
STRATEGIC REVIEW OF FUNDING FOR THE THIRD SECTOR

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor A Scott,
Communities and Engagement Portfolio Holder**

Responsible Director – Chris Sivers, Assistant Chief Executive

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To ask Cabinet to agree continuation of existing arrangements for strategic funding of the third sector until 31 March 2011.

Summary

2. Funding to the third sector is being reviewed. Consultation and engagement on this issue with elected members, council officers and third sector partners is progressing well. The existing funding arrangements are outlined.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that Cabinet agrees to:
 - a) Continue existing strategic funding arrangements until 31st March 2011, subject to any necessary changes during 2010/11.
 - b) Agree to delegate powers to Chris Sivers, Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Efficiency and Resources (Councillor C. McEwan) and Communities and Engagement (Councillor A. Scott), to take any further decisions required for the financial year to the end of March 2011.

Reasons

4. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
 - (a) Cabinet needs to agree funding proposals as part of the governance arrangements for the Council;
 - (b) Third sector organisations need to have certainty about funding arrangements to enable business plans and budget proposals to be set for 2010/11 and any necessary HR procedures implemented.

Chris Sivers
Assistant Chief Executive

Background Papers

Darlington Borough Council, Third Sector Strategy 2007

David Plews : Extension 2023S17 Crime and Disorder	This funding agreement will have no negative impact on Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	This project will have no negative impact on Health and Well Being.
Sustainability	No sustainability implications are noted at this time.
Diversity	The funding decision to continue existing arrangements whilst completing the review will also allow time for any necessary impact assessment work to be carried out.
Wards Affected	There will be no direct impacts, apart from where organisations do not comply with their own governance arrangements or are no longer constituted.
Groups Affected	There will be no direct impacts, apart from where organisations do not comply with their own governance arrangements or are no longer constituted.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's budget .
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	Yes
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This work will ensure stability for the third sector during challenging financial times.
Efficiency	The roll forward of existing funding will not deliver efficiencies in itself but will enable the completion of a review which will consider the efficiency agenda.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. This paper requests a continuation of existing strategic funding arrangements until the 31st March 2011. A good deal of work on a review of third sector funding has already taken place, with a range of Members, officers and partners involved.
6. Set out in the table below is the continuation funding required for 2010/11. It is proposed that the funding is only released to organisations that are a constituted body and are complying with their internal governance arrangements. Where there are any concerns funding will only be released at the discretion of the relevant officer once these concerns have been met. Where there is risk to public funding these payments may be withheld or staged as appropriate.

Strategic Grants 2010/11	
Name of Organisation	Grant
Darlington CAB	89,738.75
Darlington CVS	51,098.81
Media Workshop	16,892.00
Cruse Bereavement	7,538.06
Skerne Park Tool Library	15,514.25
Community Carnival	5,225.96
Darlington Association on Disability	16,390.52
First Stop Darlington	23,226.50
Firthmoor Community Association	4,750.88
Red Hall Community Association	4,750.88
Skerne Park Community Association	4,750.88
Total	239,877.49

7. A high profile workshop with third sector bodies has taken place, and there has been on-going dialogue with third sector chief officers. In particular, partnership work with eVOLution has produced a healthy dialogue with many varied ideas and options discussed.
8. Further work needs to take place in the coming months to conclude the review. This includes exploratory discussion with grant experts at the County Durham Community Foundation about the potential to align our respective grant-making processes to add value and increase the potential impact of grants being made within Darlington.

Conclusion

9. There is a necessity to continue existing strategic funding arrangements to enable the sector to have some stability whilst we finalise the review. Delegated powers are requested to enable risks to be managed during the year to March 2011 and to ensure key cabinet members are involved in the process.