

Report to: **Executive Committee**
Date: **19 September 2019**
Title: **Partnership Funding**
Portfolio Area: **Communities – Cllr David May**
Wellbeing – Cllr Jonathan Hawkins
Wards Affected: **All**
Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**
Date next steps can be taken: **After call in period 27 September 2019**

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RECOMMENDATION

The Executive 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 the end of 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 Executive Committee on 28 November 2019 and Executive 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 and Crowdfunding, as well as maintaining its popular Sustainable Communities Locality Fund.
- 2.3 The Executive Committee has the power to award partnership funding provided there is budget to do so.
- 2.4 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 The current budget for partnership funding is £96,647 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.
- 2.7 A breakdown of current partnership funding can be found in the table below:

Partnership	2019/20 £
South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	20,700
South Hams Citizens Advice	51,867
South Hams Community Volunteer Service	10,000
Ivybridge Ring & Ride inc. South Brent & Dartington	4,710
Totnes and Dartmouth Ring & Ride	7,370
South West Youth Games – Planet Earth Games	2,000
Total	96,647

- 2.8 It is important to note that whilst there is a £10,000 contribution to the CVS for the current financial year, Council in February 2019 suggested an annual provision of £5,000 for CVS for 2020 onwards as part of the budget setting process.

3. Outcomes/outputs

3.1 This report seeks to establish a commissioning model to obtain services from partnership organisations. 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 by the end of 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 Executive Committee on 28 November 2019. At which time Executive Committee Members would decide which partners they would like to enter into service level agreements with.

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 Executive Committee has the power to decide whether it wants to enter into partnerships.

Financial implications to include reference to value for money	Y	Executive Committee has the power to award partnership funding provided there is budget provision to do so. The current partnership funding budget is £96,647. Should the Executive 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