



**AGENDA ITEM: 5(b)**

**CABINET: 12 JANUARY 2016**

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**Report of: Transformation Manager**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (Transformation)**

**Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Y Gagen**

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**SUBJECT: FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY & OTHER ORGANISATIONS WORKING GROUP**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise of the recommendations of the Funding of Voluntary and Other Organisations Cabinet Working Group meetings of 10 August and 15 December 2015 in respect of the applications for one year revenue funding from April 2016.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the recommendations of the Funding of Voluntary and Other Organisations Cabinet Working Group at its meeting on 15 December 2015 as detailed in the minutes of the meeting attached at Appendix 3 be agreed.

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**3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The current grant agreements/service level agreements with the voluntary organisations currently funded by the Council expire on 31 March 2016.
- 3.2 The Working Group met on 10 August 2015 to consider options for a new approach to revenue funding to voluntary organisations from 1 April 2016 onwards.
- 3.3 The Working Group resolved to advertise the availability of the funding in line with good practice and to further demonstrate compliance with the Equality &

Diversity agenda. Accordingly, a notice was posted on the Council's website and in the local press. Subsequently a scoring mechanism was agreed by the Working Group to formulate a priority list of applicants.

#### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 14 applications for revenue funding were received. The Working Group met on 15 December 2015 to assess and score the applications in accordance with the agreed process and subsequently to and make recommendations as to the funding to be awarded.
- 4.2 The minutes of the meetings containing the recommendations to Cabinet, are attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The total grants recommended by the Working Group to be made in 2016-2017 exceed the current budget by £4,663 and the Working Group have therefore recommended a growth bid for this amount or an alternative distribution of funding.

#### **6.0 COMMENTS OF THE TRANSFORMATION MANAGER**

- 6.1 The Working Group assessed how the applicants met the eligibility criteria for funding. Each organisation was further requested to provide other information for assessment including the organisation's financial statements and business plan and health & safety policy.
- 6.2 Applicants will be advised of the Working Group's recommendations and that funding is not guaranteed but will form part of considerations when the Council's budget is agreed on 24 February 2016.
- 6.3 If the growth bid is not subsequently approved by Members, the Working Group has recommended reducing the amount of grant to the top three applications on the priority list in order to fund the remaining organisations listed in minute 9(A)(i).

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#### **Background Documents**

The following background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing this Report.

#### **Applications**

Age UK  
Bereavement Counselling Services  
Communities in Action NW

Council for Voluntary Service W.L.  
Disability Advice West Lancashire  
Dial A Ride Association W.L.  
Forward Motion Art (CIC)  
Homestart – Central Lancashire  
Lancashire Community Finance  
Lancashire West CAB  
Learning Stars  
Relate - Lancashire  
Timesavers  
West Lancs. Ark

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

There is a significant direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report.

### **Appendices**

1. Equality Impact Assessment
2. Minutes of the Funding of Voluntary & Other Organisations Working Group held on 10 August 2015
3. Minutes of the Funding of Voluntary & Other Organisations Working Group held on 15 December 2015