



## Policy & Resources Committee – 10 November 2014

### Groundwork Northamptonshire

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**Purpose of report:** To ask Members to consider Groundwork Northamptonshire's progress with supporting community development projects in East Northamptonshire and approve a model for future funding from 1 April 2015.

#### Attachments

None

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#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Policy and Resources Committee approved the funding for Groundwork Northamptonshire (Groundwork) in this current financial year at its meeting on 2 June 2014 (minute 29 refers). This involved splitting the £10K allocation on a 50:50 basis: £5K core (sponsorship) funding and £5K project funding.
- 1.2 Members expressed their support for moving funding away from core (sponsorship) to community projects. It was resolved that a progress report on Groundwork's involvement in community development projects would be presented to this meeting of the committee, along with proposals for future funding.

#### 2.0 Groundwork's involvement in East Northamptonshire

- 2.1 Groundwork has been supporting a project that aims to engage young people in setting up and running a clothing outlet in Raunds. This project emerged from the Raunds Vision and the development of the Community Plan. Young people identified a lack of shops specifically selling clothing and wanted to help get one set up. Groundwork is developing opportunities for young people to run and eventually manage the shop when it opens. This will involve building the skills and the capacity of the young people in running a business; an important part of the sustainability of this project.
- 2.2 The Raunds project is now moving forward with the identification of potential premises and the development of a business plan. Groundwork is working with the Raunds Vision Group and other partners to undertake the cost analysis of creating the shop. This also involves working with relevant bodies to secure funding. Groundwork has been identified as the body who will act as the funding holders as they are a constituted community-based group.
- 2.3 This project is benefiting from Groundwork's experience gained from setting up and running a similar shop project in Rushden as part of the former Area-Based Initiative programme. Groundwork's youth-based operation is playing a key role in engaging young people in the development of this project. The aim is to build the capabilities and skills of young people so they are able to run this project for themselves in the future.
- 2.4 The project funding (£5K) in 2014/15 (para. 1.1 above refers) is being utilised by Groundwork to pump-prime other external funding opportunities. Moving forward it is envisaged that a stronger focus on project funding rather than core funding will help lever in more substantial amounts of match funding.

2.5 Groundwork continues to demonstrate its ability to support town and parish councils with projects. Its recent discussions with Rushden Town Council could present opportunities for supporting things like environmental improvements. Moving forward the project funding stream could help support projects that have mutual benefits for both us and the town and parish council.

### **3.0 Groundwork's arrangements with other Northamptonshire councils**

3.1 As previously reported to committee (minute 29, 2 June 2014), Groundwork has funding arrangements with three other Northamptonshire councils (Corby, Kettering and Northampton) in this current financial year.

3.2 From consultation with these councils, no decisions have been taken by them about funding for Groundwork beyond this current financial year. The exception is Kettering who has a 4-year Service Level Agreement with Groundwork (2013-17) for supporting and developing volunteering in the borough.

3.3 Over the last few years Groundwork approached the other councils in Northamptonshire to undertake similar support work in those areas. Unfortunately it was not successful in securing arrangements for that.

### **4.0 Proposed funding model**

4.1 If Members are minded to continue with funding, consideration could be given to offering a 3-year package, similar to our voluntary sector grants. In line with Members' wishes to move away from core and sponsorship funding and assuming Members wish to retain this at £10K per annum, this could be done on the following basis:-

Financial year	Proposed core funding £	Proposed project funding £
2015/16	3,500	6,500
2016/17	1,500	8,500
2017/18	0	10,000

4.2 It is envisaged that a 3-year funding package would increase Groundwork's capacity to support more community projects in East Northants. As previously reported Groundwork is in a good position to lever-in other funding sources and also 'pool' resources with other organisations in delivering such projects.

4.3 As with all of our other grants, a formal Grant Agreement would be drawn up and signed by us and Groundwork for how the funding will be utilised and the outcomes that Groundwork would need to achieve.

### **5.0 Equality and diversity implications**

5.1 Members are being asked to consider a future funding model for Groundwork. Under the Grant Agreement Groundwork would be required to deliver services and activities in an equitable way, which would be designed to have a positive impact on the lives and futures of East Northamptonshire's communities.

5.2 However if Members were minded to withdraw funding support now or in the future, an Equalities Impact Assessment would be required.

### **6.0 Legal implications**

6.1 The council has no legal duties or obligations to provide funding support to or commission services from Groundwork.

## **7.0 Risk management**

- 7.1 The conditions around how the funding will be utilised, controlled and accounted for and how performance will be measured and monitored including procedures for dealing with default, will be contained in the Grant Agreement as referred to in 5.1 above.
- 7.2 Members are asked to keep in mind that ceasing or reducing funding to Groundwork now and in the future may result in the organisation withdrawing from East Northamptonshire. This could result in negative publicity for us and a reduced resource capacity to support communities with their projects.

## **8.0 Financial and resource implications**

- 8.1 The proposed funding model set out in section 4 above assumes a continuation of the £10K allocation per annum for the next three financial years. If Members are minded to adopt this model, provisions would need to be included in the following three financial years commencing 1 April 2015. As stated earlier in this report a £10K provision exists within the base budget for this current financial year and there have been provisions in all of the previous financial years since Groundwork was established in 2005.
- 8.2 As stated above, the conditions around the control and accountability for the funding would be set out in the Grant Agreement.

## **9.0 Constitutional implications**

- 9.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report. However if Members were ever minded to withdraw funding for Groundwork, consideration would need to be given to withdrawing our nomination for a councillor to serve on the Board of Trustees at Groundwork.

## **10.0 Consultation**

- 10.1 Consultation on these proposals has taken place with Councillor Gill Mercer, who is our nominated member on Groundwork's Board of Trustees and with the Executive Director of Groundwork.

## **11.0 Corporate outcomes**

- 11.1 Groundwork's support and activities with community projects contribute to our corporate outcomes as follows:-

Strong community leadership – Local community groups are supported in achieving their community plan outcomes, which in turn increases the ability to achieve bigger and better things by local people themselves.

## 12.0 Recommendations

### 12.1 Members are recommended to:-

1. Note the progress Groundwork is making with community projects in East Northamptonshire.
2. Approve the funding model based on a 3-year agreement with £10K per annum as set out in section 4 above, the conditions of which will be set out in a formal Grant Agreement.

*(Reason: To ensure this council's funding support to Groundwork is utilised effectively in achieving our corporate outcomes).*

<b>Legal</b>	Power: <b>Localism Act 2011</b>			
	Other considerations:			
<b>Background Papers:</b> None				
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Mike Greenway, Community Partnerships Manager. ☎ 01832 742244, ✉ mgreenway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk				
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<b>CFO</b>		<b>DMO</b> 30.10.2014		<b>CX</b> 30.10.2014 