

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Shirley Plenderleith Head of Public Services	Fwd Plan Ref No: <i>A18/017</i>	
Wards Affected	All	14 th November 2018	
Title	SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT GRANTS REVIEW OF FUNDING FOR 2019-2021		

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Lloyd Bunday

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make a decision about the Voluntary Sector Service Level Agreements (SLA) as to whether the level of funding should remain for years three and four of the SLA period, in line with the previous decision of the Executive Committee, at the halfway point of the four year SLA period.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1. The Council has four year SLAs with voluntary organisations for the provision of a range of services linked to corporate objectives.
- 2.2. When the Council agreed to the four year SLAs, it did so with the caveat that it would review the funding in light of its budget position for years three and four, at the halfway point. It is now in the position to make the decision as to whether or not the funding is maintained from 1st April 2019 until 31st March 2021.
- 2.3. The SLAs commenced on 1st April 2017, hence they are now approximately half way through their second year. For information, funding for the current SLAs are as follows:

Specification	Annual Grant (£)	Successful Organisations
Activities for Young People	13,250	Groundwork Northamptonshire
Activities for Young People	13,250	Youth Works CIC
Community Watch	5,000	Neighbourhood Watch
Debt and Money Advice	80,000	Citizens Advice Corby and Kettering
Discrimination Casework	5,000	Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council
Healthy Living	10,000	Groundwork Northamptonshire
Housing Options	30,000	Citizens Advice Corby and Kettering
Independent Living	20,000	Age UK
Independent Living	20,000	Vine Community Trust

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Shopmobility	13,000	Hearing, Health & Mobility
Upcycling	20,000	KCU Ltd
Voluntary Sector Local Infrastructure	19,000	Groundwork Northamptonshire
TOTAL	248,500	

2.4. Service Providers sign Service Level Agreements with Kettering Borough Council which details obligations for both parties. Kettering Borough Council have the option of deferring or reviewing all or part of payment of the agreed grant where requirements in the agreement/service specification have not been met, subject to:

- a report to the Monitoring & Audit Committee and to the Executive Committee
- consultation with the organisation and other funders
- the opportunity for the organisation to make a representation to the Executive Committee

3. FUNDING POSITION

3.1. The primary purpose of this report is for members to decide whether they wish the current level of funding provision for the SLAs to continue for years three (2019/20) and four (2020/21). This will then give organisations time to plan their finances for the next two years and within the three months' notice period recognised as good practice.

3.2. It is important that members of the Committee are clear about what they are debating, in this part of the report. The debate is about whether the funding provision for the voluntary sector SLAs remains at the same level for the remaining two years or is at a reduced amount. The Committee is not debating the performance of the organisations (compared to their SLAs) or whether the funding provision should be allocated differently. If the Committee decide to reduce the funding provision, this would have to be achieved by reducing all of the SLAs pro-rata to their original award (with subsequent adjustments to their individual SLAs being agreed).

3.3. For information, the Committee will be reassured that Monitoring and Audit Committee have received regular reports on the performance of the voluntary organisations against their SLA commitments since the commencement, as from 1st April 2017. At the time of writing this report there have been no major concerns with any of the organisations' delivery against their SLA key performance indicators which need to be brought to members' attention.

3.4. The Committee is to note that following changes to housing legislation, householders requiring advice and support regarding homelessness can no longer approach Citizens Advice directly. Householders are now being referred to Citizens Advice Services (CAS) directly from the Housing Options Team. This has required an amendment to the Key Outcomes and Performance Indicators for

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the Housing Options Service Specification. These amendments will be considered and noted by the Monitoring and Audit Committee at its meeting held on 6th November 2018.

- 3.5. The Committee is to note the business transfer of Hearing, Health and Mobility to Evans Hearing and Healthcare Ltd, included in this transfer is the Shopmobility SLA, with a Deed of Novation in place as from 1st November 2018. The service provided remains the same as the current offer.

4. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 4.1. The Service Provider is required to provide detailed information on the performance of the specification against the relevant indicators. Quarterly monitoring meetings are held between the Service Provider and the Lead Officer to allow the opportunity to develop a relationship with the Provider, examine any emerging issues or priorities, and manage and address any performance issues.
- 4.2. The Service Providers are required to undertake half yearly appraisal, where this monitoring and evaluation is intended to provide sufficient information about how the grant award has to been used in order for the Council to assess an organisation's performance.
- 4.3. The Service Providers are also expected to undertake an annual service user satisfaction survey which is returned alongside the monitoring information.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Service Level Agreement funding to the voluntary sector continues to contribute towards the Council's corporate objectives. The continuation of funding would be in line with these objectives.
- 5.2. On 24th October 2016 the Executive Committee agreed the specifications and funding against the work streams for 2017 - 2021.
- 5.3. At the Executive Committee on 16th November 2016 it was confirmed that funding for Service Level Agreements will initially be for 2017/18 and 2018/19 only, with funding for 2019/20 and 2020/21 being assessed in the light of the Council's financial position at that time.

6. FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The service providers receive their grant payment annually with two thirds received in April and one third in November of each financial year subject to satisfactory performance.
- 6.2. In light of the Council's financial position, the Council is in a position to continue to fund the Service Providers, at their current levels for the next two years (2019/20 and 2020/21).

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7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The original SLAs were agreed for the period for the period from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2021, subject to the caveat that the funding provision would be reviewed at this time. The Council is able to make this decision to continue funding up to 31st March 2021, notwithstanding the potential for public sector reform in Northamptonshire, which is likely to take effect from 1st April 2020, if the Secretary of State accepts the proposal that has been made to him by Northamptonshire councils. At this point in time no decision has been made on the proposal, and the Council is able to make this decision in respect of the SLAs.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 That the Executive Committee extends the current levels of voluntary sector SLA funding provision for a further two year period (i.e. for 2019/20 and 2020/21) in line with its ambition for four year grant awards.

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