A one year extension of existing funding levels was approved by the Education & Communities Committee on 17 January 2017. 51 organisations benefited from this decision with awards ranging from £500 to £56,800. In addition to this extended funding, a further 47 organisations were granted one-off awards ranging from £500 to £12,000.
- 2.2 Given the uncertainty of the GTVO budget for the next two years, Officers are recommending that 3 year awards are withdrawn from 2018/19 onwards with notification being made accordingly to all affected groups/organisations. The Council will set a two year budget therefore a commitment to three year awards is not practical.
- 2.3 It is envisaged that the majority of the awards in future will be for one year however some awards may be made for two years in line with the 2018-20 budget.
- 2.4 The proposals to improve the effectiveness and impact of resources associated with Grants to Voluntary Organisations (GTVO) funding agreed by the Committee in January 2014 have been implemented however there is a need to make some minor amendments to the guidance.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee approves the following recommendations:
- 3.2
- a. That awards should be limited to a maximum of two years from 2018 onwards.
  - b. That the amendments proposed to the GTVO guidance notes are approved.

**Martin McNab**  
**Acting Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 In January 2014, the Education & Communities Committee agreed the following proposals:

- All organisations requesting grant assistance be required to register with the Council.
- Registered organisations in receipt of recurring grants of under £5,000 per annum are awarded grants on a 3 year basis, subject to a satisfactory end of year report for each of the 3 years.
- Organisations in receipt of 3 year funding of £5,000 or above per annum be required to enter into a Service Level Agreement with the Council.
- Where appropriate and where an organisation receives significant other funding from the Council, GTVO funding, if continued, is consolidated within a single funding package.
- Where cross-subsidy has been identified, GTVO funding is discontinued.

4.2 In 2017-18 awards under GTVO totalled over £268K of which £181K was for three year awards. Should the savings proposal for grants be taken, the total GTVO fund will only amount to £129K therefore there is a need to inform all recipients of this. Even if this reduction is not taken in full the budget being set is for two years therefore it would be prudent to limit awards to a maximum of two years.

4.3 To secure best value for the public pound, Service Level Agreements were put in place for grants over £5,000 and a more formal end of year reporting process is in place.

The current “Guidance Notes for Registration and Application” advise applicants of what is considered to be the qualifying expenditure. It is proposed to make the following amendments to this guidance:

- Remove the prohibition on grants being used to cover salary costs
- Guidance will also be amended to confirm that multiple applications will be accepted by organisations where funding is being sought for various projects/activities

## 5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that applications for GTVO are in future limited in the main to one year awards with some two year awards. Obviously this may have an effect on the long term financial planning of current recipients. Although organisations will have the opportunity to feed into the budget consultation this additional factor will also have to be communicated to current recipients.

5.2 It is also proposed to make changes to the guidance notes as detailed in 4.3 above.

### Finance

5.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

**Legal**

5.2 None

**Human Resources**

5.3 None

**Equalities**

5.4 None

**Repopulation**

5.5 None

**6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 The CMT has reviewed this proposal and has fully endorsed the report's recommendations.

**7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 The current GTVO application forms and guidance are available on request.