

Report

Report to:	Enterprise Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 March 2013
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Voluntary Sector Funding 2013/2014
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ propose funding to voluntary sector agencies in 2013/2014

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that funding totalling £235,583 be allocated to voluntary sector agencies as outlined in Section 4 below.

3. Background

3.1. The Council has historically given significant support to the local community and voluntary sector. This report provides an update on a number of initiatives which the Council has supported in the past and recommends levels of continuing financial support from Community and Enterprise Resources into 2013/2014.

4. Key Voluntary Sector Developments

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire

4.1. Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN) has been fully established as the single voluntary sector support organisation for South Lanarkshire since April 2011. The key functions that are expected of the Interfaces operating at a local authority level across Scotland are:-

- Support to voluntary organisations operating in the area, both local and those national organisations that deliver services at the local level
- Support to and promotion of volunteering
- Support and development of social enterprise
- Connection between the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and the third sector

4.2. In addition to the core tasks identified by Scottish Government and the CPP, VASLAN also plays a key part in the delivery of the Council's successful EU funded employability programme South Lanarkshire Works 4U and is an integral part of the Lanarkshire Social Economy Partnership. VASLAN also helps the CPP develop and manage the voluntary sector Compact and the thematic Voluntary Sector Networks that will improve sector engagement with the CPP. VASLAN will also directly manage 'Infobase', the comprehensive database for the sector.

- 4.3. Community and Enterprise Resources has funding available of £113,583 for Interface development and it is recommended that this be allocated to VASLAN. This funding will ensure the effective delivery of support services to the wider voluntary sector for the next financial year.

Citizens Advice Bureaux

- 4.4. As part of the national Debt Arrangement Scheme, additional funding for the provision of frontline money advice services was allocated to South Lanarkshire Council by the Scottish Government. In addition to supporting the services provided via the Council's Money Advice Service, these resources have been used to provide an annual allocation of £18,000 to each of South Lanarkshire's four Citizens Advice Bureaux. The CABs provide independent money advice services and work in conjunction with the Council in tackling the issues of debt and financial exclusion. This work is of particular importance in the context of the Welfare Reform agenda. It is recommended that £72,000 of funding be continued for 2013/2014, amounting to £18,000 for each CAB.

Community Health Initiatives

- 4.5. The Healthy Valleys Initiative and Healthy'n'Happy Community Development Trust are health improvement and regeneration initiatives supported by South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire. Funding from Community and Enterprise Resources of £50,000 (£25,000 each) is required as match in 2013/2014. Healthy Valleys have been successful in leveraging Big Lottery Funding of £422,547 for three years until June 2015 and Healthy'n'Happy CDT has received £197,000 from Scottish Government to develop its social enterprise and community development approach until March 2015.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications for the Council.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The £235,583 recommended funding for 2013/2014 can be met from existing Community and Enterprise Resources budgets in 2013/2014. This funding will lever over £1.4 million of Partner and external funding to the sector.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. Any potential risk associated with the allocation of resources to the voluntary sector agencies noted above will be managed through the application of formal Grant Agreements which will specify expected outcomes. These will be monitored on a regular basis through the formal grant monitoring process established by Regeneration Services.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. Consultation has been carried out with Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire, Healthy Living Initiatives and the individual organisations concerned.
- 8.2. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

18 February 2013

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- ◆ Improve services for older people
- ◆ Tackle disadvantage and deprivation
- ◆ Support the local economy
- ◆ Strengthen partnership working, community leadership and engagement

Previous References

- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee, 15 February 2012

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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