

Agenda item 6

For decision: Multi-year agreements

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Summary

The purpose of this report is to secure approval for a series of multi-year agreements with local not-for-profit organisations. Those agreements would come into force in the new financial year, 2017/18. The report also seeks approval for some basic conditions that all would need to meet as part of those agreements. Delegated authority is sought to enable negotiations to be finalised with each organisation around specific targets to be met.

Background:

There are many local not-for-profit organisations that the Council has grant aided on an annual basis but except for Frome Festival and Harry's Hydro, we have not completed multi-year agreements with them. The key benefits of such agreements are that they provide clarity with medium-term financial planning for both FTC and the recipient of the grant and can assist with raising other funding. Typically, medium term financial planning is over 3 years and so the proposal is that 3-year multi-year agreements should be completed.

Proposed recipients of grants:

The following table sets out a list of organisations with whom agreements should be completed. It excludes Volunteer Frome with whom there is an existing contract with SASP that will deliver £20k of grant aid next year. The table confirms the purposes of the grants, the expected benefits to the town and the sums that should apply in each year starting in 2017/18. In all cases, the organisations meet the following criteria:

- The organisations are not for profit, properly constituted and have their own bank account
- Each has demonstrated a financial need
- Their activities are expected to help meet the Council's strategic objectives

Organisation	Purpose of the grant/benefits to the town	Yr. 1 grant (17/18)	Yr. 2 grant (18/19)	Yr. 3 grant (18/19)
Harry's Hydro	To subsidise users of the hydrotherapy pool. This is a 10-year agreement at £8k p.a. dating back to Nov 2010. The first payment was in 2011, following the end of the first year of operation. Grants are made on the basis of last resort support and offset by additional fundraising and income from solar panels on the roof.	£8k	£8k	£8k
Fair Frome	To support the running of the food bank	£15k	£15k	£15k
CAB	Provides an important independent advisory service to the community.	£6k	£6k	£6k
Mendip YMCA	The grant is to match investment by YMCA to make essential improvements to the lighting, heating and roof of the Youth and Community Centre's and making the sports hall useable throughout the year. YMCA have secured grants and used their reserves and raised £120k. The total cost of the project is £140k and it is proposed that FTC contribute this over three years. By doing this we will retain a popular and useful sport and leisure facility on the west side of town. This supports the recommendations of the Sports and Leisure Panel. The agreement will be conditional on YMCA drafting a Business Plan showing that the income from the building matches running costs during this three-year period.	£7k	£7k	£7k
Purple Elephant	Purple Elephant continue to deliver quality events throughout the year, including Sports Festival, Children's Festival and Christmas Party despite having no substantial external funding. This funding would increase their capacity to plan and fundraise for these and other events throughout the year from a range of other funding sources.	£8k	£8k	£8k
Active & In Touch	To enable Active and in Touch to establish themselves as an independent charity with a secure income that meets the increasing demand for befriending. Year 1 pays for their office costs in Frome Town Hall. Year 2 and 3 funding is higher to enable them to pay for increased staff time.	£3k	£9k	£9k

Frome Community Education	To support FCE to run literacy courses. A recent audit of literacy in Frome has confirmed that literacy levels are poor. Raising literacy levels is a priority for FTC and Kate Bielby and Kate Hellard have been working on this this year. FCE has been offering courses to support vulnerable people in the town especially those who struggle to complete benefit or job application forms. Demand has increased significantly in recent months with the introduction of Universal Credit. The courses are delivered in a practical and achievable way. Residents are referred to the group through Mendip Health Connections, the CAB and Jobcentre Plus although some people are self referring through word of mouth.	£6k	£6k	£6k
Frome Festival	This is a major 10- day multi-event programme showcasing the arts. In 2016, 169 events were put on and generated ticket sales in the region of £100k with the vast bulk of this revenue going back to performers, groups, promoters and venues. There are wider economic benefits generated by the footfall and trade generated by the Festival. Grant aid provides confidence to plan well in advance and book acts/events. Historically, the only time the Festival has had the confidence to do this is since we agreed a two-year funding arrangement (2015/16 and 2016/17).	£10k	£10k	£10k
Frome Carnival	The Carnival is enjoyed by a broad demographic in the town and encourages high levels of footfall and trade on Carnival days supporting the town centre economy. Grant aid gives the Carnival the confidence to plan well in advance and book acts e.g. marching bands for future Carnivals that could not be funded through traditional fundraising activities.	£1.5k	£1.5k	£1.5k
Mendip Health Connections	Funding for Health & Wellbeing Coordinator. FTC funding enables a more concentrated approach to volunteer recruitment and retention in Frome of Community Connectors. If we were to stop funding this post Frome would not benefit from so many days of Volunteer Coordinator time. Building on the existing relationship FTC have with the Health Connections service would enable us to deliver more comprehensive information and support services across all areas in Frome, dovetailing our work on Wellbeing with that of the HC team.	£10k	£10k	£10k
	Totals	£74.5k	£80.5k	£80.5k

Proposed conditions:

It is proposed that the following conditions should apply to each grant recipient:

- Targets should be included in each agreement that are capable of measurement on an annual basis
- A communications plan should be agreed that sets out how FTC's support will be recognised and FTC's brand will feature in publicity
- Grant aided bodies should submit and present an annual report before FTC's budget is agreed for the subsequent year to include: activities, benefits (against targets), accounts, plans and funding for subsequent years. *(We should commit to funding in yr2 and yr3 but confirm the actual amount following the submission of the annual report and annual review of performance)*

Recommendations

1. Agree to the approach to multi-year agreements set out in this report
2. Agree to the levels of funding set out in this report
3. Delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor, Cllr Toby Eliot, to negotiate and agree the detail of targets for each recipient