



Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee
16 June 2014

Grant Criteria and Funding Opportunities Guide

Purpose of the report: Scrutiny of Services and Budgets

To scrutinise the Cabinet decision of 27 May 2014 to approve the Grant Criteria and Funding Opportunities Guide.

Introduction:

- 1 On 27 May 2014 the Cabinet made a decision to approve the Grant Criteria and Funding Opportunities Guide.
- 2 Nick Skellett, Chairman of the Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee, has called-in this Cabinet decision for review by the Committee.

Background:

- 3 At its meeting on 5 March 2014, the Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee made the following recommendation to the Cabinet:

That the effectiveness of voluntary sector grants be reviewed to ensure, where appropriate, these align with and support the objectives of the Family, Friends and Community Support programme.
- 4 The recommendation was supported by the Cabinet at its meeting on 25 March 2014 and referred to the Adult Social Care Directorate to take forward. Details of the recommendation and Cabinet response are set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 5 The Grant Criteria and Funding Opportunities Guide was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 27 May 2014 (see **Appendix 2**), and the following amendment was tabled:

‘Officers should ensure that any grants awarded are aligned with and support the Council’s Corporate Priorities.’

- 6 Details of the of the Cabinet’s decision are set out below:

That the Grant Criteria and Funding Opportunities Guide, as amended, be approved.

Reasons for Decisions:

To support the adoption of a Grant Criteria and Funding Opportunities Guide, which creates a clear process and ensures that the Council maintains a fit for purpose set of guidance and rules to govern the award of grants.

- 7 On 3 June 2014, Democratic Services received notification that Nick Skellett, Chairman of the Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee, had called-in this decision of the Cabinet. The reasons for the call-in are as follows:

- (a) The amendment and the report do not reflect the decision taken by the Cabinet on 25th March 2014 Item 5 (a) to support the COSC's recommended actions proposed in Paragraph c) for the Adult Social Care directorate to take forward:

“That the effectiveness of voluntary sector grants be reviewed to ensure, where appropriate, these align with and support the objectives of the Family, Friends and Community Support programme.”

- (b) There is also a need to clarify the requirements for disclosures of Members' interests and confidentiality agreements.

- 8 The call-in notice received by Democratic Services is attached as **Appendix 3**.
- 9 The officer response in relation to disclosures of interests and confidentiality agreements is set out **Appendix 4** (to follow).

The Call-in

- 10 The Committee is asked to consider the above evidence together with evidence presented at the call-in meeting in order to review the decision taken by the Cabinet.
- 11 The Committee is asked to decide whether or not it wishes to refer the decision back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.
- 12 If the Committee decides to refer the matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, the nature of the Committee’s concern must be stated.
- 13 The Member calling-in the decision has proposed that the Committee refer the decision back to Cabinet with the following recommendations:

- (a) That the Grant Criteria and Funding Opportunities Guide be amended to emphasise the importance of supporting the Council's Family, Friends & Community Support initiative (where appropriate) when approving grant applications, in line with the Cabinet's decision on 25 March 2014.

- (b) That clarification be provided about Members' requirements in relation to confidentiality agreements and disclosures of interests, as set out in paragraph 3.5.7 of the Grant Criteria and Funding Opportunities Guide.

For decision:

That the Committee reviews the Cabinet's decision made on 27 May 2014 in relation to the Grant Criteria and Funding Opportunities Guide, and decides whether it wishes to refer the decision back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

Next steps:

Should the Select Committee decide to support the decision of the Cabinet; the decision will take effect on the date of the Select Committee meeting.

Should the Select Committee refer the decision back to the Cabinet, a meeting of the Cabinet must be held within seven working days of the Select Committee meeting. The Cabinet can then decide to amend the decision or not, before adopting a final decision.

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