

**Decision Session - Cabinet Member for
Health and Community Engagement**

9 March 2015

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

Service Level Agreements with Infrastructure Organisations

Summary

1. This report is brought to the Cabinet Member to seek approval for three year funding agreements to 31st March 2018 with York Centre for Voluntary Services (CVS), York Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and the Welfare Benefits Unit (WBU).

Background

2. In accordance with the York Compact we have previously negotiated three year partnership funding agreements with our infrastructure organisations in York. CVS, CAB and the WBU have been recipients of a previous agreement which finished this month. This report proposes renewed funding support for 2015–2018.

Funding offer

3. The funding agreements proposed are:
 - CVS - £48,000 p.a.
 - CAB - £122,500 p.a.
 - WBU - £22,700 p.a.
4. The proposed service level agreements are attached at Annexes 1 to 3.

Options

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

Analysis

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

Council Plan

7. The actions set out in the report contribute to the corporate priorities set out in the Council Plan 2011-15 of Building Stronger Communities by:
 - Encouraging and enabling vulnerable and disadvantaged residents to engage with the wider community through positive and affirmative opportunities
 - Supporting the voluntary sector; providing volunteering opportunities and the chance to gain new skills.

Implications

8. **Financial** - Budget Council in February 2014 agreed a £200k saving in funding to voluntary organisations from 2015/16. Accordingly a small reduction has been made in the funding offered to the three organisations to contribute to this saving. In compliance with the York Compact best practice guidance, notice of this reduction was given to the organisations in November, 2014.
9. **Equalities** – this funding enables support to the most vulnerable sections of the community.
10. There are no Financial, Legal, Property, Human Resources, Crime and Disorder, or Information Technology implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

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

Recommendation

12. The Cabinet Member is asked to approve the three funding agreements set out in paragraph 3 and the associated service level agreements set out in the annexes.

Reason: To further the objective of Building Stronger Communities.

Annexes

- 1 – Service Level Agreement: Centre for Voluntary Services
- 2 – Service Level Agreement: Citizens Advice Bureau
- 3 – Service Level Agreement: Welfare Benefits Unit

Contact Details

Authors:	Chief Officer Responsible for the report:		
Mary Bailey Head of Neighbourhoods & Equalities	Sally Burns Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods		
Charlie Croft Assistant Director, Communities, Culture & Public Realm	Report Approved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date 25.2.15
Specialist Implications Officer(s): N/A			
Wards Affected:		All	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Background Papers:

None

Abbreviations used in report and annexes:

CAB- Citizens Advice Bureau

CVS- Centre for Voluntary Services

DRR- Discretionary Rate Relief

LSDO- Local Support and Development Organisation

VCSE- Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise

VCO- Voluntary and Community Organisations

WBU- Welfare Benefits Unit