

Report to: **Hub Committee**
Date: **17 July 2018**
Title: **Future Partnership Funding**
Portfolio Area: **Deputy Leader – Cllr Samuel**
Wards Affected: **All**
Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: Any recommendations will be presented as an unstarred minute to the Council meeting on 24 July 2018 for further consideration

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Recommendations:

That the Hub Committee RECOMMEND to Council that future partnership funding be set in line with the proposals outlined in the table at paragraph 3.1 below.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 26 June 2018, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the concluding report of the Partnership Funding Task and Finish Group (as attached at Appendix A).
- 1.2 Having considered the report at great length, the majority of Members were not willing to accept each of the four recommendations of the Task and Finish Group (as set out at Appendix A).
- 1.3 In light of these contrary views, this report therefore presents the conclusions of the Deputy Leader and requests that the Hub Committee

reaches a view for onward consideration at the Council meeting on 24 July 2018.

2. Key Issues for Consideration – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Views

At its meeting on 26 June 2018, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee expressed the following particular views:

‘Statutory’ Partnerships

2.1A number of Members were unconvinced that those partnerships that were listed as being ‘statutory’ (Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum; Tamar Valley AONB; and the World Heritage Site) provided sufficient value for money. In addition, discontent was expressed that the Task and Finish Group had seemingly accepted that the funding for these was ‘fixed’ and therefore unable to be reduced. Some Members were firmly of the view that there was scope to reduce the funding allocated to these instead of some of the other partnerships that were proposed to lose monies.

Heart of the South West LEP

2.2 There was also widespread disappointment amongst Committee Members that there was no reduction being proposed to the £5,000 annual grant allocated to the LEP.

2.3 The point was also made that the £5,000 would be much better used to support other more local partnership arrangements that were being proposed to face reductions (e.g. the Youth Games, Junior Life Skills, Okehampton Community Transport, and Tavistock Ring and Ride).

Comments Relating to the Survey Findings

2.4 With regard to the survey feedback contained in the Task and Finish Group report, some Members did not feel that, in all instances, the conclusions were justified by the comments contained.

2.5 To overcome this point, it was agreed that the summary findings should be appended in full to this report (Appendix B refers).

Proposed Funding Summary up to 2023/24

2.6 Such were the difficulties in predicting the future financial position for the Council (coupled with the vast difference in Member opinions expressed), that a number of Members questioned the actual need to make a series of recommendations that were looking so far in advance (i.e. to 2023/24).

2.7 As a result, it was moved and seconded that the Task and Finish Group recommendations relating to future funding should at this time only be agreed for 2019/20.

2.8 For clarity, these funding proposals are outlined in the table below:

Partnership	Current Allocation	Proposed 2019/20
Citizens Advice - inflationary increase in line with CPI *	£32,900	£33,722
CVS	£8,500	£5,100
SW Rotary Youth Games	£3,000	£2,000
HotSW LEP	£5,000	£5,000
Junior Life Skills	£2,160	£1,440
OCRA	£2,000	£1,333
Okehampton Community Transport	£10,315	£6,533
Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum	£4,500	£4,500
Tamar Valley AONB	£8,835	£8,835
Tavistock Ring & Ride	£10,315	£6,533
World Heritage Site	£4,000	£4,000
Young Devon	£3,750	£2,500
	£95,275	£81,496

2.9 When put to the vote, it was declared carried by six votes in favour, with three against that this recommendation should be put forward to the Hub Committee for further consideration.

3. Deputy Leader Views

3.1 On balance, the Deputy Leader (in her capacity as lead Hub Committee Member for Partnerships and a Member of the Task and Finish Group) has weighed up the recommendations of both the Task and Finish Group and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is of the view that:

- To enable for future certainty and budgetary planning for these Partnerships, the Council should make a decision for the next five years (i.e. to 2023/24) at its meeting on 24 July 2018;
- There is a distinction to be made between discretionary grant funding to organisations and funding to 'key' constituted partnerships where the Council has seats on the Board and/or is included in the governance arrangements. As a consequence, those partnerships identified as being 'key' and/or statutory should not receive any funding reductions during this period; and
- In light of the budgetary pressures facing the Council, she does not feel it appropriate at this time to recommend any inflationary annual increase to the Citizens Advice.

To reflect these views, a revised proposed funding summary is outlined below:

Proposed Funding Summary

Partnership	Current Allocation	Proposed 2019/20	Proposed 2020/21	Proposed 2021/22	Proposed 2022/23	Proposed 2023/24
Citizens Advice *	£32,900	£32,900	£32,900	£32,900	£32,900	£32,900
CVS	£8,500	£5,100	£2,550	£0	£0	£0
SW Rotary Youth Games	£3,000	£2,000	£1,000	£0	£0	£0
HotSW LEP *	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Junior Life Skills	£2,160	£1,440	£720	£0	£0	£0
OCRA	£2,000	£1,333	£666	£0	£0	£0
Okehampton Community Transport	£10,315	£6,533	£3,266	£0	£0	£0
Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum *	£4,500	£4,500	£4,500	£4,500	£4,500	£4,500
Tamar Valley AONB *	£8,835	£8,835	£8,835 (or less)	£8,835 (or less)	£8,835 (or less)	£8,835 (or less)
Tavistock Ring & Ride	£10,315	£6,533	£3,266	£0	£0	£0
World Heritage Site *	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000
Young Devon	£3,750	£2,500	£1,250	£0	£0	£0
Total	£95,275	£80,674	£68,253	£55,235	£55,235	£55,235

(* Denotes those 'key' and/or statutory partnerships.)

3.2 If these proposals are unpalatable to the wider Hub Committee at this time, then the Deputy Leader asks that Members agree recommendations for 2019/20 at this meeting (for onward consideration by the Council at its meeting on 24 July 2018). The main purpose of this request is to provide these partners with as much notice as possible before the next financial year.

3.3 With regard to those years after 2019/20, the Deputy Leader would then ask that the Committee acknowledge that further consideration of this matter will be required as part of the Five Year Medium Term Financial Strategy report that is intended to be presented to the Hub Committee meeting on 11 September 2018.

4. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address

Legal/Governance		<p>Localism Act 2011 (Section 1 – Powers of General Competence). Those partnerships required by statute have their own specific legislative requirements;</p> <p>The Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference included the need to address the legal basis for partnerships generally and specific agreements for individual partnerships.</p> <p>Updated partnership agreements will require individual legal input.</p>
Financial		The proposed future Partnership funding levels are set out in the table in section 3.1 above.
Risk		<p>A failure to review partnership principles, partnership arrangements and partnership opportunities could lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ineffective use of council funds; • Poor quality service to those in need of support; • Inequality of delivery across the council area; and • Knock on resource pressures direct to the council. <p>These risks are mitigated by detailed reviews akin to the piece of work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		The services provided by partnerships promote equal opportunities and help prevent discrimination in our communities.
Safeguarding		Partners are required to operate to adopted Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policies where appropriate.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		Partnerships should provide advice and volunteering opportunities which reduce the potential for anti-social behaviour.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		Partnerships include consideration of health, safety and wellbeing implications where appropriate
Other implications		N/A

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A – Task and Finish Group Report presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 June 2018 (including Appendix A to this report – Proposed Allocations 2019/20 – 2023-24); and
Appendix B – Summary Findings of Member Partnership Survey.

Background Papers:

Budget Proposals report to Council meeting on 20 February 2018; and
The minutes arising from the Council meeting on 20 February 2018.