

# Report

9

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Report to:       | <b>Enterprise Services Committee</b>                           |
| Date of Meeting: | <b>1 March 2016</b>  |
| Report by:       | <b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b> |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Subject: | <b>Voluntary Sector Funding 2016/2017</b> |
|----------|---|

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ propose funding to voluntary sector agencies in 2016/2017

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that funding totalling £155,583 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 2016/2017.
- 3.2. The Council is currently reviewing funding to voluntary organisations and assessing in detail the value that each organisation brings to the communities of South Lanarkshire and the contribution to meeting the Council's core objectives. This may lead to a change in funding in the future. However, until this review is concluded, it is considered appropriate to bring forward funding proposals as set out in Section 4 below.

## 4. Key Voluntary Sector Developments

### 4.1. Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN) has been fully established as the single voluntary sector interface for South Lanarkshire since April 2011. Interfaces operate at a local authority level across Scotland and their functions 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. VASLAN's performance in these 4 key areas is monitored by the Scottish Government and the Council through a formal grant agreement based on an extensive workplan with 100 agreed activity areas with attendant targets. As at 31 December 2015, VASLAN was fully on target for 90% of these targets, 10% were work in progress with an expectation that the targets would be met or be substantially completed. There are currently no targets that will not be completed before the end of March 2016. Scottish Government has commended VASLAN on performance and has encouraged all other Third Sector Interfaces across Scotland to adopt the VASLAN monitoring workplan. VASLAN has also been commended for leading the work on MILO, the national database standard to be used across all Interfaces in Scotland.
  - 4.3. In addition to the core tasks identified by Scottish Government and the CPP, VASLAN plays a key part in the delivery of the Council's successful EU funded employability programme South Lanarkshire Works 4U. VASLAN also helps the CPP develop and manage the voluntary sector Compact and the Locality Voluntary Sector Networks that will improve sector engagement with the CPP. It has also been closely involved in the new Health and Social Care Integration agenda and the Early Years' Collaborative programme linking the Third Sector to these strategic developments. In addition, VASLAN has supported the development of the revised Partnership Improvement Plans (PIPs).
  - 4.4. Community and Enterprise Resources has funding available of £83,583 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.
  - 4.5. **Citizens Advice Bureaux**  
Community and Enterprise Resources has identified funding of £72,000 to support money advice services in each of the four Citizens' Advice Bureaux (CAB) across South Lanarkshire. 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 2016/17, amounting to £18,000 for each CAB.
5. **Employee Implications**
    - 5.1. There are no employee implications for the Council.
  6. **Financial Implications**
    - 6.1. The £155,583 recommended funding for 2016/2017 can be met from existing Community and Enterprise Resources' budgets in 2016/2017. It is estimated that this funding will lever over £1.1 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 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 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.

**Michael McGlynn**  
**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

11 February 2016

**Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values**

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

**Previous References**

- ◆ Enterprise Services Committee 17 February 2015

**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

Ext: 4649 (Tel: 01698 454649)

E-mail: [john.mccafferty@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.mccafferty@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)