

To: City Executive Board
Date: 21 September 2011
Report of: Head of Housing & Communities
Title of Report: Grant Monitoring Information for 2010/2011

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To inform members of monitoring information returned by Community & Voluntary Organisations (CVOs) awarded a grant in 2010/2011.

Key decision? No

Executive lead member: Councillor Antonia Bance

Policy Framework: Oxford City Council Corporate Plan & Oxfords Sustainable Community Strategy

Recommendation(s): Members are asked to note the report

Appendices to report

- Appendix 1 List of CVOs awarded a grant through the open bidding and commissioning grants programmes.
- Appendix 2 Case studies from the advice centres
- Appendix 3 Case studies from Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action (OCVA)
- Appendix 4 Risk register

Introduction

1. During the financial year of 2010/2011, 93 community and voluntary organisations were awarded a grant through Oxford City Council's grant programme. The funding supported the delivery of a variety of projects from small community events to welfare benefits advice, community safety projects and the arts.
2. One of the conditions for this funding is that organisations agree to provide feedback about their project, event or activities. This feedback can be done in a variety of ways but generally either by completing a monitoring form, site visit by officer(s) or a combination of both.

3. This report informs councillors of the information and achievements reported by community and voluntary organisations (CVOs) that were awarded a grant through the commissioning and open bidding grants programme in the financial year 2010 /2011.

Process for gathering monitoring information

4. The requirement to return monitoring information is agreed with CVOs when they sign their terms and conditions for grant funding.
5. The purpose of monitoring is to ensure that the funding awarded to groups is used for the purpose it was given. There is a low risk that monitoring information will not be returned. The process for dealing with this is as follows:
 - At three weeks past the deadline, a reminder is sent out with a copy of the monitoring form
 - At six weeks past the deadline, a second reminder is sent with copy of the monitoring form followed up by email or telephone call.
 - If there is still no response, this is noted on file for future reference.
6. In the majority of cases those organisations that are late in returning their forms will respond after the first reminder.
7. At times monitoring information is used by the Officer Grants Panel when making recommendations when subsequent applications from the same group have been received. It is stated in the grants programme prospectus that monitoring information may be used in this way.

Addressing Council Priority

8. When applying for a grant CVOs are asked to choose which council priority their project or activity will primarily fit with.
9. Monitoring information has been listed under the priority the group or organisation selected.

Monitoring Feedback

- 10 The attached appendices list the following information:-
 - Name of organisation / group
 - Amount of grant awarded
 - Description of project/activity
 - Number of beneficiaries
 - Achievements from the project / activity
 - Total amount of match funding and / or funding levered in as a result of Oxford City Council funding.
 - Case studies from the advice centres and Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action (OCVA)

Open Bidding

11. Table 1 below summarises the information listed in the attached appendices for grants awarded through the annual open bidding process awarded by the City Executive Board on 03.03.10.

Table 1 – Annual Open Bidding Summary

2010/11 Council Priority	Number of projects awarded a grant	Total amount of Grant Awarded (£)	Total of other funding levered in (£)	Number of Beneficiaries from these projects	Some of the things the funding paid for
Stronger & More Inclusive Communities	13	43,425	40,652	12,737 & 5,000 households	Community events & newsletters
Improve; the Local Environment, Economy & Quality of Life	10	49,040	297,702	80,225	Older people activities, holiday activities for young people.
Tackle Climate Change & Promote Environmental Resource	2	4,599	4,077	1,210	Community nature park & conservation
Total	25	£97,064	£342,431	94,172 & 5,000 households	

12. Table 2 below summarises the information in the attached appendices for grants awarded through the small grants programme in 2010-11.

Table 2 - Open Bidding – small grants of up to £1,000

2010/11 Council Priority	Number of projects awarded a grant	Total amount of Grant Awarded (£)	Total of other funding levered in (£)	Number of Beneficiaries from these projects	Some of the things the funding paid for
Stronger & More Inclusive Communities	9	5,450	17,159	6,898	Community events, children's books, community minibus

Table 2 continued:

2010/11 Council Priority	Number of projects awarded a grant	Total amount of Grant Awarded (£)	Total of other funding levered in (£)	Number of Beneficiaries from these projects	Some of the things the funding paid for
Improve; the Local Environment, Economy & Quality of Life	10	5,311.50	6,868	62,455 & 3,000 households	Oxclean event, heritage information leaflet, environment awareness
More Housing, Better housing for all	1	1,000	1,000	756	Emergency food parcels
Total	20	11,761.50	25,027	70,109 & 3,000 households	

13. Table 3 below summarises the information in the attached appendices for grants awarded through the art development grants programme in 2010-11.

Table 3 - Open Bidding – Arts Development Grants of up to £750

2010/11 Council Priority	Number of projects awarded a grant	Total amount of Grant Awarded (£)	Total of other funding levered in (£)	Number of Beneficiaries from these projects	Some of the things the funding paid for
Improve; the Local Environment, Economy & Quality of Life	12	5,000	26,828	4,159	Exhibitions, music event & performances
Total	12	5,000	26,828	4,159	

Three year commissioned grants monitoring feedback

- 14 Tables 4 & 5 below summarises the information listed in the attached appendices for the final year (2010-11) of grants awarded for three years through the commissioning process.

Table 4 – Commissioned Grants Summary – final year of three

2010/11 Commissioning Theme	Number of groups funded	Total amount of Grant Awarded (£)	Total of other funding levered in for this work (£)	Number of Beneficiaries from these projects	Some of the things the funding paid for
Arts (inc. twinning)	10	331,430	3,660,185	368,625	Training in film & digital media, music, Twinning events
Homelessness	10	447,279	3,196,588	3855	Day centres, life skills, specialist workers,
Community Safety	5	61,000	408,455	684	Domestic violence outreach, helpline service for victims of sexual violence,
CVO Infrastructure	1	59,486	685,002	432 organisations who are members of OCVA of which 58% are in Oxford City	Providing information, support and advice to the voluntary sector.
Specialist Play	4	61,000	111,958	1900	Adventure playgrounds, supporting disabled children to participate in mainstream play
Oxford Credit Union	1	20,000	80,000	797	Money management
Totals	31	£980,195	£8,142,188	376,293	

Table 5 - Summary from Advice Centres

2009-10 Council Priority	Number of Organisations	Total amount of Grant Awarded (£)	Number of Beneficiaries from these projects	Total Benefit take up (£)	Total amount of Debt Written Off (£)
Advice	5	£480,500	11,039	£4,004,927	£984,602

15. Oxford's population is estimated to be 149,300 (including over 30,000 full time students). The total number of people benefiting from projects and activities funded through the open bidding programme was 168,440. It should, of course, be noted that one person might well have benefited from more than one project. For example one person may well have attended a range of events that took place in Oxford last year, such as the Cowley Road Carnival or the Elder Stubbs Festival.

Joint Monitoring

16. For those community & voluntary organisations that are funded by one or more of the District and County Councils, the Grant Officers Group (which has a representative from each of the District and County Councils) is working together on information sharing and joint monitoring.
17. Joint monitoring visits are taking place with Oxfordshire County Council to monitor the advice centres and Donnington Doorstep family centre as these organisations are funded by both authorities.
18. Further meetings are planned between Oxford City and Oxfordshire County Council to see if we can bring each of our commissioning processes into the same timeframe allowing, where possible, the City and County Council to joint commission.

Climate Change / Environmental Impact

19. This report notes, amongst other things, the monitoring information received from organisations which specifically supported action to improve the local environment.

Equalities Impact

20. Grant funding awarded to community and voluntary organisations has a significant and positive impact on equalities and promotes community cohesion. In particular, some grants actively support the achievement of equality by otherwise marginalised groups, such as funding supplied to Oxford Friend, to Oxford Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre and for domestic violence advisors, for example.
21. When applying for grant funding each organisation has to supply a copy of their equal opportunities statement to confirm they comply with this legislation

Financial Impact

22. The recommendations have no financial implications

Legal Implications

23. There are no legal implications

Name and contact details of author:-

Name: Julia Tomkins

Job title: Grants & External Funding Officer

Service Area / Department: Communities & Neighbourhoods,
Housing & Communities Business Unit

Tel: 01865 252685 **e-mail:** jtomkins@oxford.gov.uk

List of background papers: none

Version number: 3

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