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**THIRD SECTOR STRATEGIC GRANTS 2012-15**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Andrew Scott, Health and Partnership  
Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of People**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To present proposals for the allocation of Strategic Grants to third sector organisations that will support delivery of the strategic objectives of the Council.

**Summary**

2. The Council provides support to third sector organisations through the allocation of Strategic Grants. The funding allocation is proposed for a three year programme but will be reviewed annually to ensure delivery against outcomes. The criteria for the funding proposals were discussed and agreed by Cabinet on 22 November 2011. Full details of the decision can be found in the minutes C83 h) (i)-(iv).
3. All applications were scored by the advisory panel against the criteria attached at Appendix 1. Where individual scores varied discussion took place and a consensus was agreed by the panel as a whole. The panel also looked not only at the strategic fit but also at the governance and sustainability of organisations and at the amount of benefit to the residents of Darlington.
4. Applications were then prioritised and funding allocated following further discussion within the panel to maximise the number of organisations that could be helped and to ensure that priority was given within successful applications to supporting front-line delivery.
5. The guidance notes sent out with the application forms state clearly that Cabinet can ask officers to negotiate with organisations to ensure that key strategic objectives are supported and that resources are used effectively and efficiently. The panel have undertaken an initial review but it will be important that when the funding offer letters are distributed there are very clear links to strategic outcomes and that delivery against these is monitored throughout the year.

6. The following proposals are submitted to cabinet for approval:

Organisation	Amount per annum	Comment
First Stop	£28,045	This is less than requested but will enable full funding of a project worker providing frontline services.
Citizen's Advice Bureau	£50,000	This is considerably less than requested but equates to approximately 2FTE to provide advice. It still represents almost a third of the total funding available.
Age UK Darlington	£18,966	This is less than requested and equates to a 0.5FTE to support frontline delivery
Darlington Credit Union	£13,000 for two years only	This is less than requested in year one but it should still enable the Credit Union to become sustainable by year three
Groundwork UK	£10,500	Whilst a reduction on the amount requested it should nevertheless enable Groundwork to contribute to Darlington Together.
Darlington Association on Disability	£10,000	This is less than was applied for but will enable support to be given to co-design and co-production.

7. As the Credit Union proposal is only for two years it will leave some funds available in year three but it is proposed to hold this back for discussion at the end of year two because of the risk being faced by the sector and the potential need for short term support.

### **Recommendations**

8. It is recommended that :-

- (a) The grant allocations are agreed as set out above.
- (b) Agree the ring-fenced amount for eVOLution of £45,989

## **Reasons**

9. The funding has been allocated following a fair and open process and has been set against criteria that were available to organisations prior to submission. This will enable :-
  - (a) The third sector to participate fully in the delivery of strategic outcomes
  - (b) The Council to make most effective use of resources for third sector support.

**Murray Rose, Director of People**

## **Background Papers**

Third Sector Strategic Grants 2012-15 Application Process and Criteria, Resources MTFP,  
Appendix 10 - Report to Cabinet 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011  
Council Support to the Third Sector, Report to Cabinet, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
MTFP Report to Cabinet, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011

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S17 Crime and Disorder	The changes proposed in this report will contribute to increased strategic focus of grants to improve delivery against priorities.
Health and Well Being	The changes proposed in this report will contribute to increased strategic focus of grants to improve delivery against priorities.
Carbon Impact	This report will have neither a positive or negative impact on carbon impact.
Diversity	These proposed changes will support vulnerable people, those on a low income or those with the protected characteristics of age and disability.
Wards Affected	There is no specific focus on particular wards in this report, but the increased strategic focus of grants on strategic outcomes and service priorities is likely to have a positive impact most particularly on the more deprived wards.
Groups Affected	There is no specific focus on particular groups in this report, but the increased strategic focus of grants on strategic outcomes and service priorities is likely to have a positive impact most particularly on more vulnerable groups. There is potential negative impact on groups involved in or supported by organisations that are unable to retain grant under the criteria-based approach set out in this report.
Budget and Policy Framework	The report sets out proposals for the utilising and allocating the Strategic Grants budget, but within existing budget, savings and policy frameworks.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is an urgent decision in seeking approval of the proposals for a criteria-based application process for Strategic Grant in time to enable the proposals to be applied in the next grant cycle.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The changes proposed in this report will increase the focus of Strategic Grants on the delivery of One Darlington : Perfectly Placed strategic outcomes.
Efficiency	The changes proposed in this report will enable the Council to maximise the use of resources in supporting the development of a thriving third sector and in delivering agreed strategic priorities.

## MAIN REPORT

10. The grants programme was widely advertised across the sector and 21 organisations applied for the grant during December 2011. Some of these organisations had received grant in previous years but there were also new applicants. It is important that feedback is given to all organisations that applied and that if they were unsuccessful they are supported to look for funding elsewhere
11. Each of the applications was scored against the criteria and the scoring matrix is attached at Appendix 1. Each applicant had been notified of the criteria in advance as it was included within the application pack and guidance notes.
12. The Cabinet Member for Health and Partnerships chaired the Joint Advisory Panel. The advisory panel consisted of the Executive Director of eVOLution, Head of Commissioning and Health Partnerships, Procurement Project Officer, Economic Regeneration Officer and the Voluntary and Community Sector Engagement Manager.
13. It had already been agreed by Cabinet that funding for eVOLution would be ring fenced and this did not therefore require scoring although clear outcomes will need to be identified in the grant offer letter and monitored during each year before grant is released.
14. In the paper received by Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 (MTFP Report Appendix 10, paragraphs 26-29) it had also been agreed that a tactical fund of £7,000 would be top sliced to ensure that there was a contingency to cover in year issues. It was previously agreed that the Darlington Carnival could also be supported from this fund for one year only to enable it to meet current commitments as funding would be difficult to obtain from other sources due to the uncertainty relating to the Arts Centre.
15. The Tactical Fund could also provide short-term support for existing commitments and Council staff would work with organisations in this position and with County Durham Community Foundation to assist them in moving towards sustainable funding arrangements for the future.
16. The full list of applications and their scores is attached at Appendix 2. This also sets out the amount of funding requested and the proposed allocation. It highlights the fact that the grant fund was very oversubscribed and concern was expressed at the panel that the sector were facing very difficult times.
17. In order to ensure that the funds were used as effectively and as widely as possible once the proposals had been scored each of the highest scoring bids were re-visited to see if there could be reductions in the funding given. When looking at proposals the panel looked at protection of front-line services and at the strategic priorities. The panel also took into account the broader funding picture and the sustainability of the organisations if a reduction in the amount requested was applied.
18. The outcomes of these discussions are contained in the Comment boxes within the report summary. Each organisation will be notified of the reasons for these decisions and outcomes agreed within the funding offer letter.
19. Unsuccessful organisations will be offered the opportunity to receive feedback on their application so that the decision making process is clear. The decision of Cabinet is final but support will be given through eVOLution to look at other potential funding opportunities.

20. It is essential that to ensure delivery against outcomes a robust funding offer letter is agreed with each successful organisation. This will include clear outcomes that support delivery of the Council's strategic priorities and the priorities of the community strategy –One Darlington: Perfectly Placed. Each grant agreement will set out clear reporting and monitoring mechanisms to be fulfilled on a quarterly basis.
21. If an organisation fails to meet the outcomes discussions will take place to understand the reason behind the poor delivery and to agree a clear improvement plan with the organisation and ensure it is successfully implemented. Ultimately the grant offer letter will state clearly that failure to deliver will lead to the grant being clawed back or payment delayed.

### Strategic Grant Application Assessment Record

Applicant	Amount	£
<b>Description</b>		
<b>Criteria Scoring</b>	<b>Max. Score</b>	<b>Actual Score</b>
<p>One Darlington Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People in Darlington are healthy and supported</li> <li>• People in Darlington are educated and skilled</li> <li>• People in Darlington are financially secure</li> <li>• Individuals are not disadvantaged by their family circumstances at birth or where they reside; people live in cohesive and resilient communities</li> </ul> <p>Perfectly Placed Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People in Darlington live in sustainable neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Our communities are safe and free from crime</li> <li>• Darlington is an ambitious and entrepreneurial place in which businesses thrive and create wealth</li> </ul>	25	
Developing services that will meet strategic objectives as set out in the key strategic plans of Darlington Borough Council including the Sustainable Community Strategy.	15	
Developing work in partnership with other organisations to maximise efficient and effective high quality services.	15	
Contributing to the development of Darlington Together – building more resilient and self sufficient communities with the capacity to generate solutions to local needs from local resources	15	
Demonstrating a track record of local delivery contributing to the seven outcomes.	10	
Building capacity of staff and trustees to meet the challenges of commissioning, procurement, tendering and full cost recovery to ensure local organisations have the skills necessary to become successful bidders and to develop as thriving organisations	10	
<b>Scoring comments or rationale</b>		

<b>Total Score</b>	Max. 90	
<b>Score ranking of application (1 = top scoring)</b>		

<b>Non-Scored Assessment</b>	
Flexibility – scope for delivering for less, joining-up applications to improve delivery/reduce total grant, etc?	
Constitution and management	
Financial sustainability of organisation	
Financial sustainability of project or service that strategic grant would support	
Policies and protocols	
<b>Conclusion and recommendations</b>	
Is criteria scored ranking above or below funding cut-off? (see separate list of ranked applications)	
Does non-scored assessment affect ranking?	
Recommendation to Cabinet	



Appendix 2

**Strategic Grant: Summary of Applications Received**

			£s Bid	£s Bid	Proposed Allocation £	Total Proposed Allocation £
Score	Applicant	Purpose of Application	2012/13	2012-15	2012/3	2012-15
60	First Stop Darlington	Core funding for continuing activities - manager & project worker salaries	53,065	159,195	28,045	84,135
59	Citizen's Advice Bureau	Core funding for continuing activities - manager & project worker salaries	82,739	248,217	50,000	150,000
52	Age UK	Provide free independent information & advice to older people, families and carers	37,175	103,308	18,966	56,898
51	Darlington Credit Union	Contribute to running costs whilst DCU moves towards financial sustainability over next 3 years	18,000	43,920	13,000	26,000
48	Groundwork North East	Supporting parks friends groups, project start-ups & sustainable neighbourhoods pilot	15,000	45,000	10,500	31,500
45	Darlington Association on Disability	To enable community to continue to benefit from sustainable user led disability organisation	31,689	96,019	10,000	30,000
38	Rape & Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre	Fund post of volunteer co-ordinator to develop volunteer skills & pilot 'Recovery Toolkit'	28,240	88,338	0	0
37	Clervaux Trust	Fund 'bespoke educators' to provide 40 week course for young mothers: home making, early learning, nutrition, etc	23,760	23,760	0	0
36	Firthmoor & District Community Assoc.	Support centre running costs & facilitate long term move towards financial sustainability of multi-service hub	5,000	5,000	0	0
33	Tees Valley YMCA	Healthy Choices - new fitness/health programme for targeted groups/areas	78,929	161,281	0	0
31	Family Help	To continue to provide refuge and support services	30,000	90,000	0	0
31	Tees Valley RCC	Employment of p/t (2 days per week) dedicated D'ton worker to support rural initiatives/projects	17,004	56,281	0	0

27	WRVS	Core funding to continue and expand Good Neighbours/Home Library service	51,812.00	155,437.00	0	0
23	Darlington Media Group	Continue to provide open access arts and media facilities, artist support and media courses	15,200	45,600	0	0
23	Red Hall Community Association	Core funding for provision of community facilities & ensure sustainability of centre	5,000	5,000	0	0
20	Most Education	Building capacity to engage disadvantaged 8-25s in D'ton through social enterprise commercial activities for overseas visitors	5,000	15,000	0	0
20	Relate North East	Provide free/reduced cost counselling support to parents with under 18s	9,688	32,065	0	0
19	Cruse Bereavement	Provide support to bereaved and provide accredited training for work in voluntary sector	10,000	30,000	0	0
18	Co.Durham Community Foundation	Promote/develop voluntary and community action and stimulate philanthropy	5,600	16,800	0	0
9	Arthur Wharton Foundation	Inspire people through sport, provide positive role models, nurture future world champions, work towards sports academy	26,000	78,000	0	0
Ring-fenced	eVOLution	Ring-fenced funding as infrastructure organisation	45,989	137,967	45,989	137,967
<b>Total bids &amp; ring fencing</b>			<b>589,890</b>	<b>1,634,188</b>	176,500	516,500

<b>Available Resources</b>		<b>183,500</b>	<b>550,500</b>
<b>Less Tactical Fund top sliced from strategic grant</b>	As agreed by Cabinet in November 2011	7,000*	34,000**
<b>Resources to be allocated to current bids</b>		<b>176,500</b>	<b>516,500</b>

\*Proposed that Community Carnival is supported through tactical fund for one year only.

\*\* This includes £13,000 as Credit Union request is for 2 years only