
**Meeting of Executive Member for
Neighbourhood Services and Advisory Panel**

21st March 2007

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

**Service Level Agreements with Community Centre Management
Committees 2007/8**

Summary

1. This report seeks approval for the provision of grants linked to Service Level Agreements (SLAs) awarded to four Community Centre Management Committees in York. It relates to centres owned by CYC but managed on a daily basis by voluntary management committees. The report covers the financial year 2007/8.
2. The Executive Member is recommended to approve the level of grant funding to the community centres as detailed at Annex One.

Background

3. Service Level Agreements (SLA's) with associated grant are one form of funding offered by the Council to York's voluntary sector. The grant is used to purchase a specific activity or programme from an organisation, in this instance the voluntary management of Council-owned community centres.
4. Organisations that are given an SLA are required to complete yearly monitoring forms at the end of March each year. The organisations use the monitoring forms to describe how the funded programme was carried out and the outcomes achieved. Monitoring forms are kept on file should Members wish to view them.
5. The grants awarded concern four voluntary organizations which the Council has been working in partnership with and has funded for a number of years. They are providing day to day management for community centres, according to mutually agreed standards that have been actively developed through discussion with the Council over time.

Delegated powers

6. The scheme of delegation in respect of service level agreements with voluntary organisations can be found in Part 3 of the Council Constitution and in summary is as follows:

- delegated authority for Chief Officers to approve grants up to £5k
- delegated authority for the Executive Member to approve grants of more than £5k and up to £50k
- grants of more than £50k to be approved by the Executive

Consultation

7. SLA's have been developed over a number of years following extensive consultation with each Community Centre Committee concerned. Officers consult with CYC Legal Services before they sign a final copy of each SLA.

Options

8. Option 1 :To award grants to each Committee as recommended in paragraph 1 above and Annex One
9. Option 2: Discontinue grants to all committees with effect from 1.4.2007

Analysis

10. Option 1 is recommended for financial year 2007/8. The grant represents CYC support to each management committee for undertaking day-to-day management of the centres and associated costs. The centres concerned are Bell Farm Social Hall, Foxwood Community Centre, Tang Hall Community Centre, and Poppleton Community Centre. To run the centres, the management committees rely on income from rent and room hire charges, fundraising events, donations, and external grants. Rent and room hire charges have to be competitive but also within reach of users in each locality.

All centres (excepting Poppleton) are in areas which, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), fall within the top 20% most deprived areas in the country. Therefore, CYC grant awarded to committees in Bell Farm, Foxwood, and Tang Hall allows these committees to levy affordable charges, and helps each committee keep essential services at the centres including caretaking for the centres to remain open during hours that local people need to use them.

Regarding Poppleton Community Centre, on 21 March 2006 whilst considering Double Taxation matters the Executive resolved to "*phase out support and funding to Poppleton Community Centre and notify the management committee of a five year period during which this will occur*". The Advisory Panel should therefore note that in future years the grant to Poppleton Community Centre is expected to decrease by the yearly sum of £2,000 as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| ○ 2008/9 | £3,180 |
| ○ 2009/10 | £1,180 |
| ○ 2010/11 | £ Nil |

11. Option 2 is not recommended for financial year 2007/8. Bell Farm, Tang Hall and Foxwood management committees will need the grant to be able to

sustain their 2007/8 operation at current levels. The 2007/8 grant is the same as that awarded in 2006/7, with the exception of Poppleton Community Centre. Work is being undertaken with each Committee to develop long-term business plans so that their reliance on CYC grants is reduced over time.

In the case of Poppleton Community Centre, there is agreement in place for the grant to be tapered as outlined in paragraph 10 above.

Corporate Priorities

12. The development of SLAs with grants to support independent Community Centre Committees of local volunteers, contributes to Council Priorities as outlined in the Corporate Strategy 2006/2009, and in particular to the two priorities below:

- Improve focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services
- Improve the way the council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York

This is because, local volunteers who then plan and deliver services located at each centre with direct input from local people and local users, undertake the day-to-day management of community centres.

Implications

13. A number of implications are as follows:

- **Financial** – There are no financial implications other than those described above, which will be met within existing budgets.
- **Human Resources (HR)** – None
- **Equalities** – The SLA specifies that Community Centre Committees must observe current Equal Opportunities legislation and relevant CYC policies when they plan and deliver services in the Centres.
- **Legal** – SLAs are legally binding documents which will be examined and approved by CYC Legal Services before finalised.
- **Crime and Disorder** – No implications.
- **Information Technology (IT)** – None.
- **Property** – None.
- **Other** – None.

Risk Management

14. There are no known risks.

Recommendations

15. That the Advisory Panel advises the Executive Member to approve grants to the organisations concerned for financial year 2007/8 as outlined in Annex One.

Reason: Community Centre Management remains in the hands of local people who have the knowledge and motivation and are enabled to manage local community assets.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Dated** 28 February 2007

Wards Affected:

Westfield, Heworth, Rural West

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Service Level Agreements

Annexes

Annex One - Level of Grant Funding for Community Centres