

Small Revenue Funding 2024/25

Report of the Community, Leisure and Tourism (including Diversity and Inclusion)
Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

To extend the current funding to Youth in Romsey, Age Concern, King Arthur's Way Community Association and Mind, as set out in the report, for a further year.

SUMMARY:

- The funding environment for charitable organisations continues to be extremely challenging, a situation which has been compounded by ongoing high cost of living impacting demand on funded organisations and the charity and voluntary sector generally.
- Whilst a relatively small amount, targeted use of this funding can nonetheless make a significant difference to the organisation or organisations which receive it.
- The report recommends maintaining current funding for a further year for four organisations whose current funding offer was due to end in March 2024.

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 In February 2022, Cabinet approved a three-year cycle of funding under the revenue funding programme (2022-2025). The purpose of this fund is to support and develop the community and voluntary sector in order to increase the quality of life of residents in Test Valley, whilst also reducing demand on public services.
- 1.2 Within the same report, Cabinet also approved a recommendation that smaller funding awards made to five organisations should be made for two years (22/3 and 23/24), and that a review should be undertaken in time for the 24/25 financial year, to make the fund more open and accessible, and to better encourage innovation and collaboration in the sector.
- 1.3 The proportion of the funding within the scope of this recommendation currently funds Youth in Romsey, Age Concern, King Arthur's Way Community Association (KAWCA), Relate and Mind to a combined annual total of £27,374 (in 23/24 – see table below).

Organisation	2022/23	2023/24
Youth in Romsey	£9,500	£9,975
Age Concern Hampshire	£5,830	£6,122

Organisation	2022/23	2023/24
KAWCA	£5,000	£5,250
Relate	£3,240	£3,402
Mind	£2,500	£2,625
Project Funding Total	£26,070	£27,374

2 Wider Context

- 2.1 Since the report in 2022, the new Corporate Plan has further emphasised the importance that Test Valley Borough Council places on supporting communities and enabling residents. In the same period, the increasing cost of living has impacted the lives of people across the borough, in particular in respect to how likely they are to need to access support provided by these organisations, and the complexity of their needs when they do.
- 2.2 The general funding environment has changed since the Cabinet recommendations of 2022, with a range of funders either reducing or withdrawing their funding streams. This has led to stiffer competition for remaining funding streams, as more organisations look to expand their funding horizon.
- 2.3 Therefore, the Council must carefully consider the impact on existing grant recipients, against potential benefits of other ways of it being allocated.

3 Options and Options Appraisal

- 3.1 Options
 - (a) To present an alternate funding model
 - (b) To allocate funding for a further year to existing grant recipients
- 3.2 Considering the challenging funding environment and acute demand on services from members of our community who are particularly vulnerable, it is recommended to extend the current grant payment arrangements to Youth in Romsey, Age Concern, KAWCA, and Mind for a further year, to the end of the current three-year funding cycle (ending March 25).
- 3.3 Relate only used about a third of their grant in 2022/23 and the Council has withheld their grant for 2023/24 until they have used up their previous allocation. Therefore, this option would be likely to deliver a small underspend of £3k - £6k across the three-year cycle, which the Council could use to provide some inflationary increase to the other grant recipients in 2024-25.
- 3.4 This approach would provide continuity and surety and would also enable a 'whole programme' approach to be taken to the review at the end of the funding cycle, which will place a particular emphasis that funded organisations will contribute directly and proportionately to the Council's strategic priorities.

4 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 4.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2023-27 puts a significant emphasis on working with and empowering local communities. The smaller revenue funding provides important support to organisations who share that emphasis. In particular, it supports the priorities of sustainability, connection and inclusion.

5 Consultations / Communications

- 5.1 No formal external consultation has been undertaken on the options presented in this report.

6 Resource Implications

- 6.1 The £27,374 referred to in this report is contained in existing budgetary provision for 2024/25.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications for the Council in the recommendations Save that the Council will be reasonably expected to deliver in accordance with its resolution.

8 Equality Issues

- 8.1 An EQIA screening had been completed in accordance with the Council's EQIA methodology and no potential for unlawful discrimination or negative impact has been identified, therefore a full EQIA has not been carried out.

9 Other Issues

- 9.1 Community Safety – none.
- 9.2 Environmental Health – none.
- 9.3 Sustainability and addressing climate change – none.
- 9.4 Property issues – none.
- 9.5 Wards / communities affected – all, but Youth in Romsey is particularly focused at communities in and around Romsey, and KAWCA is particularly focused on the Harroway ward.

10 Conclusion

- 10.1 It is recommended to extend the current funding to Youth in Romsey, Age Concern, KAWCA and MIND for a further year.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

None

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:	None	File Ref:	N/A
----------------	------	-----------	-----

(Portfolio: Community, Leisure and Tourism (including Diversity and Inclusion))
Councillor T Swain

Officer:	Dave Growcott	Ext:	8606
----------	---------------	------	------

Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	28 February 2024
------------	---------	-------	------------------