

Report to: **Hub Committee**
Date: **10 September 2019**
Title: **Partnership Funding**
Portfolio Area: **Communities – Cllr Terry Pearce**
Wellbeing – Cllr Tony Leech
Wards Affected: **All**
Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**
Date next steps can be taken: **After call in period 18 September 2019**

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RECOMMENDATION: that the Hub Committee
1. adopts a commissioning model to award partnership funding from 2020-23, based on one or all of the following:

- i. local need**
- ii. alignment to the Council’s Corporate Strategy**
- iii. statutory duty**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Historically the Council has awarded grants to local organisations otherwise known as “Partnership Funding”.
- 1.2 Whilst the Council has the power to make grants it is felt prudent that in these straightened times the Council adopts a commissioning model. Thus allowing the Council to clearly articulate the services it requires and draw up legally binding agreements to make sure services are delivered efficiently and effectively.
- 1.3 It is proposed that partners are asked by mid-September to outline their current service offering and explain how they spend the Council funds they receive. Feedback from partners would then be presented to Hub Committee on 5 November 2019 and Hub Committee Members could decide whether partner’s services are still required and if so enter into a formal three year service level agreement with each partner.

2. Background

- 2.1 The awarding of partnership funding has been hotly debated by Members in recent years. Unfortunately there has been no overall consensus on how to award funds despite the formation of numerous Member Task and Finish Groups and review at Overview and Scrutiny and full Council.
- 2.2 In a bid to support grass roots initiatives the Council within the last 2 years has increased the number of ways in which local communities and organisations can obtain grant funding, namely through the creation of the SeaMoor Lotto, Crowdfunding and a Member Locality Fund.
- 2.3 The Hub committee has the power to award partnership funding provided there is budget to do so.
- 2.4 All partnership funding to date has been discretionary and has been awarded to partners in good faith, with no service standards attached.
- 2.5 A key corporate theme for the Council is to “deliver efficient and effective services” it is therefore imperative that the Council ensures value for money and delivers services in line with local need and its statutory obligations as a local authority.
- 2.6 Members have recently conducted a consultation with local communities on what matters most to them under each of the Council’s six corporate themes. Thus providing a data source to identify local need.
- 2.7 The current budget for discretionary partnership funding is £58,339 there are no plans to increase this over the coming years. If Members were minded to increase the budget it would have to be agreed by full Council as a cost pressure and funding identified by the Council’s S151 Officer to bridge the gap.
- 2.8 A breakdown of current partnership funding can be found in the table below:

Partnership	2019/20 £
Citizens Advice	32,900
CVS	5,100
SW Rotary Youth Games	2,000
Junior Life Skills	1,440
OCRA	1,333
Okehampton Community Transport	6,533
Tavistock Ring & Ride	6,533
Young Devon	2,500
Total	58,339

- 2.9 At Hub Committee on 17 July 2018 the Deputy Leader presented a report which stated “there is a distinction to be made between discretionary grant funding to organisations and funding to ‘key’

constituted partnerships where the Council has seats on the Board and/or is included in the governance arrangements. As a consequence, those partnerships identified as being 'key' and/or statutory should not receive any funding reductions up to 2023/24". Detailed in the table below is a list of 'key' constituted partnerships:

Key Partnership	£
Heart of the South West LEP	5,000
Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum	4,500
Tamar Valley AONB	8,835
World Heritage Site	4,000
Total	22,335

2.10 There is no current budget provision over and above the £22,335 detailed above. Should Members wish to award additional funding to key partnerships, it would need to be agreed by full Council as a cost pressure and funding identified by the Council's S151 Officer to bridge the gap.

3. Outcomes/outputs

3.1 This report seeks to establish a commissioning model to obtain services from all partnership organisations – both discretionary and key. Whereby each partner clearly articulates:

- The services they provide
- How Council funding would be spent
- How their services meets local need
- How their service aligns to the Council's Corporate Strategy
- How their service meets statutory duty
- What other funding they receive and how they spend it

3.2 Information would be sought from each partner in mid-September with feedback returned to the Commissioning Manager within 5 weeks.

3.3 Feedback from partners would be presented in a report to Members at Hub Committee on 5 November 2019. At which time Hub Committee Members would decide which partners they would like to enter into service level agreements with. Any service level agreements entered into would be proportionate i.e. not overly onerous especially where relatively small sums of money are awarded. See Appendix A for draft SLA content.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

4.1 Status Quo - Award partnership grants annually

The risk of this is a lack of medium term financial planning and increased uncertainty for local partnerships.

4.2 Move to a commissioning model

This is considered low risk as it provides certainty of funding for 3 years and ensures delivery of services aligned to: local need, statutory duties and the Council's Corporate Strategy.

4.3 Withdraw partnership funding without notice

This is considered high risk due to reputational harm.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 It is recommended Members follow option 4.2 above and introduce a commissioning model to secure services provided by local partners as detailed in section 3 above.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	Subject to budget the Hub Committee has the power to decide whether it wants to enter into partnerships.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	Y	Hub committee has the power to award partnership funding provided there is budget provision to do so. The current partnership funding budget is £80,674. Should the Hub Committee wish to award more than this figure it would have to seek approval from full Council and monies be identified by the Council's Section 151 Officer to meet the cost pressure that additional spend would cause.
Risk	Y	See section 4 of the report which sets out the risks associated with the awarding of partnership funding. Option 4.2 is recommended as it is considered low risk.
Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	Council Theme – <i>Efficient and effective</i>
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	Y	N/A
Safeguarding	Y	N/A
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	Y	N/A
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Y	N/A
Other implications	N	None

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appendix A – DRAFT Service Level Agreement Content