

To: City Executive Board
Date: 13 February 2018
Report of: Head of Community Services
Title of Report: Grant Allocations to Community and Voluntary Organisations

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To allocate grants to community and voluntary organisations through the Community Grants Programme.
Key decision:	Yes
Executive Board Member:	Councillor Dee Sinclair, Culture and Communities Councillor Susan Brown, Customer and Corporate Services
Corporate Priority:	Strong and Active Communities.
Policy Framework:	Oxford City Council Corporate Plan
Recommendations: That the City Executive Board resolves to:	
1.	Approve the recommendations for the commissioning programme as set out in Appendices 1 and 2.
2.	Delegate authority to the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Executive Members for Customer and Corporate Services and Culture and Communities, to approve the recommendations for applications received to the grants open bidding programme for the period of 2018-21 and allocate funding to art and culture organisations that apply for funding through this theme from April 2019.
3.	Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Organisational Development and Corporate Services in consultation with the Executive Members for Customer and Corporate Services and Culture and Communities to allocate the development fund in the Advice and Money Management commissioning theme for the period of 2018-21.

Appendices	
Appendix 1	2018/21 recommendations for the community and voluntary organisations grants commissioning programme
Appendix 2	2018/19 recommendations for the Inclusive Arts and Culture commissioning theme.
Appendix 3	CEB report risk register

Introduction

1. Oxford City Council supports the local community and voluntary sector with grant aid which supports the Council in meeting its corporate plan objectives. In 2016/17 our £1.4m grant programme helped fund groups to match or lever in an additional £7,960,060 into the city in return their work helped improve the quality of life for many Oxford residents.
2. A review of the community grants programme took place during 2017. The results of the review were reported to the City Executive Board on the 21 November 2017 and can be found at

<http://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=119&MId=4313&Ver=4>.

It was at that meeting that the Board approved a three year grant programme from 2018 to 2021 for community and voluntary organisations working in Oxford.

Grants and Commissioning Programme Budget

3. The total indicative budget for the CVO's grants and commissioning programme, as currently proposed in the consultation budget from April 2018 to March 2021, is set out below.

Table 1

	18/19 to 20/21 Budget for each year
Advice & Money Management commissioning theme	£518,379
Homelessness commissioning theme	£442,279
Inclusive arts & culture commissioning theme	£235,262
Community Safety commissioning theme	£61,082
Community & voluntary sector infrastructure support commissioning theme	£43,736
Inclusive leisure & play for disabled children and young people commissioning theme	£15,000
Open Bidding	£115,232
Small grants programme to run during the year.	£30,000
Total	£1,460,970

Commissioning

4. Commissioning themes, which remain the same as in previous years, were selected to prioritise grant funding for those most disadvantaged communities in our city and to reflect the themes in the Corporate Plan.
5. The Grants Officer works with a number of lead officers from other service areas that have specialist knowledge of specific commissioning themes. Funding agreements will be put in place with each of the commissioned organisations and a feature of the agreement will be that funding in any given year will be subject to an assessment of performance.

6. This report recommends allocations for the 3 year commissioning programme ending 31 March 2021.

Advice and Money Management Commissioning Theme

7. Under this theme the City Executive Board are recommended to continue providing grant aid to the advice centres we currently fund to provide independent advice that supports residents facing social and financial problems. This follows the recommendation of an independent review of Oxford advice services commissioned earlier this year. Both the council and funded organisations have stated their commitment to delivering these recommendations.
8. Their service specifications will focus on supporting the delivery of the Council's Financial Inclusion Strategy which includes maximising client's income, reducing and managing client debt and improving client's skills in managing income and accessing services online.
9. From April 2018 an annual funding pot of £44,918 has been created to support service development within these organisations. This comprises 5% of the funding that advice centres have received in previous years (£24,918 per annum) along with an additional £20,000 that was previously allocated to other activity in this theme. Whereas other funders of advice services in Oxford, have cut their funding, the Council is investing in the sector by creating this development fund.
10. The Development Fund will be available from April 2018 for commissioned advice services to make partnership bids in order to deliver the recommendations of the report referenced in paragraph 7 which includes:
 - Work to reduce visits which are not of value to the customer
 - Improving the outcomes obtained in the following areas:
 - Removing barriers to employment
 - Improving digital skills
 - Reducing fuel poverty
 - Improving access to advice services for areas of the city without local provision
 - Developing digital advice services
11. Along with the recommendation in paragraph 9, the City Executive Board are requested to delegate authority to the Executive Director for Organisational Development and Corporate Services in consultation with the Executive Members for Customer and Corporate Services and Culture and Community to allocate the funding.

Community Safety Commissioning Theme

12. During the past year a working group has been developed to look at how abuse services will be delivered across Oxfordshire. The group is made up of representatives from Oxford City Council, District Councils, Oxfordshire County Council and the Office of Police and Crime Commissioning.

- 13 From April 2018 Oxfordshire County Council will commission a domestic abuse service on behalf of the working group. A budget of £600,000 has been created to deliver this service across the County.
- 14 Our contribution is £35,082 which will deliver an outreach service for Oxford, a helpline and 5 dispersed accommodation places for victims who are unable to access a refuge such as males, disabled people or someone who does not speak English. There will also be a complex needs service which will provide one-to-one support to help people move on to a safer environment.

Community and Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support Commissioning Theme

- 15 This commissioning theme is currently out to open bidding, requesting bids from organisations who can provide support to Oxford based community and voluntary organisations to gain sustainability in their funding, attract and effectively manage volunteers, build their capacity and achieve good governance.
- 16 The City Executive Board are requested to delegate authority to the Head of Community Services in consultation with the Executive Members for Customer and Corporate Services and Culture and Community to allocate funding for this theme.

Homelessness Commissioning Theme

- 17 A report will be submitted to the City Executive Board in March 2018 with the proposed allocations for both the Preventing Homelessness grant and the Council's Homelessness grant commissioning budget to voluntary sector organisations

Inclusive Arts and Culture Commissioning Theme

- 18 For the financial year 2018/19, it is recommended to continue funding the arts and culture organisations we have funded during the previous grants cycle and use this year to work with them to prepare for an open bidding process to which they will have the opportunity to apply for two year funding from April 2019.
- 19 The City Executive Board is recommended to approve the recommendations for the commissioning programme as listed in Appendices 1 and 2 and to delegate authority to the Head of Service for Community Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Culture and Communities, to allocate funding to art and culture organisations that apply for funding through this theme from April 2019.

Annual Open Bidding

- 20 Generally we would also include in this report recommendations for applications received to the annual open bidding grants programme. Due to the review of the grants programme that took place earlier in the year the opening of this programme was delayed and at the time of writing this report this report the open bidding grants programme is currently open with a closing date of the 8th February 2018. The officer grants panel are due to meet for the evaluation process from the week commencing 20 February 2018.
- 21 We are promoting the programme as widely as possible through a social media campaign and by displaying leaflets in noticeboards and community centres

informing the public about the programme. We are also promoting the programme through our community networks.

- 22 To enable grant funding to be awarded through this programme and paid out at the beginning of the new financial year the City Executive Board are requested to delegate authority to the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Executive Members for Customer and Corporate Services and Culture and Communities, to approve the recommendations for applications received to the grants open bidding programme. This will include applications made for one year and three year funding.

Rents

23. Some organisations recommended through the commissioning programme occupy Council premises. Their rent will be deducted from any funding awarded to them. These are set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Organisation	Recom'd Grant * (£)	2018/19 rent	Balance to organisation
Agnes Smith Advice Centre	£81,026	£7,250	£73,776
Film Oxford	£25,000	£5,000	£20,000
Fusion Arts	£28,128	£8,837	£19,291
Modern Art Oxford	£70,000	£70,000	0
Oxford Community Work Agency	£116,480	£8,100	£108,380
Rose Hill & Donnington Advice Centre	£85,955	£3,000	£82,955
Total	£406,589	£102,187	£304,402

*see Appendices 1 & 2

Climate Change / Environmental Impact

24. Successful applicants are made aware of the Council's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and encouraged to take similar action.

Equalities Impact

25. Some examples of how equality is positively enhanced by the grants programme include funding services for:

- Survivors of rape, sexual abuse and domestic violence
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people through recommending continued funding for the Oxford Friend helpline
- People with disabilities, particularly children and young people with disabilities through recommending funding for Parasol inclusive play
- Older people, through recommending support for specific activities
- BME groups, through funding dedicated work with asylum seekers and refugees.

Level of Risk

26. Successful applicants must agree to and sign terms and conditions before funding is released. Within these terms they must agree to:
- Spend the funding on the project described in their application
 - Repay any unspent grant
 - Keep financial records and receipts
 - Return monitoring information
- 27 Each organisation awarded grant funding will be monitored by an officer. Please see Appendix 4 for the risk register.

Financial Impact

28. The allocations of grant funding as proposed are dependent on agreement of the Council's budget in February 2018.
29. The total amount of the grants budget over three years currently recommended in this report is £3,345,182. £345,000 has been allocated for the open bidding grants programme where the process is currently taking place. A total of £90,000 for the small grants programme that will run each year of the three year grants programme commencing from April 2018. £470,524 is allocated for arts & culture commissioning from April 2019 (see Table 1 above) and a report will be submitted to the City Executive Board in March 2018 with the proposed allocations for both the Preventing Homelessness grant and the Council's Homelessness grant commissioning budget (£1,326,837) to voluntary sector organisations working with rough sleepers and homeless people.

Legal Implications

30. Each community or voluntary group awarded a grant will enter into an agreement with the Council. These agreements outline their responsibilities in regard to the funding including targets and outcomes they have agreed to deliver for this financial support.

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Background Papers: None