

**REPORT FROM: CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

**TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

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## **MATTERS REQUIRING FINANCIAL APPROVAL**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report outlines a matter requiring consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee, under the Council's Financial and Contract Procedure Rules.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) The Committee is asked to consider the proposal outlined in this report and agree a funding allocation of £10,000 to the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Services (BPR – CVS) over a 3-year period from 2018/19, funded from earmarked reserves.
- (2) It is recommended that the application from Bodies in Motion is not agreed.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To seek approval from the Committee on a specific matter that has financial implications for the Council. The recommendations to approved funding are restricted to BPR – CVS due to the larger remit of the work undertaken by the CVS and therefore greater additional benefit afforded to the residents of the borough.

### **ISSUE**

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

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.

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. In May 2017, the Executive agreed a further £10,000 for 2017/18 to support the CVS.

The Policy and Resources Committee is being asked to continue to approve a sum of £10,000 per year for 3 years (2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21) to support the CVS.

It is considered 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 £60362k for work in all three areas. LCC provide 75% funding 25% needs to come from other stakeholders there are 4 priorities (keep learning, give-volunteering, connect/take notice and be active/take notice – 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 which impact in particular the very small, mainly volunteer led organisations delivering activity at grassroots level. These groups are at the heart of communities. Building resilience and sustainability
- 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. There is an ever changing demand as many volunteers go onto be successful in seeking employment as a result of their volunteer experience. Some volunteers due to their complex needs require ongoing support even while volunteering. This support is provided by a nationally quality assured volunteer centre at BPRCVS
- 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. Besides bringing in grant programmes managed directly by CVS, they support groups to apply to a range of funding bodies. They organise funding events and liaise with funders to influence future priorities. CVS act as a vital linkage and provides real evidence of impact and value to nurture new and ongoing funding.

The Council benefits from mainstream activity including ongoing support via Development and Outreach staff, Volunteer Centre, Community Connectors, the Communicars Volunteer Transport Scheme and Children and Young people projects such as 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.

The CVS has been able to encourage greater take up of grants across the sector in Pendle. For example, the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Social Prescribing fund, for which 11 community groups were successful in being awarded a total of £42,204.00 for Pendle, during 2017/18.

Through the CVS leading on the ESF Building Better Opportunities 4 – Reach It Funding, the total awarded to Pendle was £130,387.00, via 9 successful delivery partners, during 2017/18.

The CVS currently hold a drop-in service at Christchurch in Nelson every Wednesday afternoon, targeting Pendle residents. It is felt that a more prominent location would attract more footfall, and so the building where Building Bridges operate from is being considered as a possible alternative. CVS trustees are keen to respond to the increasing demand identified in Pendle.

Key to the CVS service provided is helping Pendle Council to support vulnerable residents (including access to online services); support to refugees alongside the Displaced Persons Resettlement Group, and support to increase the number of volunteers.

Working with other CVS across Lancashire they are able to bring in additional resources to support Pendle families and groups.

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.

### ***(B) Bodies in Motion***

A request has been received from Bodies in Motion which is a community gym and physical fitness centre in Brierfield. The head office is in Brierfield which is being extended, including a lift to enable people with mobility issues to make full use of the facilities. The organisation has been working alongside the Lancashire Environmental Fund and are now at stage 2 of a funding application to provide monies to install the lift. Part of the funding application is the requirement to secure a 10% contribution from a third party. The project costs are £30k and therefore Bodies in Motion have requested financial support in the sum of £3k. The funding application need to be submitted by 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 with the £3k third party contribution to be paid within 30 days of a subsequent offer letter.

Given the its current financial position the Council does not generally support these specific requests. A similar request has been submitted to Brierfield Town Council.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** No implications identified

**Financial: BPR – CVS** - In previous years there have been one-off requests for annual funding in the sum of £10,000. In these circumstances funding is usually sought from earmarked reserves which are one-off sources of funding. In this instance, the request for funding will secure this service for a three year period. Therefore it is appropriate to uplift the base budget for a temporary three year period to fund the costs at £10,000 per annum that will become recurring expenditure, albeit on a temporary basis.

Funding the CVS allows work to be done via the voluntary sector and is therefore an important vehicle in enabling the Council to facilitate services to residents in a different and more efficiency way.

I therefore recommend that the budget (£30k) required to provide this service for the next three years is funding from the Change Management Earmarked Reserve being £10k per annum with effect from 2018/19 to 2020/21.

**Financial:** Bodies in Motion - The recommendation is to not provide financial support given the challenging financial outlook facing the Council. Therefore there are no financial implications for the Council's budget in respect of the Recommendation (2) above.

**Legal:** No implications identified

**Risk Management:** No implications identified

**Health and Safety:** No implications identified

**Sustainability:** No implications identified

**Community Safety:** No implications identified

**Equality and Diversity:** The work undertaken by the CVS can help to promote equality and diversity in Pendle.

## **APPENDICES**

N/A

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A