



To: Executive Councillor for Community Development & Health - Cllr Tim Bick  
Report by: Head of Community Development  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 13/1/2011  
Wards affected: All

## **FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES 2011-12 Key Decision**

### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 This report details applications from voluntary and not for profit organisations for 2011/12 community development funding and makes recommendations for future funding. It also provides an update on the review of economic policy grants and the proposal to merge these objectives with the community development priorities.
- 1.2 The report also includes recommendations for the development of a local Prevent strategy and for the allocation of government funding for the programme.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

1. To agree the integration of the Economic Policy grants budget and objectives within the Community Development grants programme as detailed in Appendix 1.
2. To agree the recommendations for Community Development grants to voluntary and not-for-profit organisations in 2011/12 as set out in Appendix 2 of this report, subject to confirmation of the Council's 2011/12 budget in February 2011 and, in some cases, to the provision of further information from applicants.

3. To approve the allocation of £130,000 of government funding focusing on the needs of young people at risk of radicalisation, promoting community cohesion and supporting families and communities to become more resilient to the pressures and influences leading to radicalisation.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 2011/12 funding priorities contribute to the City Council's vision for
  - A city which is diverse and tolerant, values activities which bring people together and where everyone feels they have a stake in the community.
  - A city whose citizens feel they can influence public decision making and are equally keen to pursue individual and community initiatives.
  - A city where people behave with consideration for others and where harm and nuisance are confronted wherever possible without constraining the lives of all.
  - A city with a thriving knowledge-based economy that benefits the whole community and builds on its reputation as a global hub of ideas and learning
- 3.2 Following consultation and review by this committee on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009, thematic priorities for Community Development grants for 2010-12 were approved:
  - Community Activities
  - Social and Economic Deprivation
  - Voluntary Sector Infrastructure
  - A Growing City
  - Community Cohesion
  - Area Committees
- 3.3 In January 2010 it was agreed that the management of Economic Policy Grants would transfer to Community Development and that there would be an external review of the grant priorities.
- 3.4 In September 2010 further steps were taken towards evaluating the integration of the budget and objectives of both grant programmes within the framework of the Community Development structure.

Sector 3 Consulting were engaged to:

- Review the Economic Policy priorities and criteria.
- Undertake impact assessments on groups currently funded from the Economic Policy Grants budget.
- Explore how third sector organisations can become more entrepreneurial through the development of, for example, social enterprises.

3.5 Following the initial review of the economic policy priorities and criteria one key themes emerged:

- **Economic Inclusion** - Supporting organisations that help individuals to overcome barriers to participation in the City's economy. Support, advice and guidance for workless people and those at the risk of worklessness to gain the confidence, motivation, skills and qualifications to engage in rewarding employment or entrepreneurial activities.

3.6 This priority aligns itself closely with the already established community development programme and consequently it is now proposed that economic and community development grants be integrated. The proposal is attached as appendix 2.

There was no explicit policy for awarding grants from the Economic Policy budget and one of the advantages of integrating the two budgets enables the spending of the funds to have a much better focus with clear criteria for decisions.

Impact assessments have been undertaken on current grant recipients to inform the awards for 2011-12, future funding and support required.

3.7 **Social Enterprise** - the integration of the two grant programmes together with findings in the review open up the opportunity to target a new theme for the promotion of social enterprise. This will be to support the development of businesses that re-invest their profits in the business or in the community to further social and/or environmental causes.

The work on exploring social enterprises and defining the structure for their encouragement to bid for the remaining £25,000 will start in the New Year.

3.8 Since 2006 Community Development Grants have been cash limited. Cash limiting both Community Development and Economic Policy grants will result in a saving of £27,660 for 2011/12. An additional saving of £32,340 will be achieved following the review of Economic Policy grants and the merger of the two grants budgets.

3.9 The following figures are subject to approval of the City Council's full 2011/12 budget in February 2011.

<b>2011/12 Priorities and Funds</b>		<b>% of total budget</b>	<b>Available £ (2010/11)</b>	<b>Bids £</b>	<b>Offer £</b>	<b>Remain ing £</b>
1	Community Activities	24.8%	213,320			
1.1	Children. Young people. Families experiencing disadvantage	10.8%	93,320 (92,210)	173,705	91,189	2,131
1.2	Equality & Diversity	10%	86,000 (79,040)	195,957	73,209	12,791
1.3	Active Older People	4%	34,000 (32,930)	38,728	32,939	1,061
2	Social & Economic Deprivation	43.3%	374,500			
2.1	Legal Advice Services	25.8%	222,500 (228,890)	244,728	201,458	21,042
2.2	Economic Inclusion	17.5%	152,000	225,632	149,447	2,553
3	Strengthening the Voluntary sector	16.8%	145,000 (98,800)	144,544	131,963	13,037
4	A Growing City	1%	8,000 (19,760)	7,333	7,300	700
5	Community Cohesion	1%	8,000 (19,760)	13,516	4,000	4,000
6	Social Enterprises	5.5%	47,000	36,366	22,000	25,000
7	Area Committee Grants*	7.6%	65,870 (65,870)	0	0	65,870
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>861,690</b>	<b>1,080,509</b>	<b>713,505</b>	<b>148,185</b>

\* Area Committee Grants will be awarded by each area committee throughout the year 2011/12.

Applications and recommendations are set out in Appendix 1, along with a description of the purpose for each grant area.

- 3.10 This funding programme aims to support clearly defined services and activities which:
- Meet the priorities and funding conditions
  - Are costed to include all relevant overheads within a full cost recovery budget
  - Have measurable targets and makes a clear impact on demonstrable community needs
  - Are backed up by research and consultation

Groups, which are actively working towards meeting these conditions, may be considered for funding – further advice and information is available from officers.

An organisation will not be eligible if it:

- Is set up and/or managed wholly or partly by a statutory organisation
- Provides religious instruction or worship (religious organisations may be eligible for grants to provide social, leisure, cultural or welfare activities)
- Operates for private gain
- Is connected with any political party or involved in party politics

3.11 All funded groups will have service agreements for their grants and structured monitoring arrangements.

3.12 Some properties have seen a significant increase in business rates following the review of the rateable values, which in turn has increased the pressure on the grants budget from the discretionary rate relief (DRR) awards for 2011/12.

#### **4. Prevent Strategy**

4.1 The Prevent Strategy is the preventative strand of the Government's counter terrorism strategy - CONTEST. It was launched in 2007 and is based on an assessment of the drivers of radicalisation in the UK informed by a growing amount of intelligence from a variety of Government sources and from open academic research.

4.2 In April 2009 the Government provided the City Council with £190,000 as a one-off sum of money to help implement the strategy. While it is recognized that several groups and communities have experienced or have been implicated in extremist activities, this money was allocated on the basis that the city has a growing Muslim community who have been identified as potentially the targets of radical extremists seeking to recruit to their cause. In addition there was growing concern about the impact on local communities arising from Islamophobic views and

behaviour. The money was reduced to £130,000 after the emergency budget in the summer. Objectives include:

- To challenge the ideology behind violent extremism and support mainstream voices
- To disrupt those who promote violent extremism and support the places where they operate
- To support individuals who are vulnerable to recruitment or who have already been recruited by violent extremists
- To increase the resilience of communities to violent extremism
- To address the grievances that ideologues are exploiting

4.3 The Cambridge Community Cohesion Group (a sub group of the LSP) involving the police, County Council services, health and voluntary organisations, working on integration and community cohesion, has been helping officers to steer this initiative.

Based on their knowledge of the city and the BME and Muslim community, the group advised that the most appropriate priorities for the city could include:

- Supporting individuals who may be targeted and recruited to the cause of violent extremism.
- Increasing the ability of communities to resist violent extremism.
- Addressing the grievances that build up when people feel that they are not listened to and do not get fair access to services and opportunities.
- Promoting integration and community cohesion.

4.4 Over the summer Community Development staff have interviewed different Muslim groups to improve our understanding of their concerns and priorities. The newly launched Cambridge Muslim Council has also undertaken some consultation and provided feedback. A number of themes have emerged:

- a) Helping children and young people resist radicalisation by involving them in community activities and by developing and exposing them to positive role models. This could involve increasing the number of young Muslims involved in organising activities in their communities and with others from different backgrounds promoting integration
- b) Promoting community cohesion through:
  - Increasing the involvement in and profile of Muslim communities in Council events and activities e.g Big Weekend.
  - Organising information and awareness raising events to help non Muslims (particularly public sector employees) understand more about Islam and relevant cultural traditions and religious practices.

- Working with the Muslim Council and others to identify and tackle grievances and perceived inequalities.
  - Asking key services to undertake a specific EQIA on provision for Muslim communities.
- c) Allocating grant aid to pump-prime community activities for Muslim communities and to promote community integration.
- d) Providing, in collaboration with other agencies, information advice and guidance for Muslim families concerned about factors that could increase the vulnerability of their children to violent extremism.

4.5 It is therefore proposed that the funding available for this programme be allocated on the following basis:

Theme	Allocation
Positive activities for children and young people including opportunities to promote integration and youth leadership training.	£60,000
Access to information, advice and guidance for families.	£30,000
Community cohesion initiatives	£20,000
Pump priming grants for new community groups	£20,000
Total	£130,000

4.6 As this funding is for one year only, the strategy aims to build infrastructure and capacity for the future. A panel comprising members of the Muslim community and elected members will consider funding options. The Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services will provide support to groups seeking funding and discussions will take place with other infrastructure groups e.g the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum and the Cambridge Muslim Council to consider how best to sustain and develop the benefits arising from this initiative.

## 5. Implications

**Financial implications** - These are indicated above and in Appendix 1.

**Staffing implications** - None.

**Equal Opportunities implications** - Effective implementation of equal opportunities policy and practice by applicant groups is a condition for grant aid.

**Environmental implications** - All applicants are required to have green policies to detail how they will contribute to reducing carbon emissions and establish good practice.

## **6. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Grant and discretionary rate relief applications

## **7. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Community Development priorities

Appendix 2 – 2011/12 Applications

## **8. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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