

**REPORT OF: FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**TO: EXECUTIVE**

**DATES: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

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## **MATTERS REQUIRING FINANCIAL APPROVAL**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This regular report outlines a matter requiring consideration by the Executive under the Council's Financial and Contract Procedure Rules.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Executive is asked to consider the proposal outlined in this report and agree a funding allocation of £10,000 to the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS for 2017/18 funded from earmarked reserves.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3. To seek approval from the Executive on a specific matter that has financial implications for the Council.

## **ISSUE**

### *Contract with Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service*

4. Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) received funding from the Borough Council following the demise of Pendle Community Network to deliver a programme to improve and expand the capacity and capability of the voluntary and community sector in Pendle. The first contract ran from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013 since when it has been subject to periodic review and renewal.
5. In February 2016, the Executive agreed a funding allocation of £10,000 to enable the CVS to provide services under the terms of a Service Level Agreement which expired on 30th November 2016. However, the CVS has continued to work in Pendle since the end of the contract period and a fresh decision is required in response to a request for a continuation of this funding. This report recommends an award of £10,000 for the 2017/18 financial year on the basis of information which follows below from the Localities Manager in support of this proposal.

6. The Localities Manager considers that the Council receives value added services from the work CVS are contracted to do under terms of their funding from the County Council which amounts to £60k for work in all three areas – the funding provided by Pendle Council (and Burnley) is considered vital match funding and allows the CVS to increase its effort in Pendle, in particular to support:
  - a collaborative process that targets support for existing and newly established community and voluntary sector groups including town and parish councils, residents' associations and support groups. Improving the governance, capacity and effectiveness of groups is vital to meet the increasing challenge posed by reductions in public sector resources and increasingly competitive funding regimes.
  - an increase in volunteers in a range of key community roles and specific projects. Selling volunteering in particularly needed roles or areas is a real challenge.
  - helping groups to obtain both direct and match funding to perform their role in the community and to deliver projects and programmes of work that support local objectives.
7. The Council benefits from mainstream activity including ongoing support via Development and Outreach staff, Volunteer Centre, Health Champions, the Communicars Volunteer Transport Scheme and Young Carers Project. When assessed against a list of over 20 outputs in Pendle which CVS are required to meet under their LCC grant criteria they have significantly out-performed to the Council's advantage.
8. The CVS has been able to encourage greater take up of grants across the sector in Pendle particularly East Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group social prescribing funding where proportionally Pendle was under represented. They have continued to run extra funding roadshows and this has borne fruit with an increase in take up. A spin off from the work which involved a partnership between Health Commissioners, the Borough Council and CVS has resulted in collaboration between voluntary sector groups where previously competition and duplication was the norm.
9. Intensive work with 9 groups in Pendle following two extra funding workshops has led to successful bids to the Building Better Opportunities Big Lottery / European Social fund to tackle poverty and social exclusion. By September 2017 £157,500 will be coming into Pendle – a lot of work from CVS has ensured bids successfully progress through the various stages.
10. Previously a member of CVS was located with the Localities Team to help coordinate the activities of CVS and the localities work but recently we have moved to a different approach utilising the knowledge and experience of CVS's Senior Development Officer who is taking a leading role in promoting the work of CVS in Pendle. Discussions are taking place to establish a public facing base for CVS personnel and activities in the Borough.
11. We are satisfied that we receive added value under the service provided by the CVS. Investment in the capacity and quality of our community and voluntary sector makes sense particularly at a time when, increasingly, we need this sector to help us sustain services and deliver Council objectives. Being mindful of the current demands on the Council I would suggest an extension of the current £10k funding for CVS for 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 whilst the scope for a more sustainable arrangement is explored.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Policy**

12. There are no new policy implications arising from the contents of this report.

## **Financial**

13. There is no dedicated funding available in the current year to meet the £10,000 cost of supporting the CVS as outlined in this report. However, subject to approval by the Executive, this could be met from a one-off supplementary revenue estimate funded from earmarked reserves (external funding receipts). A fresh decision would be required in respect of any further continuation of funding.

## **Legal**

14. There are no legal implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

## **Risk Management**

15. There are no risk management implications arising directly from this report.

## **Health and Safety**

16. There are no health and safety implications arising from the contents of this report.

## **Climate Change**

17. There are no climate change implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

## **Community Safety**

18. There are no community safety issues arising from the contents of this report.

## **Equality and Diversity**

19. The work undertaken by the CVS can help promote equalities and diversity within the Borough.

## **APPENDICES**

None

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None