
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	05 May 2015
Report By:	Corporate Director: Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/46/15/MP
Contact Officer:	Maggie Paterson	Contact No:	01475 715450
Subject:	Grants to Voluntary Organisations Fund		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the implementation of the proposals to improve the effectiveness and impact of resources associated with Grants to Voluntary Organisations (GTVO) funding agreed by the Education & Communities Committee on 21 January 2014.
- 1.2 To make further proposals designed to:
 - Maximise the impact of GTVO on the well-being of the people of Inverclyde
 - Secure best value for the public pound
 - Confirm compliance with policy and legislation
 - Ensure funding is fairly and transparently disbursed.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The proposals agreed by Committee in January 2014 have been substantively implemented.
- 2.2 A few areas of concern remain and these have been addressed through the further proposals outlined in Annexe 1 below.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 3.1 Note progress made in implementing the proposals agreed on 21 January 2014;
- 3.2 Approve the proposals in Annexe 1.

Patricia Cassidy
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

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.
 - The option to extend the level of funding disbursed by other organisations on behalf of the Council is explored further with a view to bringing forward recommendations for implementation in 2015-2016 as appropriate.
- 4.2 The registration process has now been introduced. Some organisations initially needed support to meet the requirement to provide robust information. 162 organisations registered in 2014-2015, 82 of these for one off grants, 80 for 3 year grants ranging from £750 to £56,800. The total awarded in 2014-2015 was £304,135. Commitments have been made, subject to the availability of funding, of £194,161 per year for the remaining two years of the grant.
- 4.3 To secure best value for the public pound, Service Level Agreements are being put in place for grants over £5,000 and a more formal end of year reporting process is in place.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The majority of the proposals contained in the January 2014 report have now been implemented.
- 5.2 The option to extend the level of funding disbursed by other organisations on behalf of the Council has been given further consideration by officers, however, given the balance remaining for allocation in the next two years, it is proposed that this is not introduced.
- 5.3 The processes introduced to administer the registration process and the expansion of the 3 year grant scheme, have highlighted issues that require further attention:
- Elected members are requesting more information about each application, prior to making a decision;
 - Assessment of applications has identified information pertinent to the decisions to be made by the Grants Sub-Committee that cannot be shared in a public setting;
 - It has been difficult to progress recommendations for rejection on technical grounds.

Proposals to amend the assessment and decision making process are provided at Annexe 1.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 6.1 The technical assessment proposed will be undertaken with advice from Finance.

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	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

6.2 The technical assessment proposed will be undertaken with advice from Legal Services.

Human Resources

6.3 None

Equalities

6.4 None

Repopulation

6.5 None

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Annexe 1 Proposals to revise the GTVO assessment and decision making process

1 Review and revise the registration form and guidance.

The current “Guidance Notes for Registration and Application” advise applicants of what the Council will fund and what will not be funded. It is proposed to add to this that the Council will not

- Fund organisations who contract with or intend to contract with the public sector
- Will not normally* fund organisations with a turnover of over £150,000.

*This establishes the principle that the fund is aimed at smaller organisations but would allow exceptions to be considered, for example, in the case of a larger organisation seeking funding for a particular project.

The guidance will also be amended to confirm that incomplete or late applications will not be assessed.

2 Formalise the technical assessment of applications and establish a process whereby applications which fail on technical grounds are not passed to Committee for consideration. For the purposes of assessment technical grounds would include:

- Compliance with procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups
- Health & Safety concerns
- Issues of cross-subsidy or state aid
- Financial concerns – sustainability, dependence on Council funding
- Potential to bring the Council into disrepute e.g. using public monies to repair/maintain commercial property.

Where appropriate, applicants would be given the opportunity to rectify their failures and resubmit their application for the next round.

3 Those applications which had passed the technical assessment would be passed to the Grants Sub-Committee for consideration. The Committee Report would include:

- a short summary of each application
- officer assessment of how well the application meets the Council’s priorities and the aims of GTVO
- officer recommendations regarding the making of an award and its amount.

4 Amendments to the Conditions of Grant will be required to reflect the changes above.