

**Teignbridge District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday 15th November 2021 Part i**

Voluntary Sector Funding Review

Purpose of Report

To provide recommendations from the Voluntary Sector Funding Task and finish group

Recommendation(s)

The Committee RECOMMENDS to Executive that:

- (1) The Policy statement be adopted
- (2) The proposals detailed in sections 4 are approved subject to consultation with those organisations with current SLAs, the consultation findings to be shared with Executive
- (3) A further review to take place in October 2022 making proposals for 2023/24
- (4) A task and finish group is convened to carry out a full review of the Business Rates Discretionary Relief policy and take recommendations to a future O&S meeting specifically relating to charity shops
- (5) Teignbridge voluntary sector funding programme be reported to Overview and Scrutiny on an annual basis
- (6) Crowdfunding is no longer supported as organisations can be encouraged to raise funds through the lottery or apply to the Voluntary Sector Small Grant Scheme
- (7) Work with Town and Parish Councils to understand how they are supporting the voluntary sector
- (8) To work with any organisations impacted by the proposal to encourage them to utilise the alternative funding streams available

Financial Implications

Steve Wotton, Finance Systems Manager

Email: steve.wotton@teignbridge.gov.uk

See section 5 and 6.1 for financial implications – there is no net impact on overall grants paid out from the existing budget.

Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. However, there will be a need to ensure that any legal instruments needed to administer the schemes are put in place before any funding is provided.

Paul Woodhead, Interim legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk

Risk Assessment

An EIA will be completed once the consultation has been undertaken and before the recommendations are taken to Executive

Rebecca Hewitt, Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager

Rebecca.hewitt@teignbridge.gov.uk

Environmental/Climate Change Implications

David Eaton, Environmental Protection manager

The environmental and climate change implications of the reduction of funding to transport related groups will need to be considered as part of the consultation

David.eaton@teignbridge.gov.uk

Report Author

Cllr Gordon Hook, Chair of the Voluntary Sector task and finish group

Email: gordon.hook@teignbridge.gov.uk

Executive Member

Executive Member for Communities, Housing and IT, Councillor Martin Wrigley

Appendices/Background Papers

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 A task and finish group was created to review the Councils policies in relation rent subsidies and financial support for voluntary sector organisations (excluding commissioned services – those where we have tendered for a service and a voluntary sector organisation have successfully bid for the work). To consider how the Councillors Community Fund and a Community Lottery fit within these policies and make recommendations to Executive in relation to how the Council funds and supports the voluntary sector in 2022.

1.2 The following Members volunteered to be on the group.

- Cllr Gordon Hook (Chair)
- Cllr Sarah Parker-Khan
- Cllr Colin Parker
- Cllr Huw Cox
- Cllr Linda Petherick
- Cllr Philip Bullivant

They were supported by Amanda Pujol, Rebecca Hewitt, Gary Powell and Steve Wotton.

1.3 The group reviewed the provision of funding with the aim of creating a policy framework for distributing funds that was more equitable, enabled a wider cross section of community organisations to potentially benefit, to ensure funding was more clearly and closely aligned with Council Strategy whilst also providing clarity and transparency about how public money is spent. We would not recommend that the overall budget for voluntary sector funding is reduced in the next financial year.

1.4 The group met 4 times and called Phil Wright from Gatherwell and Sue Wroe, Chief Executive of Teignbridge CVS as witnesses. Research was also undertaken by officers on the policies and approaches of other councils.

2. Current funding to Voluntary Sector – 2021/22

CVS SLA	£52,130
CAB SLA	£56,990
East Teignbridge Community Transport Association SLA	£6,750
Newton Abbot Community Transport SLA	£7,610
Carn 2 Cove SLA	£7,870
Councillors Community fund	£47,000
Rural Aid	£0
Crowdfunding	£8,600
Rent subsidies	£5,940
Total	£192,890

3. Policy statement

3.1 The Teignbridge Voluntary Sector funding programme recognises the positive impact of the voluntary sector in supporting the Council to achieve its strategic objectives.

The funding programme will

- ensure that spend in the voluntary sector aligns with the Council's strategic objectives
- ensure that all spend is transparent and published annually on the Council's website
- maximise the value of the Council's spending by being clear about required outcomes
- only be provided where it is demonstrated that a defined and positive impact will be delivered to the community or identified section of it.
- evidence actual outcomes

3.2 There are five strands to this approach

- Strategic Service requirements
- The Teignbridge Voluntary Sector small grant scheme
- Councillors Community fund
- Rural Aid
- Teignbridge Lottery

4. Proposals

4.1 Strategic Service requirements

4.1.1 SLAs to be agreed on a three year basis for investment into key organisations working in partnership to provide universal services and activities that deliver against Council priorities across Teignbridge

- Independent Information, Advice and Advocacy Service – Teignbridge Citizens Advice
- Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service - Teignbridge Council for Voluntary Service

- 4.1.2 That CVS and CAB SLAs be reduced to £48,000 per annum to enable funding to be allocated to the small grants fund
- 4.1.3 Procurement waivers will be applied for both SLAs detailed in 4.1.1 on the basis of limited market and the absence of an SLA would lead to an increased cost to the Council. This is also a procurement focus on the supply base being in Devon.
- 4.1.4 Existing organisations with an SLA not mentioned in 4.1.1 be provided with a six month notice period. They would then be eligible to apply to the Teignbridge Voluntary Sector small grant scheme. This would mean they would receive 4 months' worth of funding in 2022/23
- 4.1.5 The reduction in the number of SLAs will enable more equitable opportunity for funding across Teignbridge through the creation of a small grants scheme

4.2 The Teignbridge Voluntary Sector Small Grant Scheme

- 4.2.1 A Voluntary Sector Small Grant Scheme be created to support community groups and voluntary organisations to address the key outcomes of
 - Alleviating poverty
 - Promoting health and wellbeing
 - Enabling access for isolated groups
- 4.2.2 The key outcomes and scoring matrix to be annually reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 4.2.3 There would be an annual grant opportunity for applications of up to £3,000. The fund would be announced in February each year, following budget approval, to include the amount available for that year. Applications would need to be submitted by the end of March with awards being made by the end of that April.
- 4.2.4 Similar to the COVID Hardship Community Fund decisions would be made by a panel of Officers using a pre-set scoring matrix.
- 4.2.5 The following criteria would apply
 - Match funding of a minimum of 20% of total cost is required but can include volunteer time
 - Applicants will need to demonstrate that there is community support for their project
 - Voluntary and community groups providing a relevant service in the Teignbridge area can apply but the organisation must be based in Devon.
 - The applicant must have formal governance arrangements e.g. as a Community Interest Company or Charity
 - Organisations will need to demonstrate they comply with the Equality and safeguarding
 - Outcomes and monitoring information from the project must be reported back to Teignbridge at the end of the project

4.3 Councillors Community fund

- 4.3.1 The fund will continue at £1,000 per elected member
- 4.3.2 There will be additional criteria attached to the fund
 - Councillors will positively encourage new groups to apply and will give consideration to first time applicants
 - This fund can be used by ward councillors to support one-off community led initiatives that reflect Council priorities.
 - This fund cannot be used to pay for everyday running costs
 - Applicants will need to demonstrate to the Elected Member that there is community support for their project.
 - Projects or items that are responsibility of another public body
- 4.3.3 Details of each Cllr spend will be published on the website
- 4.3.4 Carry forwards can only be for a maximum of twelve months

4.4 Rural Aid

- 4.4.1 The rural Aid budget was frozen in September 2020. This was confirmed in the Budget paper to Executive in January 2021, as a result of the significant budget gap due to the impact of COVID 19.
- 4.4.2 This is approved for one year 2022/23 for a total amount of £26,000.
- 4.4.3 All Parishes are eligible for Rural Aid, provided their precept is £20,000 or less and have no more than 75% (£15,000) cash reserves that are not allocated. Only one application can be submitted per Parish up to a maximum amount of £2,000.
- 4.4.4 The application would have to be signed off by the relevant ward member (all ward members if there is more than one).

4.5 Teignbridge Lottery

- 4.5.1 The development of the lottery is approved to enable a wide number of voluntary sector organisations to take part and to have the potential to develop a sustainable income. Set up costs to be included in the funding for 22/23 and Teignbridge Council income from this to be distributed via the Voluntary Sector Small Grant Scheme
- 4.5.2 If agreed a separate report will be required for executive on the Lottery.

4.6 Rent Subsidies

- 4.6.1 Available to voluntary/community organisations renting Council commercial assets. In most cases, the current scheme does not allow an organisation to reclaim for the same asset once in receipt of a rent subsidy, so the cost to the Authority will reduce over the period of the scheme.
- 4.6.2 There is no specific budget for the scheme so any subsidy approved is effectively a reduction in rental income / budget pressure.
- 4.6.3 Only 2 agreements will be in place at the end of this financial year, 1 is due to finish at the end of March 2023, and the other March 2024.
- 4.6.4 No new Rent Subsidies are to be granted.

5. Teignbridge Voluntary Sector Budget 2021/24

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Strategic Service requirements			
• CAB	£52,130	£48,000	£48,000
• CVS	£56,990	£48,000	£48,000
• East Teignbridge Community Transport	£6,750	£2,250	£0
• Newton Abbot Community Transport	£7,610	£2,540	£0
• Carn 2 Cove	£7,870	£2,620	£0
The Teignbridge Voluntary Sector small grant scheme	£0	£9,360	£48,430
Councillors Community fund	£47,000	£47,000	£47,000
Rural Aid	£0	£26,000	£0
Teignbridge Lottery	£0	£6,430	£1,180
Crowdfunding	£8,600	£0	£0
Rent subsidies	£5,940	£690	£280
	£192,890	£192,890	£192,890

Teignbridge Voluntary Sector Scheme

2023/24 would also see income from the Lottery added to the small grants scheme
2023/24 would see a reduction should the decision be made to continue Rural aid
that year

6. Implications

6.1 Financial

There is no net impact on overall grants paid out from the existing budget. For those organisations that will see their grants reduced there will be the opportunity to apply for the Voluntary Sector Small Grant Fund and could also become an organisations that benefits from a regular income from the Teignbridge Lottery.

7. Conclusion

That these recommendations are put forward to executive for consideration following consultation with organisations impacted.