

**REPORT TO THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
MEETING OF 29 October 2020**

Status: Discussion
Title: Charities and Voluntary Organisations
Originator: Steve Taylor – Health and Wellbeing Manager
Where from: Scrutiny Workplan
Where to next: Subject to Recommendation(s)

Objective: To examine the outcomes and value for money of core grants awarded to voluntary organisations and charities.

1. Outcome sought from Panel

- 1.1 For the Panel, having heard from Charities and Voluntary Organisations and having had the opportunity to question them, to consider the outcomes and value for money and make any recommendations regarding core grants for 2021/22.

2 Background

- 2.1 Harborough District Council awards core grants to four Charities and Voluntary organisations on an annual basis due to their strategic importance in supporting Council priorities through providing district wide services. These are key infrastructure organisations and due to their size and capacity to deliver ongoing services, they attract significant external funding to the district. They are therefore different to smaller voluntary and community groups that deliver ‘one off’ projects and are better suited to funding through the council’s community grants process. A core grant is also provided to Market Harborough in Bloom funded from Market Harborough Special Expenses.

- 2.2 Grants for 2019/20 and grant budgets for 2020/21 are in the below table.

ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	2019/20 Grant Awards	2020/21 Grant Budget
Leicestershire Citizens Advice Bureau	To deliver free, independent and impartial advice and support to residents in Harborough District	£68,000	£68,000
Voluntary Action South	To develop services and attract funding for projects that meet local need in Harborough,	£14,100	£14,100

Leicestershire (VASL)	specifically around older people, carers and community transport in the north and east of the district.		
Lutterworth Community Transport	To support community transport in the west of the district.	£7,000	£7,000
Home-Start South Leicestershire	To provide help through a range of projects and services to local families with young children living in Harborough District who are experiencing difficulties and disadvantages.	£10,000	£10,000
Market Harborough in Bloom	Developing the town and surrounding areas of Market Harborough, designing, planting and maintaining floral displays.	£7,000	£7,000
TOTAL		£106,100	£106,100

2.3 Annual reports have been provided by each organisation and are included at appendix A-D

2.4 A representative from each organisation will attend the Scrutiny Panel to present reports and answer questions the panel may have.

Attendees

Liz Steiner	Leicestershire Citizens Advice Bureau
Maureen O'Malley	Voluntary Action South Leicestershire
Roger Warmington	Lutterworth Volunteer Centre
Stella Renwick	Homestart South Leicestershire
Barbara Tallis	Market Harborough in Bloom

3 Points for discussion

- What were the key Achievements in 2019/2020?
- Key metrics - volunteer numbers/outcomes/external funding secured
- What has been achieved to date in 2020/2021
- Business plan for 2021/2022- What will a core grant enable you to achieve s
- Any current and future challenges for the organisation
- What have been the effects of COVID-19 on your organisation and how have you managed this

4 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes

4.1 It is a requirement to receive Council funding that Charities and Voluntary Sector organisations can evidence that they consider equality and diversity issues. An equalities impact assessment has been completed for the voluntary sector grants awarded. If any alterations are proposed to the funding arrangements an EIA will

be completed to ensure the implications on any equality issues are taken into account as part of the decision making process.

5 Impact on Communities

5.1 The Voluntary and Charity Sector is recognized as an important part of today's economy and has a key role to play in communities as the 'third sector' between the state and the market. "Through its engagement of volunteers, the services provided, and the support given to individuals, usually the most vulnerable is immense, invaluable and irreplaceable".

6 Legal Issues

6.1 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 gives the local authority the power to give support to organisation(s) which promote the economic, environmental, and social wellbeing of their area, which includes incurring expenditure.

7 Resource Issues

7.1 The Council needs to ensure it is meeting the needs of the local voluntary and community sector within available resources and achieving maximum value for money and as such requires them to report on their expenditure and outcomes achieved.

7.2 Consideration should be made to the implication of withdrawing funding and the wider context of this in relation to delivery of specific intervention within the community

8 Community Safety Implications

8.1 Investment in the voluntary sector helps influence the social impacts and as such will have a positive impact on community safety outcomes.

9 Carbon Management Implications

9.1 None arising from this report

10 Risk Management Implications

10.1 Due diligence is required in the allocation of grants to ensure value form money and delivery of community outcomes.

10.2 Needs of community may have changed due to COVID Implications we need to ensure that we are continuing to fill the gaps

10.3 BC25 should be considered as an ongoing risk to funding allocation moving forwards

11 Consultation

11.1 Consultation has been carried out with the organisations discussed in this report.

12 Background Papers

None

Previous report(s):

Report to Scrutiny- Charities and Voluntary Organisations 6 December 2018
Report to Scrutiny- Charities and Voluntary Organisations 29 September 2016
Report to Scrutiny- Charities and Voluntary Organisations 10 September 2015
Report to Scrutiny- Charities and Voluntary Organisations 11 September 2014

Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: No

Appendices:

Appendix A Report from Citizens Advice

Appendix B Report from Voluntary Action South Leicestershire (VASL)

Appendix C Report from Lutterworth Volunteer Centre

Appendix D Report from Homestart South Leicestershire

Appendix E Report from Market Harborough in Bloom
