

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



**VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**REPORT ON WEST LOTHIAN VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUND ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2020/21**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to update the panel on the West Lothian Voluntary Sector Fund 2019/20 following the Council Executive's decision of 29 October 2018 and the decision to roll over the existing finding grant for an additional year to allow for the conclusion on future approaches to funding being agreed.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

1. The panel notes the decision to roll over the funding awarded in 2019/20 for an additional 12 months; and
2. Notes the ongoing work to develop a new approach to be introduced in 2021/22.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. Providing equality of opportunities. Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership.
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	The report does not raise any health or risk assessment issues. No strategic environmental assessment is required.
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None.
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	An agreed method of assuring quality and continuous improvement is an integral constituent of the move to funding voluntary organisations to deliver agreed outcomes, and increase performance against agreed indicators.
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.
<b>VI Resources - (Financial,</b>	£944,000 for WLVSF

## **Staffing and Property)**

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b> | The Voluntary Organisations PDSP is updated on a regular basis. |
| <b>VIII Other consultations</b>  | Third Sector  |

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D1 Background**

Following its budget setting in February 2018 and the Council Executive agreed at its meeting of 29 October 2018 that funding available for groups/organisations currently funded from the budget on a recurring basis would be set at £944,000 for 2019/20. This was delivered through a grant application approach ring fenced to 31 organisations listed Appendix 1 of the Council Executive report.

The original intention was that this one year grant would be replaced in 2020/21 with a new process and arrangements following discussion with the third sector and the outcome of a pilot community choices programme. As these discussions were at an early stage and linked in part to a Community Choices pilot to be carried out the PDSP were informed at its meeting held on 19 December 2019 of the Head of Service decision to role the grants awarded in 2019/20 over for a further 12 months to cover the financial year 2020/21. This would allow time to finalise the new approach for implementation in 2021/22.

### **D2 West Lothian Voluntary Sector Fund Arrangements 2020/21**

The Working Group established to look at the process has met regularly over recent months and has started to formulate what the key principles of any new scheme should be, incorporating the input from the third sector. This work is progressing well and a full report will be brought to the PDSP in May 2020 setting out the approach and timescales for the new funding process. This will allow third sector organisations to see at an early stage what the process will look like and plan accordingly.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

Members are asked to note that progress is being made to agree a new funding process for 2021/22 and that details will be brought to the PDSP in May.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

West Lothian Council Executive, 29 October 2018  
<http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=40192>  
Voluntary Organisations PDSP, 21 March 2019  
<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=41887>

Appendices/Attachments: none

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