

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 February 2012
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Voluntary Sector Funding
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ propose funding to voluntary sector agencies in 2012/2013

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the funding totalling £255,583 to be allocated to voluntary sector agencies as outlined in Section 4 below and listed at Appendix 1 be approved.

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 2012/2013.

4. Key Voluntary Sector Developments

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire

4.1 Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN) has now been established as the single voluntary sector support organisation for South Lanarkshire. The key functions that are expected of these new 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 European funded employability programme South Lanarkshire Works 4U, supporting employability across South Lanarkshire, and is an integral part of the Lanarkshire Social Economy Partnership. VASLAN will also help 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 Following the recent savings exercise, Community and Enterprise Resources has funding available of £133,583 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. It is recommended that £72,000 of funding be continued for 2012/13, amounting to £18,000 for each CAB.

Community Health Initiatives

- 4.5 The Healthy Valleys Initiative and Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Health Initiative are health improvement and regeneration initiatives supported by the Council and NHS Lanarkshire. Funding from Community and Enterprise Resources of £50,000 (£25,000 each) is required as match in 2012/2013. Healthy Valleys have been successful in leveraging Big Lottery Funding of £422,547 for the next three years and CHI are through to the second stage for their Lottery application.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The £255,583 of recommended funding for 2012/2013 can be met from existing Community and Enterprise Resources budgets in 2012/2013. This funding will lever over £1.4 million of partner and external funding to the sector.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The provision of services by each of the voluntary sector agencies identified will be the subject of a grant agreement. The current and future capacity of these voluntary sector agencies to deliver outcomes that contribute to Council and Partnership targets is the subject of ongoing assessment of risk.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. As there is no new policy involved in these proposals, an impact assessment is not required.
- 8.2. Consultation has been carried out with Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire, Healthy Living Initiatives and the individual organisations concerned.

Colin McDowall

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

16 January 2012

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Tackling poverty and deprivation

Previous References

- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee, 30 March 2011

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact: - John McCafferty, Senior Development Adviser

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Appendix 1

Recommended Funding Contributions

Project	Description	Partner/ External Funding Levered for 2012/2013	Community & Enterprise Resources contribution for 2012/2013
Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire	Development and implementation costs of service delivery across South Lanarkshire	£580,000	£133,583
Citizens Advice Bureaux	Money advice services in 4 CABs	£ 81,000	£ 72,000
Community Health Initiatives	Healthy Valleys Initiative	£365,000	£ 25,000
	Cambuslang & Rutherglen Community Health Initiative	£430,000	£ 25,000
	Totals	£1,456,000	£255,583