

Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny Panel**
Date: **24th November 2016**
Title: **Final update and recommendations from Partnerships Task and Finish Group**
Portfolio Area: **Strategy and Commissioning**
Wards Affected: **All**
Relevant Scrutiny Committee;

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **N/A**

Date next steps can be taken: Executive meeting 1 December 2016

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Recommendations:

That the Executive be RECOMMENDED:

- 1. that the funding levels remain the same for the South Hams Citizens Advice and South Hams Community Voluntary Sector.**
- 2. to consider the proposed caveats with the South Hams Community Voluntary Sector.**

1 Executive summary

Background Information

- Following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report in September 2015 Members requested further information around partnerships that South Hams District Council were involved in, therefore a Task and Finish Group was created. The role of the Task and Finish Group was to review all of the partnerships where South Hams District Council had financial interest, either through direct funding or officer resource and to make recommendations as to whether the partnership offered value for money and supported the Council in delivering its priorities.

- 2 The review was undertaken in conjunction with West Devon Borough Council, as many of the partnerships are run across both Councils. During the period of the review the following documentation has been presented to Members:
 - Partnership Register
 - Partnership Policy
 - Partnership Policy Guidelines
 - Partnership Review documentation - significant and desirable partnerships
 - Partnership Register of recommendations
 - Partnership Financial Information Plan
- 3 The final meeting of the Task and Finish Group was to determine recommendations for funding for South Hams Citizens Advice and South Hams Community Voluntary Sector. Both partnerships receive significant levels of funding from South Hams District Council for core costs, to the values of £41,867 and £42,616 respectively.
- 4 Prior to the Task and Finish Group meeting both partnerships were asked to submit a business plan which would respond to the following points:
 - How will funding be spent?
 - How will it benefit residents?
 - Demonstrate links to Councils Strategic Priorities
 - Demonstrate the value for money it will provide
 - What success measures will be used?

Both partnerships submitted business plans which can be seen in Appendices 1 and 2.

- 5 Following the meeting of the Task and Finish Group on 9th November 2016 the following recommendations from Members are being sought:
 - **That South Hams Citizens Advice funding remains the same, at £41,867 for core costs for 2017/18. The Task and Finish Group were satisfied with the value provided by Citizens Advice.**
 - **That South Hams Community Voluntary Sector funding remains the same, at £42,616 for core costs for 2017/18 with the recommendation that the following items included within the business case are followed:**
 - Expectation by Councillors for CVS to:
 - Maximise their paid membership – currently have significant membership yet most do not pay their membership fee
 - Include project management/administration costs into funding bids
 - Reduce accommodation costs
 - To approach Parish Councils for specific grants

- Use the business case supplied in August 2016 to:
- Define current roles, objectives and outcomes so that these are measurable
 - Demonstrate the four clear areas of saving and provide the response to officers
 - To approach West Devon (and other) CVS groups to look at other ways of reducing costs

2. Proposed Way Forward

1. The proposal is for Members to recommend to the Executive the financial requests for both South Hams Citizens Advice and South Hams Community Voluntary Sector and also to agree with the conditions attached to the Community Voluntary Sector funding stream.
2. The recommendations are justified as part of the Councils responsibility to promote value for money and efficiencies whilst remaining mindful of cost implications.

Failure to fund the partnerships will affect the partnerships ability to produce outcomes that will have a direct impact on the Councils residents.

3. Implications

| Implications | Relevant to proposals Y/N | Details and proposed measures to address |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Legal/Governance | | <p>No Legal Governance support required at this stage.</p> <p>The Council has discretion to support these groups and award funding under the Localism Act 2011.</p> <p>The Task and Finish Group has looked extensively at value for money during the Partnership Review.</p> |
| Financial | | <p>The recommendations are for the funding levels to remain for 2017/8 the same as current, therefore there are no new, or additional financial implications on the decision.</p> <p>Engagement has been undertaken with the S151 Officer.</p> |
| Risk | | <p>There are few financial risks as the same level of funding is being sought.</p> <p>There is a reputational risk to the Council if the recommendations made to the Community Voluntary Sector are not monitored or acted upon.</p> |

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| Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications | | |
| Equality and Diversity | | There are no direct Equality or Diversity issues. |
| Safeguarding | | There are positive links to Safeguarding our communities through future work with our partners, working more closely and effectively with those in crisis. |
| Community Safety, Crime and Disorder | | There are no direct crime and disorder impacts relevant within this report. |
| Health, Safety and Wellbeing | | There are positive Wellbeing implications within our communities due to the nature of the work undertaken by our partners. |
| Other implications | | N/A |

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Citizens Advice business plan

Appendix 2: Community Voluntary Sector business plan