



Policy and Resources Committee – 11 February 2013

Financial Contributions to External Organisations and Partnership Bodies

Purpose of report

To ask members to consider how this council should support external organisations and partnership bodies with financial contributions in the future.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment (Initial Screen)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 East Northamptonshire Council has supported four external organisations and partnership bodies with financial contributions for several years. In some cases the contributions have been made to support an organisation with its core (running) costs. In other cases financial support has been for specific service delivery.
- 1.2 Since the original decisions were taken to support these organisations, there have been various changes, such as changes in our corporate priorities, the current and predicted financial climate, contributions by other councils and the ending of funding agreements.
- 1.3 The current agreements and contributions with the four organisations and partnership bodies are:-

Organisation	Agreement status	2012/13 £
Groundwork Northamptonshire	Core funding agreement ends 31/3/13	10,000
NSport	Service Level Agreement ends 31/3/13	7,500
Northamptonshire Children & Young People's Partnership	Section 10 Agreement expired 31/3/12 – annual funding decisions taken by Policy & Resources Committee	6,920
Rockingham Forest Trust	Not considered for over 3 years	10,000

- 1.4 Members are reminded that the council also has three voluntary sector grants, in the themes of advice and information services, counselling and support and community transport. The agreements for these grants will end on 31 March 2014. Members will be asked to consider proposals for how these grants might be awarded in the future, in a separate report to the next meeting of this committee.

2.0 Background – Groundwork Northamptonshire

- 2.1 Groundwork Northamptonshire (Groundwork) was established in 2004 to support community regeneration projects in Corby, East Northamptonshire and Kettering districts. It is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. Northamptonshire County Council, Corby and Kettering Borough Councils and this council were involved in the setting-up of Groundwork and have remained as members of the Board of Trustees to date. Councillor Gill Mercer has been the council's representative on the Board since the start and is currently its vice-chair.
- 2.2 From 2006 to 2012, Groundwork supported our three Area Based Initiatives (ABI) projects, which took place in the district's most deprived localities.
- 2.3 Upon completion of the ABIs Policy and Resources Committee approved a new Community Development Strategy (minute 282 - 5 December 2011). This has moved the council's community development function from area-based working to supporting town and parish councils and community groups to develop their community plans and projects. At the same meeting Policy and Resources Committee approved a one year core funding package to Groundwork of £10,000 for 2012/13 (minute 286). This was to retain a Groundwork presence in East Northants to support the transition and potentially support any projects that might emerge from the development of community plans.

3.0 Background – Northamptonshire Sport

- 3.1 Northamptonshire Sport (NSport) is the county sports partnership for Northamptonshire. The aim of the partnership is to provide opportunities for people to participate in sport, physical activity and recreation in Northamptonshire. Membership comprises all of the district and borough councils in the county, youth clubs, sports governing bodies, police, health and universities and colleges.
- 3.2 Its governance structure consists of a Partnership Group and Executive Board with a series of thematic groups focusing on specific areas of the strategy. Councillor Steven North is this council's representative on NSport Partnership and chairs its Partnership Group. NSport's core team co-ordinates the delivery of the strategy and provides the support to the partnership. It is hosted by Northamptonshire County Council.
- 3.3 The focus of the partnership's work is the Northamptonshire Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2010-15 (the strategy). Policy and Resources Committee adopted the strategy (6 December 2010 minute 305). NSport has provided information in its annual report that indicates a £ for £ leverage of around £22.00 in 2011/12 for East Northamptonshire.

4.0 Background - Northamptonshire Children and Young People's Partnership (Pooled Fund)

- 4.1 Northamptonshire Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) was formed under the Children Act 2004. Part of its statutory role is to oversee and manage an agreement (the agreement) under section 10 of the act.
- 4.2 The agreement has a 'pooled fund' associated with it, which is made up of financial contributions from 12 partners including the district and borough councils. Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) administers the fund on behalf of the CYPP. Policy and Resources Committee formally adopted the section 10 agreement at its meeting 9 November 2009 (minute 227) with the financial contribution set at £8,650. This was reduced in 2009 to £6,920 per annum.
- 4.3 The current agreement expired 31 March 2012. Members are asked to note that the release of the £6,920 annual contribution has been subject to approval by this committee each year. Members are asked to approve in principle the release of this

contribution, subject to a new section 10 agreement being prepared.

- 4.4 The range of services covered under section 10 includes the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). So far this year there have been 56 CAF assessments undertaken of which 49 have been closed.

5.0 Background to Rockingham Forest Trust

- 5.1 Rockingham Forest Trust (RFT) is an environmental charity and this council was involved in its start up in 1993. RFT manages two nature reserves in ENC's ownership, those being Stanwick Lakes and Twywell Hills and Dales.
- 5.2 RFT's main areas of work are: environmental conservation and greenspace creation, heritage, education and health and wellbeing and supporting the disadvantaged. It utilises the two sites above and other areas to fulfil this.
- 5.3 Stanwick Lakes has also received a capital and revenue funding from a separate source, which has now ceased. Both trustees of RFT and members from ENC make up Stanwick Lakes Management Board.
- 5.4 RFT is also supported financially by Northamptonshire County Council and Kettering Borough Council.

6.0 Way forward

- 6.1 Officers are satisfied that each of the four organisations have delivered fully on their individual agreements in place over the periods they have received funding from us. All four have shown evidence that they are moving away from a reliance on local authority core funding. It should be noted that our core funding contributions have reduced over the last few years.

7.0 Equality and diversity implications

- 7.1 Some Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) have been prepared to support Members' previous decisions on funding matters relating to these organisations.
- 7.2 These EIAs have been amalgamated and a single EIA has been prepared to support this report. This is attached at Appendix 1.

8.0 Legal implications

- 8.1 There is no statutory requirement on this council to provide financial contributions to Groundwork, NSport or RFT.
- 8.2 As noted above, the section 10 agreement for the CYPP expired 31 March 2012. The council has not formally entered into an extension for that agreement; neither has a new agreement been entered into. It is therefore not bound by any clauses contained therein. Members are being asked to approve the 2012/13 contribution in principle, subject to the CYPP putting a new section 10 agreement in place.

9.0 Risk management

- 9.1 Members are asked to keep in mind that withdrawing or reducing funding to these organisations and partnership bodies could give rise to reputational risks.
- 9.2 The organisations and partnership bodies are aware that future funding support is being considered. It needs to be kept in mind that their core funding can be used for the employment of people and there may be implications for the organisations concerned if funding is withdrawn or reduced.

9.3 It should be noted that the other councils that provide core funding to Groundwork have either decided to withdraw or reduce their contributions from 31 March 2013. Although Groundwork is considering a new business model, the removal or reduction of core funding from any of the sponsoring councils could leave the organisation in an unsustainable position moving forward.

10.0 Financial implications

10.1 The 2012/13 contributions to Groundwork, NSport and RFT have been made. Members are being asked to approve the release of the 2012/13 contribution in principle, to the section 10 pooled fund as set out in 4.3 above. Provision exists in the 2012/13 budget for this contribution.

10.2 Provision has been made in the 2013/14 budget for making financial contributions to each of the organisations and partnership bodies, on the same basis as the 2012/13 contributions (para. 1.3 above refers).

11.0 Corporate outcomes

11.1 The work and activities has been monitored through the individual agreements with each organisation or partnership body. Overall this work and activities has been found to contribute to our corporate outcomes as follows:-

A good quality of life: the activities provided by each of the organisations and partnership bodies contribute to a good quality of life in East Northamptonshire, particularly around sustainable development and increased participation in active recreation.

Effective partnership working: by working in partnership with each of the organisations and partnership bodies gives increased opportunities for the local communities and visitors of East Northamptonshire to enjoy better facilities and a good quality of life.

12.0 Recommendations

12.1 Members are recommended to:-

1. Carefully consider the Equalities Impact Assessment at Appendix 1.
2. Approve in principle the release of East Northamptonshire Council's contribution to the section 10 pooled fund for 2012/13 and 2013/14, subject to a new section 10 agreement being put in place.
3. Approve core funding contributions for 2013/14 for each of the three other organisations, based on the amounts for 2012/13 as set out in 1.3 above.

Reason: To decide on future financial support to external organisations and partnership bodies.

Legal	Power: Local Government Act 2000 Children Act 2004				
	Other considerations:				
Background Papers:					
Person Originating Report: Mike Greenway (Community Partnerships Manager) Tel. 01832 742244 mgreenway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
Date: 25 January 2013					
CFO		MO		CX	



EIA Initial Screening Form – Committee Decision

Financial contributions to external organisations and partnership bodies

Name and Job title/role of person completing Initial Screening	Mike Greenway – Community Partnerships Manager
What is the main purpose of the policy decision under discussion?	<p>The Council has made financial contributions to external organisations and partnership bodies for several years. The council's Policy and Resources Committee is being asked to consider how this council should support these organisations with financial contributions in the future. The organisations and partnership bodies are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwork Northamptonshire • Northamptonshire Sport (NSport) • Northamptonshire Children & Young People's Partnership (NCYPP) • Rockingham Forest Trust (RFT)
List the main activities of the Service or Policy under discussion	<p>The funding supports each organisation or partnership body with core running costs and in some cases particular activities set out in the relevant agreements with the organisation.</p> <p>A decision is required on future funding to these external organisations and partnership bodies, which could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue with the funding as in the current financial year (12/13), • incorporate future reductions in forthcoming year(s) • cease the funding at the end of this financial year.
Who are the main beneficiaries of the Service or Policy under discussion?	<p>Residents, community groups and town and parish councils within East Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Specifically for the Northamptonshire Children & Young People's Partnership – children and their families resident in East Northamptonshire.</p>

<p>How is the success of the Service or Policy under discussion measured?</p>	<p>Through the individual agreements with each organisation or partnership body.</p>
<p>Are equality monitoring systems for the Service or Policy under discussion in place?</p>	<p>No</p>

Using the table below please indicate where the decision is likely to have a positive, negative or neutral impact on any of the groups listed below and provide reasons.

	Groundwork	NSport	NCYPP	RFT
<p>Gender</p>	<p align="center">Neutral impact</p> <p align="center"><i>Services are provided regardless of gender and there is no evidence to suggest that any particular gender would be disproportionately affected by the decision</i></p>			
<p>Sexual Orientation</p>	<p align="center">Neutral impact</p> <p align="center"><i>Services are provided regardless of sexual orientation and there is no evidence to suggest that any particular group would be disproportionately affected by the decision</i></p>			
<p>Race/Ethnicity</p>	<p align="center">Neutral impact</p> <p align="center"><i>Services are provided regardless of race and ethnicity and there is no evidence to suggest that any particular group would be disproportionately affected by the decision</i></p>			
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Neutral impact</p> <p><i>Services are provided regardless of disability and there is no evidence to suggest that any particular individual would be</i></p>	<p>Negative impact</p> <p>Services are provided for all, however an element of the services provided are for Disability Sports.</p>	<p>Neutral impact</p> <p><i>Services are provided regardless of disability and there is no evidence to suggest that any particular individual would be disproportionately affected by the decision</i></p>	

	<i>disproportionately affected by the decision</i>	Reducing or ceasing funding may impact on this area of work.		
Age	<p style="text-align: center;">Neutral impact</p> <p><i>Services are provided regardless of age and there is no evidence to suggest that any particular individual would be disproportionately affected by the decision</i></p>		<p>Negative impact</p> <p>The services provided are specific to children and young people. It is likely that services could continue without a financial contribution by ENC but the funding available overall to NCYPP would be reduced.</p>	<p>Neutral impact</p> <p><i>Services are provided regardless of age and there is no evidence to suggest that any particular individual would be disproportionately affected by the decision</i></p>
Religion/Belief	<p>Neutral impact</p> <p><i>Services are provided regardless of religion and belief and there is no evidence to suggest that any particular group would be disproportionately affected by the decision</i></p>			
Rural Isolation – People who live in rural areas e.g. isolated geographically, lack of internet access	<p>Negative impact</p> <p>Groundwork could potentially provide services to rural communities in the district, particularly those projects emerging from community plans.</p>	<p>Negative impact</p> <p>NSport is in a position to support active recreation in the rural areas of East Northants. Reducing or ceasing funding could impact on this area of work.</p>	<p>Neutral impact</p> <p><i>Services are provided across East Northants. There is no evidence to suggest that people from isolated rural communities will be disproportionately affected by the decision.</i></p>	<p>Neutral impact</p> <p><i>Services are accessible for people across East Northants. There is no evidence to suggest that people from isolated rural communities will be disproportionately affected by the decision.</i></p>

<p>Socio-economic Exclusion – e.g. people who are on benefits, have low educational attainment, single parents, people living in poor quality housing, people who have poor access to services, the unemployed or any combination of these and the other protected strands.</p>	<p>Negative impact</p> <p>Groundwork has in the past supported ENC with Area Based Initiatives taking place in our most deprived communities. Groundwork could provide support in these areas in the future.</p>	<p>Neutral impact</p> <p><i>Services are provided across the whole district and not specifically targeting any of the socio-economic disadvantaged groups</i></p>	<p>Negative impact</p> <p>Although not specific to this area, beneficiaries of the service could be disproportionately from this group. However the services under section 10 are for all groups of children and young people</p>	<p>Neutral impact</p> <p><i>Services are provided across the whole district and not specifically targeting any of the socio-economic disadvantaged groups</i></p>
<p>If you have indicated that there is a negative impact on any group:</p>				
<p>a) Is that impact against legislation?</p>	<p>No</p>			
<p>b) What is the level of impact?</p>	<p>Low</p>			
<p>Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance?</p>	<p>If the decision is made to reduce rather than remove funding this could minimise negative impact where applicable.</p>			
<p>Could you improve a positive impact of the decision?</p>	<p>N/A</p>			
<p>If there is no evidence that the decision promotes equality of opportunity or improved relations, could it be adapted so that it does?</p>	<p>N/A</p>			

If you have indicated that there is a negative impact on any protected group you must complete a Full EIA Assessment

Head of service signature	
Date of initial screening	28 January 2013