

APPENDIX 2

FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS CABINET WORKING GROUP

HELD: 26 SEPTEMBER 2014

Start: 9.30am

Finish: 10.30am

PRESENT: Councillor Ashcroft (Chairman)

Councillors: Westley
Mrs C Evans

Officers: Transformation Manager (Mr S Walsh)
Treasury Management and Service Accountant (Mr J Smith)
Principal Member Services Officer (Mrs S Griffiths)

In attendance: Mr P Walker (West Lancashire Dial A Ride Association)
Mr M Astley (Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor S Bailey.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP

There were no changes to membership of the Working Group.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Westley declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 (Annual Monitoring of revenue grants to voluntary organisations and application for funding from 2015 onwards from the Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau) in view of his membership of Lancashire County Council.

4. MINUTES

In relation to minute no. 14 (Equality & Diversity) the Transformation Manager provided a progress report and indicated that a further report would be submitted to the Working Group during the first quarter of 2015.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the last meeting of the Working Group held on 16 December 2013 be approved as a correct record.

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5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members were reminded of the Terms of Reference of the Working Group.

RESOLVED That the Terms of Reference of the Funding of Voluntary and Other Organisations Cabinet Working Group be noted.

6. ANNUAL MONITORING OF REVENUE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM 2015 ONWARDS FROM THE LANCASHIRE WEST CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Consideration was given to the report of the Transformation Manager on the approach for monitoring/evaluation of the services provided by the voluntary organisations in receipt of revenue funding by way of a Service Level Agreement. Philip Walker Manager of the West Lancashire Dial A Ride Association was invited to attend the meeting to provide an update on the service.

The Working Group considered an application for revenue funding from 2015 onwards received from the Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau. It was noted that the application sought an uplift of funding of £1,575 (3.2%). Matt Astley Project Co-ordinator ASTF Fund & Project Leader of the Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau was invited to attend the meeting and was given an opportunity to make a presentation to the Working Group in support of his application.

West Lancashire Dial A Ride Association

Philip Walker provided a brief background of the service referring to the number of years of operation, accreditation award, number of vehicles, paid staff, volunteers, fares and funding arrangements.

He went on to report on the business plan for 2014-2017 and in particular to how recent significant changes to the Lancashire County Council's Community Transport Policy had resulted in a 6 month extension of their Lancashire County Council contract pending the outcome of the redefined policy.

He reported that in view of this change West Lancashire Dial A Ride intended to continue to work to local elements of the business plan and also with its partners to secure a new contract once the requirements of the Lancashire County Council redefined policy became clearer.

He indicated that the service had been operating a demand based pilot community car scheme and that the West Lancashire CVS were assisting with the provision of volunteers for the scheme.

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Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau

Matt Astley reported that there had been a significant increase year on year in client enquiries from 1396 in 2012-13 to 5432 in 2013-14 with debt advice being the highest category of advice followed by welfare benefits.

He advised that the service had increased its days of operation from 3 to five days due to demand and that funding had been secured for specialist debt advice for three years commencing October 2014.

He referred to the Bureau's role as lead partner in the Advice Service Transition Fund Partnership through which community information facilities/services at community venues throughout the Borough had been established together with an Advice Network. In concluding his presentation he outlined the benefits of being part of the Chorley, Wyre and South Ribble CAB in terms of shared management costs, telephone gateway, and the adviceline.

The Chairman thanked Philip Walker and Matt Astley for their attendance.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the monitoring/evaluation of the Service Level Agreements be undertaken by way of written representations.
 - B. That following receipt of written representations the Working Group consider whether to invite an Organisation to make a presentation to a future meeting of the Working Group.
 - C. That the monitoring/evaluation report on behalf of the West Lancashire Dial A Ride Association be noted and the payment of the 2nd tranche of grant for 2014/2015 be approved.
 - D. That the application for further funding from 2015 onwards on behalf of the Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau be noted and that any future grant to be subject to a one year Grant Agreement.