

To: City Executive Board

Date: 3rd March 2010

Item No:

Report of: Head of Service for Community Housing & Community Development

Title of Report: Grant Allocations to Community & Voluntary Organisation (CVO's) 2010/2011

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: For City Executive Board to make decisions on the allocation of Grants to Community & Voluntary Organisations for 2010/2011

Key decision: - Yes

Executive lead member: Councillor Bance

Report Approved by:

Finance: Janine Graham

Legal: Jeremy Thomas

Policy Framework: Oxford Community Strategy & Corporate Plan

Recommendation(s):

Providing Full Council approve the budget as proposed, see table 1, the following recommendations are made:-

1. To approve the recommendations for the additional funding to Advice Centres, as set out in Appendix 1.
2. To approve the recommendations for 2010/2011 grant applications, as set out in Appendix 2.

Introduction

1. Local community and voluntary organisations were invited to apply for an Oxford City Council grant for the financial year 2010/2011. The process started in September, with a closing date of 6th November 2009.

Grants Budget

2. The total indicative budget available for grants, as currently proposed, for 2010/2011 is £1,623,759 and is set out below.

Table 1	Budget (£)
Partnership / Commissioning	1,479,195
Open Bidding	97,064
Set aside for small grants in 09/10	22,500
Set aside of emergency grants in 09/10	15,000
Set aside for Arts Development Grants in 09/10	10,000
Total	£1,623,759

Commissioning

3. Appendix 1 provides a list of organisations Oxford City Council currently commission with, approved by City Executive Board on 18th February 2009.
4. At the City Executive Board on 22nd October 2008, the budget allocated for commissioning advice services was increased to £500,000. Within this budget £434,941 is already committed, as approved by Executive Board on 4th February 2008. However by increasing the budget this gave an unallocated amount of £65,059 for which the advice centres have made a bid to Oxford City Council. Recommendations for this additional grant funding can be found in Appendix 1.
5. We are now entering into the third and final year of the current commissioning cycle. During this final year, a review of the commissioning process will take place to ensure that each commissioning category continues to link closely in with Oxford City Councils priorities.
6. This review is due to start on 17th March 2010 with a meeting of key officers, that will include the Communities & Neighbourhoods Manager, the Grants Officer and other officers who have a specialist working knowledge of the services to be delivered, for example those working with homelessness, arts and community safety organisations.

Applications Received to the Open Bidding Section

7. A total of 50 applications were received to the open bidding section by the closing date 6th November 2009, with a total requested amount of £285,406.
8. The total budget available for the open bidding section is £97,064,

Assessment of these Applications

9. Oxford City Council officers appraised applications to the open bidding section over five days. Each application is firstly screened for eligibility (application must show that they are a constituted CVO run by a committee, that they have provided annual accounts and a bank statement and an equal opportunities statement). All applications are read and then evaluated against criteria relating to evidence of need, who the project is targeting, what risks are associated with the project, how the application meets the Council's priorities, how the group will monitor and evaluate the impact of the grant, whether the group received any other subsidy from the City Council, if the group is financially competent, if the application demonstrates a financial need and if the grant would be value for money. A recommendation is arrived at after considering these factors for each application.
10. Appendix 2 is a listing of each application received, the amount requested and the rationale for the recommendation.

Rents

- 11 Some organisations, grant funded through the commissioning process, also occupy Oxford City Council premises and their rent is deducted from their grant before it is paid. The organisations this affects are listed below in table 2.

Table 2

Organisation	Baseline Grant	2010/11 rent	Balance to Organisation
Oxford Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Centre	10,000	5,000	5,000
Agnes Smith Advice Centre	57,044	7,750	49,294
Modern Art Oxford	72,100	41,000	31,100
Oxford Community Work Agency	81,000	8,100	72,900
Oxford Film & Video Makers	39,303	5,000	34,303
Oxfordshire Chinese Community & Advice Centre	44,664	18,000	26,664
Donnington Doorstep Family Centre	20,000	700	19,300
Total	324,111	85,550	238,561

12. There were 4 organisations that submitted applications through the open bidding process requesting a grant to pay their rent charged for Oxford City Council premises they occupy. Please see Appendix 2 for the recommendations for these requests.
13. Work is currently underway with the Corporate Assets Team to review and develop a protocol for those groups occupying Oxford City Council premises.

Members Involvement

14. Due to wide Member interest in the grant process, a meeting was held on 11th December 2009, which familiarised Members with the process and criteria for making grants recommendations.
15. This report will be circulated to all Area Committees and Community and Partnership Scrutiny Committee. At the time of writing this report these meetings have not happened. Please see Appendix 4 with comments received.

Climate Change Implications

16. We received 5 applications for projects that protect and enhance Oxford's built and natural environment and these were considered alongside other applications. Please see Appendix 2 for the recommendations.
17. We will make all successful applicants aware of Oxford City Council's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and encourage them to take similar action.

Risk

18. In order to manage any risks associated with awarding grants, a successful applicant must agree to and sign terms and conditions for this funding. Within these terms, they must agree to:-
 - spending the funding on the project or specific items described in the applications.
 - repay any unspent grant funding
 - keep financial records and receipts
 - returning a monitoring form detailing how the grant funding has been spent and how they have publicised this support from Oxford City Council
19. Each organisation or group will be monitored by either the grants officer or a member of the officer grants panel. Please see Appendix 3 the report risk register.

Equalities Impact

- 20 Each organisation, as part of the bidding process, has to provide their equal opportunities statement to confirm they comply with this legislation.

Recommendation(s):

Providing Full Council approve the budget as proposed, see table 1, the following recommendations are made:-

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2. To approve the recommendations for 2010/2011 grant applications, as set out in Appendix 2

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Background papers: None

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