

**Decision Session - Executive Member for
Economic Development and Community
Engagement**

6 March 2018

Report of the Assistant Director, Communities & Equalities

Service Level Agreements with York CVS and York City of Human Rights

Summary

1. This report is brought to the Executive Member to seek approval for a three year funding agreement to 31 March 2021 with York CVS and a one year agreement to 31 March 2019 with York City of Human Rights.

Background

2. The Council supports York CVS as the key infrastructure organisation in the city supporting and representing the voice of York's voluntary sector. We have previously negotiated three year partnership funding agreements with CVS; the current agreement comes to an end this month. This report proposes renewed funding support for 2018–2021.
3. The York City of Human Rights proposal is a new one and aims to establish a "Community Voices" initiative in the city. The York City of Human Rights initiative itself reached a significant milestone on 24 April last year when the Lord Mayor, as first citizen of York, signed the declaration of York as a city of human rights, the first in the UK. The aim of York City of Human Rights is to be a catalyst for York people, organisations and business to champion a vibrant, diverse, fair and safe city. The Community Voices proposal will enhance the impact of York City of Human Rights through developing new ways to hear and respond to the voices of York's diverse communities of identity.

Proposed Service Level Agreements

4. **CVS:** The funding proposed is £48k p.a. (a standstill level compared to the previous period). The proposed service level agreement is attached at Annex 1.
5. The service level proposes a focus on three core objectives:
 - Supporting the voluntary sector
 - Ensuring the sector has a voice, and
 - Helping the council and the sector to develop resilient communities
6. **York City of Human Rights:** The funding proposed is £10k p.a. The proposed service level agreement is attached at Annex 2.
7. The proposal responds to the agreement of the former Fairness and Equalities Board and Equalities Advisory Group that new arrangements are needed to hear the voice of York's communities. Initial discussions suggested that the new arrangements should:
 - Recognise that the communities of York are changing and growing. We want to embrace this diversity and bring together people who perhaps wouldn't otherwise come together due to their cultural beliefs, religion, disability, vulnerability, need or experience, creating an opportunity for them to be heard both individually and collectively and to influence policy making.
 - Work with our partner organisations / forums so we can collectively engage the people we all support to bring them together to get to know one another, learn more about their experiences, and stimulate ideas.
 - Allow our communities to set their own agenda rather than telling them what to talk about.
 - Bring a focus on the important topics and create opportunities to inform, engage and consult with partners, city leaders and a wider forum of people on one or more topics.
 - Create a supportive and positive environment, helping grow ideas into something real and enabling people to use their voice.
 - Enable 'Community Voice Volunteers' to contribute to and influence the work of York's various strategic decision-making boards and to reflect back the views of Communities of Interest groups on topics of importance.

- Work within a Human Rights framework reflecting York City of Human Rights declaration.
 - Feed back to and hold to account the Council and other statutory organisations in the city.
8. The service level agreement reflects these ambitions, recognising that a development process will be required in order to get to this position.
 9. As the York City of Human Rights Steering Group is not a legally constituted body the accountable body that will hold and administer the funding on behalf of the Steering Group will be York CVS.

Options

10. It is open to the Executive Member not to offer the proposed funding or to offer a different level of funding.

Analysis

11. Funding is recommended in order to secure the objectives set out in the service level agreements.

Council Plan

12. The actions set out in the report contribute to the corporate priorities set out in the Council Plan 2015-19 by helping to ensure that:
 - All York's residents live and thrive in a city which allows them to contribute fully to their communities and neighbourhoods
 - Residents feel that their views have been listened to

Implications

13. **Financial** - The funding proposed for CVS is at a standstill level for which existing budget provision exists within the grants budget.
14. The funding proposed for York City of Human Rights will be drawn from within the existing budget of the Council's Communities and Equalities Function. A £10k provision was set aside in order to make appropriate alternative arrangements for engaging with York's communities of identities when the staffing establishment was reduced in order to make a budget saving in 17/18 and 18/19.
15. **Equalities** – this funding enables support to the most vulnerable sections of the community.

16. There are no Legal, Property, Human Resources, Crime and Disorder, or Information Technology implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

17. The level of risk associated with this proposal is “Acceptable”.

Recommendation

18. The Executive Member is asked to approve the funding set out in paragraphs 4 and following and the associated service level agreements set out in the annexes.

Reason: To further the objective of ensuring that all York’s residents live and thrive in a city which allows them to contribute fully to their communities and neighbourhoods.

Contact Details

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	Report Approved	✓	Date 22/2/18
Specialist Implications Officer(s): N/A			
Wards Affected:		All	✓
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Background Papers

None

Annexes

1. Service Level Agreement with CVS
2. Service Level Agreement for Community Voices