

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

**SUPPORT FOR THIRD SECTOR CORE COSTS**

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

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council Executive's agreement on the approach to disbursing the additional £285,000 which is available as part of the Scottish Government's Covid-19 Level-4 support.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council Executive:

1. notes the agreement by Council Executive on 9 February to allocate £285,000 to support the core costs of third sector organisations already funded by the council; and
2. agrees that the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration be delegated to disburse funding, following consultation and engagement with the Third Sector Working Group.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	Appropriate assessments of projects will be carried out as required.
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	The report does not have any implications for the Scheme of Delegations. The Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration has specific delegations in relation to Third Sector Community Support Fund and the Modernisation and Improvement Fund but as this is a new fund neither of these delegations apply. The report details a specific delegation to the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration in relation to this fund.

<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None
<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	CPP's are now required to prepare a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) in place of Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). The proposal does not raise any matters of conflict with the SOA/LOIP
<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	The report sets out a proposal for disbursing £285,000 one off funding which is available this financial year.
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	The matter will be discussed at the Voluntary Organisations PDSP on 18 February. Any comments from the PDSP will be reported verbally to Council Executive.
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Other consultations</b>	Third Sector Working Group, Finance, Social Policy, the Governance Manager

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D.1 Background**

On 9 February 2021 Council Executive agreed the allocation of an additional £285,000 of support for the Third Sector in West Lothian. The funding is part of a larger funding agreement from the Scottish Government aimed at providing additional welfare and social support following the placing of West Lothian in Tier 4 of the Covid-19 hierarchy.

Council Executive took the decision to direct the funding towards supporting the core operating costs of Third Sector partners, recognising the on-going commitment of the Third Sector in supporting communities through the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

### **D.2 Disbursing the Available Funding**

Council Executive agreed that the support should be available to third sector organisations which are funded by the Council. These organisations will be invited to ask for a share of their core funds to be met where this is not already covered by existing or already secured funding.

Core funding can be defined differently by different people but is ordinarily seen as those recurring staff and revenue costs project funders can be reluctant to support. However, to reach a workable definition for the purposes of allocating of this funding, agreement will need to be reached in discussion with the Third Sector Working Group.

It is likely that the extent of core funding requested or identified will exceed the funding available and, as a result, core costs are unlikely to met in full. Officers will, in discussion with the Third Sector Working Group, identify and agree a mechanism to allocate fairly within the available budget.

In line with the approach agreed for disbursing the Third Sector Community Support Fund and the Third Sector Modernisation and Improvement Fund it is proposed that disbursement is delegated to the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration. In discharging that delegation, the head of service will liaise with the Third Sector Working Group as per the established process for the Modernisation and Improvement Fund.

**E. CONCLUSION**

Additional financial support for the core costs of Third Sector organisations has been agreed. This report sets out a proposed means of disbursing the additional funding.

**F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Council Executive 9 February 2021: General Fund Revenue Budget - 9 Month Monitoring Report

Appendices/Attachments: None

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