



Policy and Resources Committee – 7 November 2016

Financial Contributions to External Organisations

Purpose of report

To ask Members to consider and approve proposals for making financial contributions to external organisations that contribute to the achievement of our Corporate Plan outcomes.

Attachment

Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Council has provided financial support to a wide range of organisations over several years. These contributions support the achievement of our Corporate Plan outcomes and support us to discharge our statutory duties in respect of safeguarding children.
- 1.2 All financial contributions are managed by appropriate Service Level Agreements (SLA) or Grant Agreements, which set out the arrangements, conditions and performance to be achieved by each organisation. As reported to Committee in previous years, the operating environments that the organisations work within have seen many changes.

2.0 Current arrangements

- 2.1 The following table sets each organisation's or partnership body's current arrangement, together with the financial amounts applicable in 2016/17.

Organisation/ Partnership	Agreement status	Contribution 2016/17 £
Groundwork Northamptonshire	Grant Agreement in place to 31.3.17 to provide core (sponsorship) funding and project funding stream	1,500 (core) 8,500 (project)
Northamptonshire Sport	SLA in place to 31.3.17	7,500
Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board	Children Act 2004 – statutory requirement for local authority to contribute to SCB arrangements.	1,897

3.0 Groundwork Northamptonshire

- 3.1 Groundwork Northamptonshire (Groundwork) was formed in 2005. We were one of three Northamptonshire districts who supported the application to establish the Trust.
- 3.2 Initially a 6-year SLA was approved by the former Strategy Committee (minute 317 – 20/12/04). The original SLA made provision for Groundwork to support our former Area-Based Initiative (ABI) projects, which took place in our most deprived areas of Rushden and Irthlingborough. The ABI projects came to an end in 2011.

- 3.3 Policy and Resources Committee has considered a number of reports concerning Groundwork's funding since the completion of that initial 6-year SLA. Various short-term funding arrangements have been put in place for Groundwork to support community and youth-based projects and these were administered on a year-by-year basis. At its meeting 10 November 2014, this Committee approved a 3-year funding arrangement (minute 229) based on £10K per year to continue with community projects. In the first year of this arrangement, the core and project funding were split 50:50; however, as we have moved through the three years the core funding has reduced in favour of project funding. This arrangement is now in its final year and consists of £1,500 core and £8,500 project.
- 3.4 Groundwork has been running its award-winning JAM project in Rushden, aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour by young people. It will shortly start up a scheme in Irthlingborough using the project funding element for 2016/17. The JAM project supports young people to change their attitudes and divert them away from committing crime and anti-social behaviour. The East Northants Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has reviewed the impact of the JAM project so far. Demonstrable positive outcomes have been achieved for the young people engaged, as well as a reduction in ASB.
- 3.5 It is proposed to retain the £10K funding over the next few years for Groundwork to continue with JAM projects. These will be targeted to areas where there is evidence of significant ASB and youth-related problems. On the basis of this, it is proposed we have a 3-year SLA of £10K per annum to part-fund two JAM projects per year with the match funding from town or parish councils or through other streams such as Member Empowerment. The SLA would commence 1 April 2017 and terminate 31 March 2020, subject to annual reviews.

4.0 Northamptonshire Sport

- 4.1 Northamptonshire Sport (NSport) is the county-wide sports partnership. Its remit is to develop and promote opportunities for people to participate in sports, physical activities and recreation across the county.
- 4.2 NSport's operational team has been hosted by Northamptonshire County Council in the past, and it has now transferred to the new First for Wellbeing arrangement. District and Borough councils make contributions to its core operating budget and this is matched with monies from Sport England, Public Health (NCC) and other grant income.
- 4.3 Going forward, Members are asked to keep in mind two key factors in relation to NSport. Firstly, we are in the process of procuring a new contract for healthy and active lifestyles. The mobilisation and delivery of this contract will influence any arrangements we require with NSport in the future. Secondly, NSport is in the process of developing its future role under the First for Wellbeing arrangement.
- 4.4 For the reasons set out in 4.3 above, it is proposed that a 1-year SLA be agreed with NSport for 2017/18, with the financial contribution set at £7.5K. This will allow time for options to be drawn up in relation to a long-term arrangement for NSport. The Committee will be asked to consider these options at a future meeting.

5.0 Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB)

- 5.1 We have statutory duties under section 11 of the Children's Act 2004; the payment of £1,897 is our contribution, along with those of other statutory partners, to the NSCB. The work of the NSCB this year has seen a neglect toolkit produced and rolled out across Northamptonshire, as well as work on serious case reviews and unexpected child deaths. We recommend that this contribution is continued in future financial years in line with our statutory responsibilities.

6.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment was carried out, which identified the potential for negative equality and diversity implications to arise, if funding was reduced or withdrawn from NSport. A full Equality Impact Assessment was then carried out. The assessment indicated negative impacts for disabilities and rural isolation groups. The full Equality Impact Assessment is attached to this report (Appendix 1) and should be considered by committee before reaching a decision.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no statutory requirements or duties in respect of our arrangements with Groundwork or NSport.
- 7.2 As a district council we have a statutory duty under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to:-
- (a) Ensure that our functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and
 - (b) Ensure that any services provided by another person or body on our behalf are discharged and or provided having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

8.0 Risk Management

- 8.1 Members are asked to keep in mind that withdrawing or reducing funding to these organisations and partnership bodies could result in services in East Northamptonshire being withdrawn. This could impact on the achievement of our corporate outcomes, particularly around a good quality of life for our local communities. This in turn could give rise to negative publicity and reputational issues.
- 8.2 The organisations and partnership bodies are aware that future funding support is being considered. It needs to be kept in mind that their funding is linked to the employment of people and there may be implications for the organisations concerned if funding is withdrawn or reduced.

9.0 Resource and Financial Implications

- 9.1 Provision exists in the current approved budget for making the financial contributions to each of the organisations and partnership bodies, as set out in the table in 2.1 above, for 2016/17.
- 9.2 The proposed contributions have been included in the budget preparations for 2017/18. Depending on Members' decisions, contributions for future financial years will need to be part of the budget-setting processes for those years.

10.0 Constitutional Implications

- 10.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

11.0 Customer Service Implications

- 11.1 The services provided by Groundwork and NSport are aimed at specific customer groups. Residents in our local communities benefit from Groundwork's JAM projects from reduced anti-social behaviour. It is important that our Customer Services teams have an awareness of the services provided by these organisations so they can signpost residents to the relevant services.
- 11.2 The NSCB has oversight of safeguarding issues across the county. We provide

information on how to report safeguarding concerns on our website.

12.0 Corporate Outcomes

12.1 The work and activities have 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 – safe and healthy: the activities provided by each of the organisations and partnership bodies contribute to a good quality of life in East Northamptonshire, particularly around safer communities and increased participation in active recreation.

Effective partnership working: 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.

13.0 Recommendation

13.1 The Committee is recommended to

1. Consider the Equality Implications relating to this report (see section 6 of the report and Appendix 1).
2. Approve a 3-year SLA for Groundwork Northamptonshire at £10K per annum to support JAM projects as proposed in para 3.5 above.
3. Approve a 1-year SLA for Northamptonshire Sport at £7.5K for 2017/18, as proposed in para 4.4 above.
4. Approve an annual contribution to Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board of £1,897, as proposed in para 5.1 above.

(Reason – to ensure we have effective arrangements with partnership bodies and organisations that support us to achieve our corporate outcomes and / or discharge our statutory duties around safeguarding children)

Legal	Power: Local Government Act 2000				
	Children Act 2004				
Other considerations:					
Background Papers: Northamptonshire Sport – Annual Review 2015 to 2016 (held with Community Partnerships Team)					
Person Originating Report: Mike Greenway (Community Partnerships Manager) ☎ 01832 742244 ✉ mgreenway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
Date: 19 October 2016					
CFO		MO		CX	



Full Equality Impact Assessment

This form should be completed for any existing/proposed policy/function/project where the initial screening form indicates a significant impact on a specific group of individuals. It should be used whether the policy/function/project is aimed at external customers or internal staff, as equality policy applies to staffing/human resources issues as much as to external service delivery issues.

Please answer all questions/complete all sections.

If you conclude that there is a negative impact please consider what can be done to improve the equalities performance and minimise or remove the impact. This should be done using the 'Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan' table.

As a result of carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), you will have checked that your policy/function/project does not have negative/adverse impacts in terms of Gender, Race, Disability, Age, Sexual Orientation, Marriage/Civil Partnership, Pregnancy/Maternity, Religion or Belief (equality target groups) or if it does you will have identified relevant actions needed to minimise or remove such impact and their likely resource implications.

This is not simply a paper exercise – it is designed to make sure that your policy/function/project and service (development) is delivered fairly and effectively to all sections of our local community, and our employees.

Please note that this EIA will be used to support decisions by members and should form part of papers/reports; therefore **your completed questionnaire may become a public document, along with other committee papers.**

The term 'Proposal' will be used throughout the form as a label for what is being assessed – a new policy, new service, new strategy or a change to an existing policy/service/strategy.

1. The Proposal being assessed

Title of proposal being assessed:	Financial contributions to external bodies						
What type of proposal is this an assessment of?	New Policy/Strategy	Policy/Strategy Change	New Service	Change to Service	Service removal	Project	Other
<i>Put a x in the correct box</i>							X
What are the aims and/or objectives of the proposal and the intended outcomes? <i>If assessing the impact of a proposed change please describe the aims of the change, not the original policy/service</i>	Approval of arrangements and financial amounts to external organisations and partnership bodies.						
Who is intended to benefit from this proposal?	Participants and recipients of the services provided by the organisations						
Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the proposed proposal?	Participants and recipients of the services provided by the organisations and ENC						
How is the success of the proposal to be measured?	Through the Service Level Agreements with each organisation and partnership body						
Service Area/Team with responsibility for implementation of this proposal	Customer & Community Services (Community Partnerships)						
Name and job title / role of person completing full Screening:	Mike Greenway – Community Partnerships Manager						
Date of completion:	20 October 2016						

*There is an expectation that information from research and from **consultation** should be used to inform your assessment and your decision making. A variety of data sources can be used, to provide an overview about the effect of proposed measures on groups of protected characteristics. If research and consultation has not already been undertaken and is planned for the future, please note that a re-assessment of the impact will need to be made when completed.*

2. Data, Consultation Feedback and Analysis	
Source of Information <i>e.g. statistics, demographics, indicators, partner data, consultation, surveys, customer complaints, audit recommendations and comments</i>	Reasons for using this source
Service monitoring information from each of the organisations and partnership bodies	Profile of users and recipients of the services

Now complete the table below. It may be necessary to tick more than one impact box per row (e.g. a positive impact in the Age Category for older people, but negative for younger). Ensure the final column clearly explains why you indicated a positive/negative impact, with reference to evidence obtained, as listed in section 2, above.

3. Detailed Impact Assessment by Category				
Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Explanation and Evidence
Gender:				
Consider Women/Girls, Men/Boys, Transgender individuals.			X	
Sexual Orientation:				
Consider, for instance: Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals Any other sexual orientation			X	
Race/Ethnicity:				
Consider, for instance: • White British people, • White non-British people • Asian or Asian British people • Black or Black British people • Chinese people • People of mixed heritage • Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage) • People from any other ethnic groups • People who do not have English as their first language			X	

Disability:				
Physical impairment, e.g. mobility issues which mean using a wheelchair or crutches.		X		<p>In the case of Northamptonshire Sport, a reduction or withdrawal of funding could impact negatively on its Disabilities Sports programme.</p> <p>There are only neutral impacts for Groundwork and the NSCB</p>
Sensory impairment, e.g. blind/having a serious visual impairment, deaf/having a serious hearing impairment.		X		
Mental health condition, e.g. depression or schizophrenia		X		
Learning disability/difficulty, e.g. Down's syndrome or dyslexia, or cognitive impairment such as autistic spectrum disorder		X		
Long-standing illness or health condition, e.g. cancer, HIV. Diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy		X		
Other health problems or impairments (<i>please specify if appropriate</i>)		X		
Age:				
Older People (60+)			X	
Children and Young People (see guidance for definition)		X		Groundwork's JAM project is aimed at people aged 11-18. Reducing or withdrawing funding could restrict opportunities for young people in this age group to change their behaviours and be prevented from committing ASB, violence and youth-related crime.

Religion/Belief:				
Consider, for instance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian • Hindu • Muslim • Sikh • Buddhist • any other religion or belief (including holding no belief) 			X	
Other Potentially Affected Groups				
Rural Isolation - People who live in rural areas e.g. isolated geographically, lack of internet access		X		NSport is in a position to support active recreation in the rural areas of East Northants.
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			X	
Any other potentially affected groups (<i>please specify</i>)			X	

Please list below an overall assessment of the impact of this proposal and how negative impacts can be minimise and positive ones maximised.

4. General assessment of impact on any group:	
a) Does the proposal knowingly prevent us in any way from meeting our statutory equality duties under the 2010 Equality Act?	<i>No</i>
b) What is the level of impact?	<i>Low</i>
c) Summarise the likely negative impacts:	
d) Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance?	<i>If the decision is made to reduce rather than remove funding this could minimise impact where applicable</i>
e) Could you improve a positive impact of the Service or Function?	<i>No</i>
f) If there is no evidence that the Service or Function promotes equality of opportunity or improved relations, could it be adapted so that it does?	<i>N/A</i>

Now complete the action planning form, below, which will detail the changes that need to be made to this Service/policy/function to optimise compliance with our Equality Duty.

Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Action identified	Key activity	How will we know this has been achieved? (measures, milestones and dates)	Officer responsible	Quarterly progress update

This completed document should be shared with your line manager and with Corporate Support. When completed, this Full EIA will need to be attached as an Appendix to your Committee Report. The 'Equalities Implications' section of the report will need to refer to the EIA in the Appendix and to ask for the EIA to be taken into consideration when a decision is being made.