



## CABINET REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Partnership Grant Allocation Process – Introduction Of A Three Year Funding Option</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Within Policy:</b>	No
<b>Policy Document:</b>	Yes
<b>Directorate:</b>	Customer and Communities
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Anna King
<b>Ward(s)</b>	Borough Wide

### **1. Purpose**

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- 1.1 To seek the approval of Cabinet to include an option of three year funding, for community and voluntary organisations who apply through the Partnership Grant Process. Previously, this fund has only allowed organisations to apply for one year funding.

### **2. Recommendations**

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- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees (subject to approval each year by Full Council of the relevant budget) that funding for a period of three years may be granted to community and voluntary organisations, through the partnership grant allocation process.
- 2.2 That Cabinet requests that Full Council makes the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution, as advised by the Borough Secretary, to give authority to the Chief Executive to award funding for a period of three years, in accordance with recommendation 2.1 above.
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### **3. Issues and Choices**

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#### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 There is an existing budget for the Partnership Fund of £550k which is administered through a grant application process. This is an open process which is available for all community and voluntary organisations to apply. The process is conducted annually and runs from July-June, the funding is for one year only.
- 3.1.2 The council awards partnership grants to community and voluntary sector organisations because there are some activities, initiatives and projects that that sector, for a range of reasons, is better placed to deliver than the council is. Therefore by awarding partnership grants the council is able to achieve better outcomes and/or increased value for money.
- 3.1.3 A Service Level Agreement between each of the funded organisations and Northampton Borough Council is established and a number of outcomes developed, to which 6 and 12 monthly monitoring is expected.
- 3.1.4 The Council's Partnership Fund is allocated with the support of the Community Enabling Fund Advisory Panel (CEFAP), year on year. The panel is made up of five cross party elected members and three community and voluntary sector representatives, including the Chief Executive of Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire.
- 3.1.5 Each organisation is asked to clearly demonstrate how they would deliver against the corporate priorities of the Council, demonstrate value for money; be committed to working in partnership and identify and evidence clear community demand and need for the services they offer to the public within the Borough of Northampton.
- 3.1.6 Although three year funding option would be subject to Full Council's approval of the relevant budget each year, this longer term option would provide local voluntary and community organisations with greater security and sustainability. It would also create a more efficient grants process for the Council. Three year funding would enable community and voluntary organisations to plan ahead more effectively, which in turn will enable them to better mitigate the impact of the reduction in funding during that period.
- 3.1.7 The option of three year funding would be detailed within the guidance and training that is prepared and delivered as part of the application process for funding.
- 3.1.8 The offer of a grant for just one year would remain. It is recognised and supported by the CEFAP Panel that not all organisations will be eligible and not all projects would be appropriate for three year funding.
- 3.1.9 As well as benefitting the grant recipients, three year funding benefits the council in that the council will get better outcomes arising from the enabling of longer term projects and the opening up of opportunities for accessing other external funding pots.

3.1.10 Grant processing time will also be reduced as three year grant applications will only need to be submitted once every three years rather than annually, although monitoring and review activity will remain unchanged.

### **3.2 Issues**

3.2.1 As previously stated, the funding would be subject to Full Council's approval of the relevant budget each year which would be clearly reflected in the Service Level Agreement's for all of the organisations that are funded.

3.2.2 CEFAP would continue to have oversight of these grants, receive reports, presentations and monitoring information for all organisations that are funded through the Partnership Grant.

3.2.3 To enable grants to be allocated for a period of three years, it will be necessary for the Borough Secretary to take a report to Full council proposing the necessary amendment to the Council's constitution.

### **3.3 Choices (Options)**

3.3.1 To continue to administer the Partnership Grant on an annual basis, with community and voluntary organisations applying to the Partnership Grant year on year.

3.3.2 To introduce the option of three year funding, (subject to funds within budget) for community and voluntary organisations that are applying to the partnership grant.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

4.1.1 If the recommendation of this report is agreed, it will be necessary to amend the Partnership grant policy and process to reflect that, in certain circumstances and with specified caveats, a grant allocation for three years may be made

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

4.2.1 There is no additional expenditure arising from the proposal set out in this report. The Partnership Grant pot is unaffected in that the amount of money that is allocated from it each year is unchanged. This report simply introduces an option that allows for a three year grant period whereas previously grants could only be made for a period of one year.

4.2.2 It is proposed that the three year grant option is paid in three annual payments that coincide with annual grant payments. Three year grants will be subject to the same rigorous monitoring as is applied to annual grants and are entirely subject to Full Council's approval of the relevant budget each year.

### **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report. Any extension to the funding will be supported by a formal amendment to the existing Service Level Agreements.

### **4.4 Equality and Health**

4.4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on the Partnership Grant process in April 2016. 42 applications were received through the partnership grant process for 2016/17. In total 29 organisations were funded through the partnership grant and 8 through the small grants, most of which include the delivery of specific services around the protected characteristics.

4.4.2 An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of the process, each year.

### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 CEFAP have been consulted and are in support of the recommendation.

### **4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

4.6.1 Every project/proposal is asked how it will deliver against the corporate objectives of the council including the following:

4.6.1.1 Northampton on Track – Successful and vibrant Town, increased job opportunities

4.6.1.2 Making Every £ Go Further – Shared services, delivery of value for money services, resources targeted in areas most in need

4.6.1.3 Better Homes For The Future – People provided with timely advice and information to enable them to make informed choices, local housing needs provided, vulnerable people supported

4.6.1.4 Creating Empowered Communities – Empowered local communities with a greater capacity to become involved in community life, promote integration and cohesion

4.6.1.5 Promoting Health and Wellbeing – improved public health, widen participation in leisure activities across all sections of the community

4.6.1.6 Responding To Your Needs – Appropriate support provided to those most need, services are fair, accessible and responsive to individual needs, residents and customers feel informed and engaged in service quality and design

## **5. Background Papers**

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**Director of Customer and Communities**