

CABINET

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tuesday, 19th February, 2013
at 5.00 pm

Contacts

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ADDITIONAL PAPERS

9 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2012/14 TO 2015/16

- Updated Appendix 4

Monday, 11 February 2013

HEAD OF LEGAL , HR AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

**Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2013/14 to 2015/16
Appendix 4**

**Equality and Safety Impact Assessment
&
Feedback to Cabinet – written representations received from applications**

Updates since 31 January 2013 are highlighted in green

Work in progress

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **public sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the council to better understand the potential impact of the budget proposals and consider mitigating action.

This impact assessment is based on information given in the three year funding scheme application forms (particularly questions 2.8 and 2.9). Applicants have been invited to update this impact information having considered their recommendation. Applicants are continuing to provide feedback up to the Cabinet decision on 19 February 2013 and therefore this document is a work in progress.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2013/14 to 2015/16
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	<p>In August 2012, after a year of consultation, the council moved to a new outcome based Commissioned Grants Programme for awarding grants to voluntary organisations. The first grant scheme opened under this Programme was the Three Year Funding Scheme, which offers up to three year funding, where appropriate and subject to budget setting, for voluntary organisations working in the city.</p> <p>It is not possible to give numbers of customers. However, the grant applicants potentially work with a large number of residents across the all wards of the city.</p>
Summary of Impact and Issues	<p>The key concerns raised by applicants are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced support services and access to support services • Reduced support for and access to education, employment and training • Reduced services for schools • Increase in anti-social behaviour, drug related crime and domestic violence and abuse • Reduced support for and access to leisure activities <p>The largest number of negative impacts identified related to Age, in particular children and young people, and Disability.</p> <p>Another significant impact of no funding or reduced funding is it could potentially lead to some organisations having to make redundancies.</p>

Potential Positive Impacts	<p>Awarding grants to voluntary organisations potentially creates a positive impact for residents where organisations not previously been supported by the council.</p> <p>All existing grant recipients were given notice that their previous funding relationship with the council will end on 31 March 2013 and that all future applications will be considered as new. This has effectively re-set all grants. Applications and therefore recommendations have been based on current need rather than previous funding.</p>
Responsible Service Manager	Vanessa Shahani
Date	31 January 2013

Approved by Senior Manager	Suki Sitaram
Signature	
Date	<p>31 January 2013</p> <p>This document will continue to be updated until the Cabinet decision on 19 February 2013.</p>

Age - Children & Young people

Details of negative impact

From the 31 organisations who have identified impacts on children and young people, 15 applicants who have been recommended for less than their requested funding:

- Reduced support services for young people - includes advice, preventing homelessness, making positive life choices, meeting social welfare needs, supporting parents to provide a stable home environment, debt advice. (5 organisations)
- Reduced activities for children and young people – includes youth provision, play opportunities, sport opportunities. (8 organisations)
- Reduced support for education, employment and training for young people – includes training/work placement opportunities for disadvantaged young people (2 organisations)

16 organisations that have not been recommended for funding have identified the following potential negative impacts:

- Reduced services for schools – includes extra curricular sport, other extra curricular activities, transition support for post 16 decisions, museum services. (5 organisations)
- Reduced support services for young people – includes parenting skills, support for families with illness or impairments, support for families facing multiple issues. (4 organisations)
- Reduced activities for young people – includes sport opportunities, music/arts activities (3 organisations)
- Reduced support for education, employment and training for young people – includes volunteering opportunities, music/arts opportunities, language classes, maritime heritage opportunities. (4 organisations)

Possible Solutions

- Exploration of opportunities to continue some universal provision through transfer of properties currently used for delivery of play and youth provision.
- Support delivery, through the third sector of the Youth Contract programme – replacing targeted work with unemployed young people and dedicated annual destination sweep programmes.
- Delivery of Key Stage 4 programme, through schools, to increase the number of young people securing correct level of qualification, at the end of secondary education, to support progression to post 16 education, training or employment and reduce number of unemployed.
- Target setting with school and colleges to target provision at work with young people in 'year 11' and 'year 12' to ensure successful transition into education, training or employment.
- Redesigned, holistic family based, services delivered from seven full core offer children centres targeted at families at risk of not sustaining themselves, reducing the demand on high cost specialist services.
- Consideration of use, by schools, of pupil premium to provide additional support, specific activities including breakfast clubs, afterschool clubs, additional tuition etc, for children and young people from most disadvantaged area.
- Develop of the specification for 'Parent Partnership' activity – to strengthen the work with families. Engaging a broader range of parents with the newly developed Children and Young People Development Service.
- Actively pursue opportunities for parents to take up the opportunities of personalised budget to purchase education, health, social care, transport and other areas.

Next step:

A joint discussion between the relevant Senior Managers or their nominated representatives on the potential impact and any mitigating action

Development of detail regarding the new model of service delivery for children and family centre based services.

Action: Alison Alexander, Felicity Budgen and Stephanie Ramsey

Age - Older people

Details of negative impact

From the 10 organisations who have identified impacts on older people, 6 applicants who have been recommended for less than their requested funding:

- Reduced support for employment and training for older people – includes support for learners aged 60-74. (1 organisation)
- Reduced support services for older people – includes maintaining independence, advice on benefits, debt, housing, finance and utilities. (3 organisations)
- Reduced support for leisure activities (reducing social isolation) – including music and arts. (2 organisations)

4 organisations which have not been recommended for funding have identified the following potential negative impacts on older people:

- Reduced support for employment and training for older people – includes work to improve the employability of older people. (2 organisations)
- Reduced support services for older people – includes maintaining independence, advice on benefits, debt, housing, finance and utilities. (1 organisation)
- Reduced support for leisure activities (reducing social isolation) – including museum services, arts activities, maritime heritage activities. (1 organisation)

Possible Solutions

- Encouraging eligible residents aged over 65 to claim benefits that they are entitled to including the Single Person Discount and benefits that entitle them to receive the local successor to Council Tax Benefit.

Next steps:

A joint discussion between the relevant Senior Managers or their nominated representatives on the potential impact and any mitigating action.

Action: Carol Valentine, Jane Brentor (Lead), Stephanie Ramsey and Andy Lowe.

Disability

Details of impact

From the 26 organisations who have identified impacts on disabled people, 16 applicants who have been recommended for less than their requested funding:

- Reduced support services for disabled people – includes support for people with learning disabilities, advice services, housing, maintaining independence, combating social isolation, accessibility, counselling. (12 organisations)
- Reduced support for employment and training – includes training courses and barriers to employment.(2 organisations)
- Reduced support for leisure activities (reducing social isolation) – including music/arts activities. (2 organisations)

10 organisations which have not been recommended for funding have identified the following potential negative impacts on disabled people:

- Reduced support services for disabled people – includes physical activities, support for carers and families. (4 organisations)
- Reduced support for employment, training and volunteering – includes opportunities to serve as trustees, barriers to employment, improving employability. (3 organisations)
- Reduced support for leisure activities (reducing social isolation) – including museums, music/arts activities, sport opportunities. (3 organisations)

Possible Solutions

- Encourage eligible residents aged over 65 to claim benefits that they are entitled to including the Single Person Discount and benefits that entitle them to receive the local successor to Council Tax Benefit.
- The move towards greater personalisation, providing opportunities for many social care services to be provided in other ways. This may require market development support to grow the market.
- Health and Adult Social Care services will continue to be provided to those who are assessed with a need for services in line with Fair Access to Care Services guidance. Support will be provided to those people receiving Self Directed Support to ensure they can access the services that they require. There is a need to undertake appropriate planning to ensure there are alternative services available.

Next step:

A joint discussion between relevant Senior Managers or their nominated representatives.

Action: Jane Brentor, Carol Valentine, Stephanie Ramsey and Denise Edghill

Race, Religion or Belief

Details of impact

From the 19 organisations who have identified impacts on race, religion or belief, 12 applicants who have been recommended for less than their requested funding:

- Reduced support services for people from BME backgrounds – includes advice/support and counselling. (5 organisations)
- Reduced support for education, employment and training – includes ESOL classes, employability courses, community training, barriers to employment. (5 organisations)
- Reduced support for leisure activities (reducing social isolation) – includes music/arts activities. (2 organisations)

7 organisations which have not been recommended for funding have identified the following potential negative impacts on race, religion or belief:

- Reduced support services for people from BME backgrounds – includes advice/support, routes for agencies to connect to communities. (3 organisations)
- Reduced support for education, employment and training – includes language/heritage classes, volunteering opportunities, employability activities. (3 organisations)
- Reduced support for leisure activities (reducing social isolation) – includes music/arts activities. (1 organisation)

Possible Solutions

Consider action to mitigate the potential effects of the proposals, including:

- Work with BME customers, communities and groups to assess the potential impact on individuals and explore mitigation in light of the council's financial challenges.
- Targeted and appropriate publicity to explain the rationale behind the proposals.

Next Steps:

A joint discussion between the relevant Senior Managers or their nominated representatives on the potential impact and any mitigating action.

Action: Vanessa Shahani and Denise Edghill

Gender

Details of impact

From the 9 organisations that have identified impacts that could affect one sex more than the other, 6 applicants who have been recommended for less than their requested funding:

- Reduced support services for women – includes services having flexible opening hours, advice/support, counselling. (4 organisations)
- Reduced support for education, employment and training – includes ESOL classes, volunteering opportunities. (2 organisations)

3 organisations which have not been recommended for funding have identified the following potential negative impacts that could affect one sex more than the other:

- Reduced support services for women within vulnerable families. (1 organisation)
- Reduced support for education, employment and training – includes language/cultural classes, volunteering opportunities. (2 organisations)

Possible Solutions

- Raise key issues for women, especially later years, at Children and Young People's Trust and Health and Well Being Board. The continued arrangement for an older people's champion will maintain the profile of Older People's needs.

Next step:

A joint discussion between the relevant Senior Managers or their nominated representatives on the potential cumulative impact and mitigating actions.

Action: Carol Valentine, Alison Alexander, Denise Edghill, Stephanie Ramsey and Suki Sitaram

Sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership and Pregnancy & maternity**Details of impact**

From the 5 organisations that have identified impacts that could impact on sexual orientation, gender reassignment and pregnancy and maternity, 4 applicants who have been recommended for less than their requested funding:

- Reduced support for employment and training for people facing multiple barriers. (1 organisation)
- Reduced support services for pregnant woman and new parents – includes advice services and housing. (2 organisations)
- Reduced support services for young LGBT people on a range of issues that for them are potentially life threatening or life diminishing. (1 organisation)

1 organisation which has not been recommended for funding has identified the following potential negative impacts on pregnancy and maternity:

- Reduced support services for new mothers.

Next Steps:

Individual Senior Managers need to consider whether proposals in their service area may have an impact on people with these personal backgrounds

Action: Alison Alexander and Stephanie Ramsey.

Community Safety**Details of impact**

From the 8 organisations that have identified impacts that could impact on community safety, 6 applicants who have been recommended for less than their requested funding:

- Increase in anti-social behaviour, particularly amongst young people. (4 organisations)
- Increase in drug related crime. (1 organisation)
- Increase in domestic violence and abuse and less supporting for people experiencing domestic violence and abuse. (1 organisation)

2 organisations which have not been recommended for funding have identified the following potential negative impacts that could affect community safety:

- Increase in anti-social behaviour, particularly amongst young people.

Possible Solutions

- Prioritising services to support people and locations at greatest risk of crime and harm.
- Targeting and signposting of services where most in need.
- Providing clear and early information and guidance especially around friends, events and groups to encourage the development of the Big Society.
- Continuing and increasing multi-agency and partnership working, particularly in prevention services.
- Policies that ensure the most vulnerable continue to receive the required level of support.

Next steps:

A joint discussion between relevant Senior Managers as well as key partners (Police, Probation and voluntary sector) on the potential impact and mitigating action of budget proposals across the City.

Action: Stephanie Ramsay, Alison Alexander, Suki Sitaram, Denise Edghill and later with key players in the Safe City Partnership

PovertyDetails of impact – 9 organisations

From the 13 organisations that have identified impacts that could impact on poverty, 9 applicants have been recommended for less than their requested funding:

- Reduced access to services for people on low incomes – includes advice/support for NEETS, older people on fixed incomes and unemployed people, housing support. (4 organisations)
- Reduced access to education, employment and training for people on low incomes – includes volunteering opportunities, access to ESOL classes and training courses. (3 organisations)
- Reduced access to leisure activities for people on low incomes – includes discounts for music/arts and sports. (2 organisations)

4 organisations which have not been recommended for funding have identified the following potential negative impacts that could affect poverty:

- Reduced access to services for people on low incomes – includes physical activities targeted in areas of deprivation, advice/support services. (2 organisations)
- Reduced access to education, employment and training for people on low incomes – includes training course opportunities. (2 organisations)

Possible Solutions

Action being considered to mitigate the potential effects of the proposals include:

- Encourage eligible residents aged over 65 to claim benefits that they are entitled to including; the Single Person Discount and benefits that entitle them to receive the local successor to Council Tax Benefit, such as the Pension Credit Guarantee.
- Offering reduced charges for benefit claimants.
- Clearer guidance and signposting to alternative funding, providers and service.
- Developing partnership, multi-agency working and targeted services in priority (IMD 2010) areas.
- Encouraging the development of the Big Society initiatives in communities.
- Developing strategies and plans that prioritise support for the needs of the most vulnerable children, people and families with the most complex needs.

Next step

A joint discussion between relevant Senior Managers and partners (Southampton Connect's priority project being led by Job Centre Plus and voluntary organisations) on the potential impact and mitigating action of budget proposals across the City.

Action: Stephanie Ramsey, Alison Alexander, Suki Sitaram, Denise Edghill, Vanessa Shahani and John Connelly and later with partners and voluntary organisations

Other significant impactsDetails of impact

32 organisations have identified other significant impacts, 20 applicants have been recommended for less than their requested funding:

- Possible staff reductions / reduced staff hours (6 organisations)
- Reduction in the services they provide (5 organisations)
- Decrease in growth / unable to expand to meet demand (4 organisations)
- Reduction in leisure activities (2 organisations)
- Decrease in the amount of funding brought into the city on behalf of clients (1 organisation)
- Possible closure of the organisation (2 organisations)

12 organisations which have not been recommended for funding have identified the following other significant potential negative impacts:

- Possible staff reductions / reduced staff hours (1 organisation)
- Reduction in the services they provide (8 organisations)
- Reduction in leisure activities (1 organisation)
- Possible closure of the organisation (1 organisation)
- Possible closure of the project (1 organisation)

Feedback to Cabinet

Written representations have been received from the following applicants:

Updates since 31 January 2013 are highlighted in green

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Aeronautica at Southampton (Solent Sky)

We have been told that our revenue grant from Southampton City Council towards staff posts is to cease on Officer recommendation. Whilst these are stringent times and we were expecting the grant to be cut but to withdraw it completely is very serious in the circumstances.

We felt very confident of the City's support especially after receiving [congratulations on attaining Accreditation by] email from the Cultural Partnership Officer only a month or so ago, the same Officer who is now recommending the grant to be refused. This is not only inconsistent but quite inexplicable.

Cheque books are being opened up all over the world and people are waiting with bated breath to see if another Spitfire can be found in Burma, indicating the importance of this aircraft worldwide. Yet Southampton City Council are prepared to strike a hammer blow at the very organisation that celebrated this legendary aircraft in the very City where it was conceived, developed and 8000 thousand were built.

Testament to the success of Solent Sky is not only that it has achieved Accreditation and internal acclaim having been open to the public for 40 years in the City, it has achieved no 1 on Trip Advisor for the City and 5th in the County. Outstripping even the major attractions, bring credit and visitors to the City.

It has been said that the Council were over generous in granting the Museum a long lease and providing a “dowry”. Putting the record straight, you should know the Museum operated for nearly 30 years without a lease. The last Administration realizing there seriousness of this regularised the situation by granting a long lease enabling the museum to seek additional funding. The so called “dowry” was specifically given to carry out urgent repairs to the City Council owned building which had been allowed to fall into disrepair over many years. At the time, CAPITA reported to Cabinet that giving us the money to repair the building was by far the cheapest option. In addition it has been conveniently forgotten that the money was only ever available as result of our efforts some thirty years ago and did not come out of the City’s coffers.

We are delighted of course that the City Council have agreed with Morgan Sindall and ABP in indentifying a new site for the Spitfire Tribute. However it beggars belief that the same City Council wish to seriously damage the very organisation that came up with the idea in the first place.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your personal support for our grant application. If you cannot support us and the grant is refused, it should be abundantly clear that we will continue to run this museum in spite of this City Council. We will not renege on our duty to maintain this tribute to thousands of Southampton workers who built the Spitfire aircraft in appalling conditions in the midst of the blitz over Southampton and the gallant young airmen who flex against such odds to defend the freedom, which we all enjoy today.

City Eye

Established in Southampton in 1987, City Eye is a charity which develops and promotes film and media through a broad range of activity which includes

- Engagement with groups and individuals in the community on issue based projects of social benefit
- Training and educating people of all ages in the art and technique of digital film production
- Supporting the local creative industries (particularly through the provision of advice and guidance, training and access to digital equipment)
- Working in partnership with SCC to deliver the new arts complex project. City Eye has been engaged for 10 years with this work and is focused on the development of media facilities for access by the community in the complex. Related to this activity is our ongoing work to develop City Eye and indeed wider cultural activity, particularly in and around the Cultural Quarter, to ensure that on opening the complex is able to deliver a vibrant and engaging programme for an audience eagerly anticipating its arrival
- Southampton Film Week – after 5 years, each of which has seen the festival grow in scale and in the range of events it offers, SFW is embedded in the City’s calendar of events and activities. In 2012 SFW is conservatively valued at around £70,000, and again drew together partners from across the City and across sector to deliver a programme of over 40 events in a 9 day period.

Funding to enable City Eye’s work has previously been provided by SCC, UK Film Council, project grants and income earned through projects which is principally derived from the public and voluntary sectors. In recent times income in all areas has been reduced and in the case of the now abolished UK Film Council, has been removed altogether. The organisation has responded to these changing circumstances by closely managing its

finances and taking necessary steps to reduce overheads (including relocation and downsizing of accommodation and reducing core staffing levels) whilst protecting its key outputs as outlined above.

Whilst mindful of these most challenging economic times and grateful that our work with the Council and Southampton communities has been recognized through the current grant recommendation, City Eye now finds itself unable to make further cuts to the organisation without compromising its viability to deliver the key outputs. In particular City Eye's engagement with the ongoing development of Southampton's new arts complex and delivery of Southampton Film Week will be compromised.

Southampton's new arts complex project

In 2002/3 City Eye was invited by SCC to join a partnership which then included John Hansard Gallery and Art Asia to develop a proposal for a new arts building on the site of the old Tyrrell and Green department store. 10 years has seen much water under the bridge and for a variety of reasons the project has changed quite considerably over this time. At the core, however, has always been the ambition to offer the best facilities and opportunities for cultural engagement by the people of Southampton, to put the City on the map regionally and nationally creating an exciting visitor destination as well as ensuring that the spaces it provides are accessible in every sense for all people in our communities. For City Eye this is essential and for the project it has been understood from the outset that City Eye brings the community focus and engagement which is so essential to its success.

As a small organisation, without the direct underpinning support of the Arts Council (which does not support traditional forms of film related activity), City Eye's sustained involvement has been costly requiring significant allocation of staff and management time. The company's commitment and investment has not diminished, however, and it has been grateful for SCC's ongoing support to enable continuation of this work on behalf of the City. Its business plan, modelled on that approved by the Arts Council last summer, reflects this ongoing support from SCC. This is also detailed within the wider project documentation and is shown in the Proposed Governance Structure and Revenue Funding Sources report for consideration by Cabinet on 29 January.

The business plan also reflects a need for growth over the years leading up to opening of the complex, in common with the plans for the arts complex operating company and John Hansard Gallery. It is critical that all participants are able to continue with development of their operation and programming to ensure the success of the project. For this reason our request for funding via the Commissioned Grants programme which was based on this business plan, shows an escalation in our need for funding over the next 3 years. In 2015/16 the sum sought is £42,250 – a considerable sum of money but I believe again demonstrating City Eye's close management of finances and focus on maximum delivery at minimum cost. Again, whilst mindful of the challenge which the Council is facing, the declining level of grant recommended over the coming years critically compromises City Eye's business plan.

The path to the arts complex has indeed been long and challenging and costly for all involved in its delivery. With the project now approaching an exciting milestone - with the commencement of construction anticipated in the coming months - there is a risk that City Eye will not be able to continue its involvement and that the project will face a further setback.

Southampton Film Week

In parallel with the arts complex project City Eye has in recent years worked with other cultural sector partners on Southampton Film Week and the Art at the Heart programme to breathe life into the emerging cultural quarter and to develop audiences, increase visitor figures and contribute to the economic viability of the Cultural Quarter and wider City.

In October 2012 the company delivered the fifth annual Southampton Film Week, a festival which celebrates film across the City and seeks to engage the broadest audience possible encouraging people and organisations to participate by showing or attending a film screening, making a film or attending an event or workshop which might inspire them too. 2012 saw the launch of SFW: Shorts, the festival's own short film competition, and has achieved International profile following its winner, Anna Cady – who we have supported in the making of previous films – being selected for Sundance International Film Festival in Utah, where she is currently rubbing shoulders with the biggest and best in Independent filmmaking. SFW through its various activities and collaborations with organisations as diverse as Awaaz FM, The Phoenix Film Society, The City Gallery and Vintage Mobile Cinema (which was located in Guildhall Square in Film Week) this year presented over 40 events and, including those who have visited related exhibitions since the week itself, will have touched almost 20,000 people.

In 2012, the £8843 cash budget (funding from Creative England, HCC Film Hampshire, Southampton Solent University and the new arts complex project) was used to secure additional in-kind contributions from across the city and beyond to create a total project valued at almost £70,000.

The festival which is of course focused on film has equally proved a wonderful way of linking wider cultural activities and has brought together music events, venues and festivals, a range of performances including theatre and dance, art gallery exhibitions and community engagement initiatives.

City Eye has been immensely grateful for the support which SCC has provided 'in-kind', by making spaces and resources available to support the festival. In particular the collaboration with SCC arts and heritage and events staff has enabled the festival to punch so much above its actual weight. Southampton Film Week has not been separately funded through the City Council but has been enabled through the Running Costs grant received by City Eye in recent years. The current funding recommendation will not enable City Eye to sustain Southampton Film Week either through the allocation of existing resources or by ensuring that the organisation has sufficient resource to apply to development activities such as fundraising.

Conclusion

The staff and Board of City Eye continue to seek opportunities to reduce overheads and to explore opportunities for external funding. The latter is frequently only possible because of the leverage which SCC funding provides to us. Our commitment to the City and to our work in all key areas of our operation is not compromised, but our ability to deliver our work in the community, development of the arts complex and delivery of Southampton Film Week is challenged by the current grant recommendation and we ask Councillors to explore all options to protect this work.

Communicare

I am writing to thank you for your letter advising us of the outcome of our grant application and to provide feedback for consideration, as requested.

Communicare in Southampton has undergone a period of rapid growth (82% in the last 3 years to April 2012) due to increasing demand, and in order to continue to meet demand for our services our costs have also increased. We appreciate that the funding situation is particularly difficult at present due to national and local cuts, and as such we are most grateful for the award made to Communicare.

We would however wish to make it known that the decision to automatically reduce the amount awarded to us by 20% will have a detrimental impact on the ability of Communicare to respond to increasing demand and referrals. We have already taken the decision to close our Cranbury Terrace office in order to reduce our costs in light of the funding situation, and the 20% slice taken off the amount requested, plus the further 7% reduction each year, will leave us with a significant shortfall in funds that we will have to find from an alternative source.

While we have been successful in increasing the amount of individual giving thus far and hope to further develop this, and we continue to seek out additional grants from alternative sources, the automatic "slicing" of 20% of the grant amount requested (and we believe that this was a conservative request) places us at risk of having insufficient funding to be able to further grow as a service in order to respond to demand. This ultimately is likely to place Adult Services budgets under additional pressure as the majority of referrals we receive come from Adult Services as a means of maintaining independence of vulnerable adults and consequently preventing the need for L.A. intervention and funded care packages.

We accept that the decision taken to cut grants from the top-scoring bracket of applications at 20% was taken as a blanket decision across all applications without prejudice, however we believe that our impact statement may not have been duly considered. We do not wish to change our impact statement but ask that this be revisited by the team and for it to be acknowledged that the decision made to slice 20% off the amount requested will mean, and indeed already has meant, that some of our concerns outlined in the impact assessment questions will become reality.

I trust that the points made above will be considered alongside our original application and included in the responses issued to Cabinet for consideration. I thank you once again for the award made and look forward to your response.

EU Welcome

We found the 'appraisal' of our bid confusing as it said:

- a our work is needed
- b we represent value for money
- c our work is highly respected by officers

It then seemed something of a non-sequitor that the proposal was that we received no funding. Having said that I certainly realise that you are making difficult and complex decisions.

Family Lives

Context

Family Lives submitted an application to the above programme to provide family support services across Southampton. We would engage with some of the most vulnerable families who do not meet the criteria for the Troubled Families (Families Matter) agenda.

This group of families will not currently meet the criteria for the national programme but have on-going and multiple problems facing their families. Their needs may escalate and a change in circumstance would mean that they would quickly become a 'troubled family'.

Due to previous Lottery and DfE funding we have supported 78 separate families across the city since April 2012. Due to reduced funding from April 2013 this is no longer possible.

Our proposal is to continue the work started, evaluated and delivered across the city, working with over 200 families who will not get support from elsewhere.

Supporting Southampton's priorities; "Better protection for children and young people" and also providing "Support for the most vulnerable people and families"

Our aim is to intervene early to avoid further Troubled Families being created with an additional and expensive burden on the public purse.

We would achieve this by delivering 1:1 support, parenting groups and workshops and matching volunteers to provide a mentoring programme for parents who need longer term additional support.

Outcome

The outcome of the application was refusal of the Grant.

It would appear from the notes that the project was awarded enough points to be successful (albeit with a 40% reduction) and was deemed to be a valuable service for the residents of Southampton. However, there seems to have been a misunderstanding; The notes refer to the project being rejected due to "*No grant recommended as Families Matter will be commissioning work. Signpost to Families Matter.*" However, as the families we would be supporting do not fit the rigid criteria of that programme and that we would be supporting families to avoid that route, therefore reducing the need for the intensive statutory services, this is not an appropriate or available funding route. Family Lives are in touch with Linda Haitana from Family Matters and are aware of the upcoming funding streams. These are not appropriate for these families.

For the panel

I would like to appeal this decision based on these factors;

1. Family Lives scored enough points to be awarded a grant with a 40% reduction.
2. The reason for not awarding a grant to Family Lives was because it was felt there was a more appropriate route for funding. It is clear that this is not the case and no alternative funding is available to provide support to this group of vulnerable families.
3. There are a huge number of families in Southampton who will not meet the criteria for Families Matter and are at risk of being forgotten. It is these vulnerable families we want to support so that they do not need additional statutory interventions.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Groundwork Solent

Following receipt of the recommendation under the Commissioned Grants Programme and our subsequent meeting with officers, I would like to put forward further information for consideration by the Scrutiny and Cabinet panels that will consider the recommendations.

I apologise for the shortcomings in Groundwork's bid. In discussions with officers it is apparent the bid submitted had outcomes that were positively support. However the bid did not link the use of Southampton CC grant specifically to those outcomes and as a consequence the added value was unclear. This resulted in the bid receiving low scores.

Impact of recommended grant on the organisation

Groundwork wishes to continue working in Southampton. The impact of no grant being awarded to Groundwork Solent will be:

Office – The current grant recommendation places further pressure n the cost base of the organisation. Groundwork is moving to cheaper officer accommodation to reduce costs. This will limit the capacity of the staff team.

Services – With no grant Groundwork will be unable to develop the care leavers programme submitted in the bid. This will have a disproportionately negative impact on young people (age being on of the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010).

Hampshire School Sports Federation

Grant request: £2,000

Due to pressure of work in the “day job” the person preparing the bid for your Grants to Voluntary Organisations failed to meet the required deadlines with an appropriate bid. In order that school-aged young people in Southampton do not lose opportunities through this HSSF omission, we are trying to appeal the recommendation and seek to reinstate a grant for 2013/14.

Purpose of the grant from Southampton City Council

This is Southampton's buy-in to the Hampshire Schools Sports Federation's support for school children, teachers, and other adults providing opportunities for young people to be involved in Sporting Excellence at inter-County and some intra-county (District) School Sporting Activity.

Your grant buys into £30.000 + of budgets at the “wider” county level. Indeed, three years ago when Portsmouth considered withdrawing its grant, a similar consultation followed and Portsmouth Officers realised just what would be lost if that City's School Sports structure did not remain within the Federation – **suffice to say that Portsmouth returned “to the fold” at once.**

Rationale and ethos of Hampshire Schools Sports Federation

It is important to understand just what this Federation is and what it was established to do: In the 1980's, following a bizarre accident at a Schools' County Cricket match, Hampshire undertook to ensure that any child from a school in the “greater” Hampshire and any adult involved in their supervision would be covered by the Authority's insurance structures

whenever they engaged in District or County “representative” School sporting activity. This duty of care remains a vital consideration for HSSF. Southampton would lose this support structure for school sporting activity outside the City, and would need to make sure this was in place for all of its own activities.

The Hampshire Schools’ Sports Federation comprises all the schools' sports associations in Hampshire, including the two unitary authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton. Any properly constituted county schools’ sports association in Hampshire may seek election to the Federation.

Its aims are:

- to provide a single body for all constituent schools' sports associations in the geographical county of Hampshire;
- to provide a cohesive sense of direction and purpose for extended school sport in the county;
- to maximise the use of financial and material resources available;
- to provide an opportunity for debate and discussion on the development of extended school sport and to highlight particular areas of concern or need;
- to liaise closely with the Children's Services Departments in the three authorities to ensure that the educational priorities of sport are maintained;
- to ensure that requirements regarding supervision and safety in all school sports and activities are observed.

Support in practical terms

Southampton Schools Sports Association (SSSA) caters for local school sport between schools in the City and its local environs. Your grant to SSSA is different and is quite separate to a grant to HSSF which builds upon, and further develops the work of SSSA in the wider context of National, County, and extended district representative sport.

Our concern in revising and re-submitting our Grants bid, is to make sure that SSSA and its own individual schools should not be penalised financially for its success in enabling its more successful performers to play at District or County level – this could happen if Southampton children are **withdrawn** from the HSSF structure by not buying in at City level.

In any School Sporting activity beyond school activity, teachers and other volunteering adults can be responsible for young people from a significant number of schools. The Girls’ Under 16 County Hockey Team can draw from a hundred or so schools, and may have two teachers in charge at an Inter-County tournament where there may be no team member from either of their own schools in the squad. Teachers need to be covered against any resulting litigation in the event of an accident in these circumstances.

These teachers need to know that **their work is valued** and that they are supported as they carry out that team management role **without undue disruption to their own schools** who can be given “supply” funding to release them from their school – and funding for minibus/coach hire and petrol expenses for any journey, or facility hire if it is a home event.

Excellence in school sporting achievement

When Hampshire established HSSA (now HSSF), it intended to ensure, without any doubt, that county-wide **representative activity**, notified in writing by member School Sport Associations to the County Council (through its County PE Inspector) **was**

acknowledged and supported aspect of the County's expectation and good practice and that finance and systems were put in place to ensure it operated successfully and developed as fully as possible.

Indeed this HSSF support structure and ethos has been heralded nationally as a pinnacle of best practice in School Sports Development and support. It has been the subject of presentation and discussion in a number of Education Authorities in the last 25 years, either by direct input to LEA's, or by National Conference input to others.

Any withdrawal of support for this ethos of supporting excellence for all children whatever their chosen sport, and whatever it is, ranging from an "inclusive" mini tournament to a National Soccer Championship **says little for our commitment to maintain a truly sporting legacy post 2012**. High level, representative sport for school-aged young people is a major step on the ladder to future Olympic selection. In 2012, 4000 entries were received for the various County Athletic events. A high proportion 30% of the County football teams are Southampton boys and girls.

The impact for Southampton

Able young people have the opportunity to progress into County Representative Sporting activities and progress into National School Sport. HSSF supports between 16 and 20 County Sports Association – and they do not have boundaries for selection – all young people in "ability" and "disability" school sport are encompassed. This support and infrastructure would be lost to Southampton's school children.

These 20 HSSF member Associations are flourishing through **the enthusiasm and hard work of many volunteers**. There are no paid personnel and the Grants to HSSF from Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton are granted directly to its member Sports Associations. Any association grant is given only after a careful audit of each association's accounts which includes a view of activity numbers engaged and its degree of success - ensuring value for money.

An Individual school cannot be required to fund its own young people playing at District and County level. Southampton School Sports Association is in place to support the sport played between local schools and the City teams against other local districts.

A notified fixture list with detail about participant numbers and adults with lead responsibility ensures that any County activity or event is known and therefore covered. The support is there for teachers and other adults for any activity at County or National level, and a significant number of Southampton's young people and its teachers will be engaged in County events at any point in time.

Additionally, funding available to HSSF supports:

- Third Party Insurance cover for known and recorded activity programmes for teachers and other adults involved in County level school sporting activities;
- County Associations in their facility hire;
- Teacher release to manage a County team.....how can an individual school sanction this from its own budget;
- HSSF organises the MAH Presentation Evening (now in its 24th year) which celebrates the success of its young people and recognises the work of volunteer adults, coaches and parents in their support of young performers (much like Southampton started last year);

- The County Games – a two day yearly sporting celebration/event – day one School based - County Athletics, mini -sports and a Special Needs “Olympic” style event; and day two local authority, community mini-sports tournaments and matches

If the budget is reduced, then the activity or the Association grants will be reduced pro-rata, and there will undoubtedly be some pressure to exclude Southampton’s school- aged young people from the process if limited numbers of volunteers need to be engaged in fund raising to maintain the status quo.

Mount Pleasant Media Workshop

Following a meeting of the directors of the Media Workshop on 13 February 2013, regrettably, our representation to SCC Overview & Scrutiny Committee next Monday & to Cabinet on Tuesday will be that the position we have been put in forces closure.

Our representation to both committees is therefore:

Budget process & economic climate:

That our current position of being in financial deficit is partly due to notice being formally given notice only very recently on 8th January. Whilst it is true that we have repeatedly been warned that we might not get a grant, we know that our contribution to the voluntary services infrastructure is great, and our work with groups and individuals is fully aimed at addressing the priorities of the City Council and thereby delivering value for money for Southampton. We therefore feel it was not unreasonable to expect we might get an award for the next three years. The Grant Appraisal notice has forced us to take drastic and immediate steps, including issuing redundancy notices to staff. This is far too late in a financial year budgeting cycle for any organisation to make reasonable adjustments to mitigate the impact of cuts, and to take such drastic action sooner before we had any information would have been reckless and jeopardised our organisation’s future needlessly. The accusation made in the Grant Appraisal letter that we received, that we failed to take into account and mitigate against the economic climate is untrue, as evidenced by the minutes of our regular meetings. If it was easy to manage a budget in these hard times, then surely the Council would not need to be making these cuts. I therefore protest that we have done everything that we reasonably can, and that the timing of this decision, so late in the financial year has not enabled us to mitigate a known loss during the year, and that lies within the remit of SCC as defining the timetable for the grant award process.

Grant appraisal process:

That the matrix used to assess our application bore no resemblance to the questions we were asked on the application form. We do not therefore feel that the application process was transparent in the scoring of our application.

Assessment of our application:

That there are gross inaccuracies in the Grant Appraisal that we received, relating to the assumption that we do not operate during term time, limiting our work with families and our ability to raise revenue. Nothing could be further from the truth - while our Open Access sessions only operate in term-time due to restrictions on access at the school we operate from, this only represents a small proportion of our activity; between 8%-12% of our client contact, and 3-4% of our income. Other activity, including project work and courses held off-site continue during school holidays. Actually the fact that our adult only Open Access is closed during school holidays gives us a *much greater* opportunity to work off-site with

families and young people, with an additional 10 hours a week of staff time freed up to do so. Examples of holiday activity that we have recently delivered include family workshops at Sholing Valleys Nature Centre, family photography workshops at various army campuses around Hampshire, workshops with Newtown Youth Centre and workshops with families on the Northam and Kingsland Estates in Southampton (to name but a few).

Further, the weighting of Professional Opinion is open to huge miscalculation, which was evident in the case of our application. The officer making this weighting was intended, I believe, to be an officer who had an awareness of our organisation and could mitigate against inaccuracies in the panel approach. We feel that they should therefore have been aware of the gross inaccuracies which have been made, where the comments in the appraisal do not relate to what was written in our application or to our actual activities. We feel that the judgement of the officer making this weighting was poor, their knowledge incomplete, and that they should have checked the facts before making such a heavy and detrimental judgement.

We have been led to understand that there is no appeals process in the grant application programme, only that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the recommendations of officers. It is our case that we are not wholly to blame for what amounts to a forced closure through the loss of this grant. We will be forced to seek transition funding to cover the losses we will incur as described in our previous submission, equating to the redundancy payments due to our two members of staff, and are relying on the fairness of the democratic process, through the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to see this done. The die is now cast and we accept closure unwillingly. As directors it is our wish to see our two staff who have served the people of Southampton well be fully recompensed.

The Society of St James

Impact on organisation

The B2V programme has presented a real opportunity for people escaping addiction to turn their lives around. If the Society is unable to secure funding then the service will have to close, and if we are only able to secure partial funding we will have to scale back the programme.

We are unable to make any contribution to the programme from our contracted services. All of these services are facing significant funding cuts. In addition, they have not had an inflationary rise since 2009, during which time our service costs have risen by 14% due to inflation (a loss of £35,000). Our Substance Misuse Support Service, which supported 177 people last year, is having its funding cut altogether and will cease to operate this summer, and we anticipate that all of our other drugs services will face funding cuts in the coming year.

This financial uncertainty is compounded by the fact that we can't access any funding via the Police and Crime Commissioner, as there is currently no mechanism to do so.

At a time when funding to drugs services is being cut, our volunteers are more crucial than ever before. They offer essential added value to the services, providing support for paid staff and so helping the service to run more efficiently and cost-effectively.

The consequences of shutting the B2V programme will be as follows:-

1. Impact on the city of Southampton:

- Southampton will lose a programme which skills up marginalised individuals who would otherwise struggle to find work. Our baseline figures for volunteers entering the programme show that 14% are in education and 12% in employment. In the first half of this year, 68% of our volunteers entered formal education, and 34% have gone on to paid employment.
- Shutting B2V will mean that a marginalised group lose their pathway to social inclusion
- Without B2V, our client group will not have this opportunity to develop a real, strong sense of community involvement and pride
- B2V volunteers work to educate the community in Southampton about the dangers of drugs and the reality of addiction, and give weekly presentations to medical students here in the city. Without B2V drug awareness in the city will decrease.
- Crime and drug use in the city will increase. B2V provides support and direction for ex-offenders and ex-drug users to focus on a positive, constructive future; without it, they may return to destructive behaviours.

2. Impact on our drug treatment services:

- We will lose over 6,000 hours per year of volunteering in our front line drugs services. Our volunteers add value to our service delivery by effectively increasing our staff numbers, and without them we will struggle to provide the same level of service provision
- The aftercare that we provide our clients will decrease, as our volunteers are currently pivotal in the provision of this. As a result, fewer of our clients will have positive outcomes in terms of overcoming addiction.
- Our service users will lose valuable role-models and mentors, who show them that it is possible to live a constructive, positive life after addiction.
- Our services will lose the credibility and authenticity that we gain from having volunteers who have been through addiction themselves.
- Volunteering in the supportive environment of B2V can play a crucial part in someone's recovery. Without it, we will lose a valuable and effective form of rehabilitation.

3. Impact on our volunteers

- Without B2V, we know that our volunteers would struggle to make the transition into work. This is evidenced by the fact that just 14% of people coming in to B2V are in education (compared with 68% of those in the programme in the first half of this year) and 12% are in employment (compared with 34% who went on from the programme to paid employment in the first half of this year). **“[Volunteering] has given me a work ethic” (B2V volunteer).**
- They will lose the chance to increase their self-confidence, and as a result will find many areas of their lives much harder. **“I’ve learnt that I can do more than I thought” (B2V volunteer).**
- Their mental and physical health and well-being will suffer: **“Volunteering gave me my life back. Without it I would have had no hope.” (B2V volunteer).**
- Their families will lose a programme that helps create stability and positivity for the whole family. 37% of our volunteers have children that they live with, while another 8% have child access. B2V helps them to fill the gap that drugs and crime have left in their lives with positive activity. **‘It’s not just me getting things out of volunteering - it’s my wife and kids, too.’ (B2V volunteer)**

4. Impact on our service users

- Our drugs service users will lose positive role models in the form of B2V volunteers. The volunteers give our service users inspiration and something to aspire to, because they see that it is possible to make dramatic changes to your life.
- They will be less likely to engage with drug treatment. Our B2V volunteers act as peer mentors, and are able to encourage our service users because they identify with them and can understand where they are coming from.
- They will also lose the opportunity to progress into volunteering, and so will suffer from all of the same negative consequences as our volunteers if B2V closes.

SoCo Music Project

On the 8th January 2013, in a letter from the Communities and Improvement team, we were informed that recommendations were to be made that we receive no grant from the city council in reference to our Commissioned Grants Programme application.

We have read the application appraisal and would like to provide feedback for inclusion in the published report to Cabinet.

Our application was focused on core funding for three posts within SoCo Music Project; an Adult Learning Officer, a Youth Projects Officer and a Volunteer Coordinator. These posts would be responsible for the planning and development (and some delivery) of creative learning activities for young people and adults; as well as coordinating volunteer opportunities. Currently these responsibilities fall to the directors and freelance project staff. Increasing our capacity to include these 3 roles would dramatically increase our offer in the city, and allow SoCo to strategically grow as a sustainable and significant arts organisation.

The application scored 69 out of a possible 100, leaving us 1 point short of receiving any grant funding. We believe that by clarifying some of the points raised in the appraisal we may improve confidence in the bid that will warrant a higher score.

Key points addressed below (scoring in brackets):

Value for money (score: 7 out of 10)

Appraisal mentions partnership with universities, which provides support from students. This is certainly the case but we believe the bid provides excellent value for money with a much higher impact than this alone. SoCo currently exists solely on project funding; we have secured over £175,000 from national grant funding for delivery in Southampton over the last 3 years. This has a hugely positive impact on the city in areas of youth projects, adult learning and health and well being. There is also a big impact on our organisation. Due to a lack of core funding we must concentrate on the delivery and evaluation of these programmes, with limited capacity to build sustainable programmes and develop new projects and partnerships. Core funding from the council will allow us focus on strategic growth, programme development and increased funding from sources outside of the city. We anticipate that an investment of £45,000 for 3 posts per year will yield external funding in excess of £200,000 per year. Every £1 of council spend will result in an extra £5 worth of services for Southampton Residents. We also believe that 3 year funding will allow us to develop as a sustainable organisation requiring no funding from the council after the 3 year period.

Stated targets (5 out of 10)

We provided a narrative in the application. For the sake of clarity our targets would be:

- Increased creative provision for children and young people in the city, both informal and accredited, including participation in our annual youth music festival, SoCo Fest.
- Increased opportunities for Adults to participate in informal learning and creative activities.
- Improved partnerships with schools, youth/adult agencies, cultural organisations and statutory services.
- Increased volunteer opportunities for the cultural sector, better coordination and improved promotion, with tailored progression routes and mentoring for volunteers.

How well will this application meet the outcomes it says it will? (21 out of 30)

Consistent, high quality and well-promoted creative provision for children, young people and adults will have a direct impact on statutory services in the city. We work in partnership with these services to ensure that our provision compliments existing services and enhances the offer to service users in the city. We have recorded examples of participants in our adult learning programmes that state improved health and well being due to their engagement. We have young volunteers that have gained college places due to the work they have done with us. We have hosted a peer support mental health music group for over two years that previously met at Bedford House and needed a space and support when the centre was closed. With core funding for the 3 posts specified, we would be able to grow and enhance our offer for children, young people, adults and volunteers, increasing our offer and reducing demand on health and social care services.

Professional Opinion (20 out of 30)

The appraisal speaks positively of our contribution to the Southampton Festivals Programme; a good track record providing accredited training for young people; being well networked; and have good partnership working with other voluntary organisations and agencies. It also states that our commercial operation needs strengthening – that we want to develop as a social enterprise, but need support. We see this as the central focus of our application. Support through the commissioned grants programme will allow SoCo Music Project to grow and continue our transformation to become a mature, sustainable and regionally significant arts organisation. By developing as a secure social enterprise we aim to continue to provide important services in the city making a significant impact on the lives of residents.

Impact on Organisation

Our assessment of the impact on our organisation of not receiving the requested funding is detailed below (as per our original application). To summarise, SoCo Music Project is seeking core funding for 3 posts that will enable us to dramatically enhance our offer in the city, which will in turn have a great impact on people living in Southampton. Most affected will be those considered disadvantaged or in challenging circumstance. This includes children in care, young carers, young offenders, young people who are NEET, young people and adults with learning difficulties, mental health issues, substance misuse problems and physical disabilities; unemployed/economically inactive young people and adults, and those seeking employment and training. Our work also helps students in the city gain valuable work experience, and provides development opportunities for aspiring artists and arts leaders.

Unless SoCo Music Project is supported to increase capacity it will continue to deliver services but in a limited format through project funding. Many gaps are appearing in public

services and SoCo Music Project is in a position to provide valuable and innovative services that can help fill those gaps. Core funding over 3 years will allow us to develop as a sustainable organisation working in partnership with the city council and agencies across the city to continue to deliver high quality services. An adult learning officer, a youth projects office and a volunteer coordinator will ensure that programmes are developed in these areas and funding identified. These officers will also have capacity for delivery meaning that provision will also be provided. With officers in these roles SoCo directors will be able to further develop the organisation strategically, dramatically enhancing the cultural offer in the city and the provision available to service users.

Solent Credit Union

Solent Credit Union is grateful for the grant recommendation that you have made as it will enable us to continue offering services to the people of Southampton. However as your letter sets out, the offer is a considerable reduction on the amount for which we applied.

We have considered whether to appeal or not and think we should, because receiving a reduced amount has significant implications for the adequate provision of ethical financial services for people in Southampton. This relates specifically to the capacity of Solent Credit Union to support the delivery of Universal Credit and Direct Care Payments with the Council and other partners, as well as providing a fully functioning financial service to people who are financially excluded.

Impact:

These reductions will more than halve our capacity and work against the economies of scale that arise from growth.

Our business plan projections predict that we will be supporting 8,000 members within 3 years, all local people and a significant number of whom will be receiving Universal Credit and have high levels of financial literacy need and support.

We believe the impact would be to significantly reduce the number of people we would be able to offer a high level of service to. As stated, this could be over 50% of our capacity and so 50% of the potential membership.

Without wanting to be alarmist, we therefore predict 3,500 people would be significantly disadvantaged as a result of this proposed reduction. The specific level of disadvantage is hard to calculate, however, nationally, it is estimated that Credit Union loan interest charge is less than half the cost of other lenders. Therefore, with our estimated revised loan book of £600,000 we would expect local people to be able to spend an additional £100,000 in the local economy if we received the full grant.

This is a conservative estimate and as you may be aware, our average interest charge of 15% APR is hugely less than Provident 277% APR, Payday Loans 1734% APR or Wonga 3378.1% APR, which suggests much larger amounts are likely to accrue to the local economy. On top of that, the reduced cost of supporting people in dire financial trouble would further benefit future public service expenditure. One of our main concerns is that Southampton Residents might resort to using unauthorised money lenders in an emergency situation, something that we would hope to reduce with a full service credit union serving the people of Southampton.

We would also like highlight the fact that amongst the organisations recommended to receive a grant we are the only one who is able to offer very practical help and support in dealing with the issues arising from the Welfare Reform Act 2012, especially Universal Credit. We are already set up and trialling 'Jam Jar Accounts' which will greatly assist members in paying their rent and bills at the same time as encouraging them to save. Therefore we would like the members and officers to very seriously consider awarding a higher amount. This would enable us to employ a full time member of staff with the necessary skills to develop and deliver a wide range of products which would benefit many vulnerable and disadvantage Southampton residents. A full time member of staff would also enable us to take on at least one New Apprentice thereby increasing our capacity and providing much needed employment and skills opportunities.

We thank you for this opportunity to appeal and very much hope that the City Council can fully support the potentially much increased impact Solent Credit Union could make to the financial health of many Southampton People.

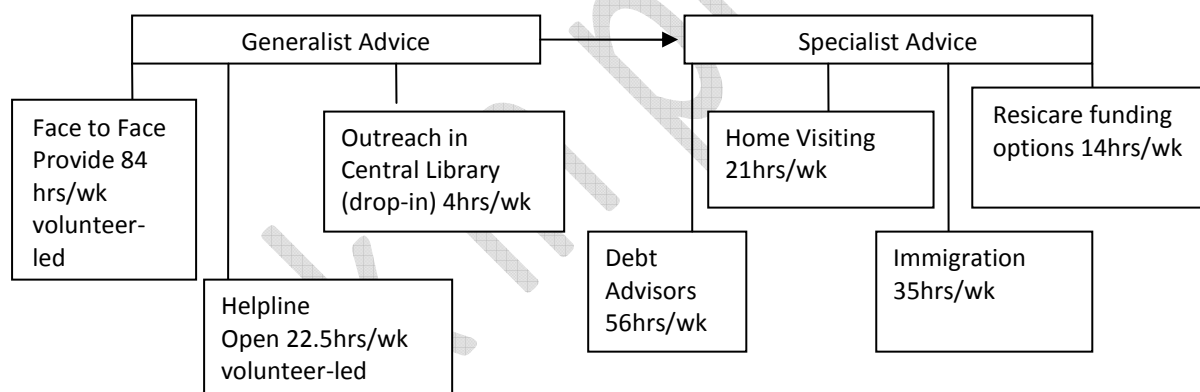
Southampton Citizens Advice Bureau

Original Proposal:

Amount requested: **£317,269 in Yr 1, £317,269 in Yr 2, £317,269 in Yr 3**

The amount requested would allow us to continue with our existing service delivery model:

Client Journey from crisis to outcome/solution



Each year over 8,000 new clients (men, women, young people and families) benefit from high quality advice provided by Southampton CAB on over 19,000 social welfare law problems/issues, last year we dealt with 29,500 enquiries.

SCC Proposal via Commissioned Grants:

On 8 January 2013, we received a letter from Southampton's Communities and Improvement Team about the outcome of our funding application.

SCC Proposed amount: £222,088 Yr1, £206,562 in Yr2, and £192,084 in Yr3.

The reduced amount of £331,073 will have an extremely detrimental impact on the operations of the bureau over the next 3 years. An immediate recourse would include:

1. Closing down 1 Kings Park. This will mean 4 staff moving into 3 Kings Park. We fear that Health & Safety regulations will once again be compromised which is the reason that we secured 1 Kings Park in the first place.

2. Reduction in hours and/or redundancies made in specialist advice roles such as Immigration, Home Visiting Service and Debt Advice.
3. Reduction in hours and/or redundancies made in Advice Supervisors that provide support to volunteers. This will compromise the Advice Quality Standards via case checking and time keeping of advice sessions delivered by volunteers. The capacity to of our volunteer advice will therefore be reduced. Without supervision the volunteer workforce is effectively nil. We cannot run volunteer advice sessions without adequate supervision – if volunteers are not supported they will leave. We need to continuously recruit volunteers in order to meet the current demand on our service. This demand will only increase with the introduction of welfare reforms and localism issues. There is no other advice agency in Southampton that is mainly staffed by volunteers and gives the breadth of advice that we do.
4. Using £80,000 of our reserves in Yr1 and complete depletion by Yr3 in the event that no additional income is secured.
5. Move to a 4 day week and relinquish the lease on 1 Kings Park Road. In Yr1 it would mean only 0.2 FTE or 15hrs/wk worth of specialist debt advice. In Yr 2 and Yr3 there would be further reductions and redundancies likely to be Immigration Advice 1 FTE or 35hrs/wk and Home Visiting Advice 0.6FTE or 21hrs/wk and no specialist Debt Advice.
6. Put on hold any new development work such as developing our representation work via tribunals, and establishing a social policy and education programme.

Impact on the City as a result of CAB's reduced frontline operation hours:

There is a lot of pressure on the service with the welfare reforms and changes to Housing and Council Tax Benefit. The impact of the welfare reforms is difficult to judge, but it could potentially lead to an additional 36,000 clients, doubling CAB's current client numbers. The impact of large-scale business closures, like Ford and British Gas is also likely to raise welfare issues for some people. With all this in mind it would be extremely difficult for CAB to mitigate the reduction in funding.

Additionally we help clients maximise their benefits claims, which supports the council. There is likely to be a cost implication for SCC when the DLA is replaced by the PIP, as people currently use it to pay for care or contribute towards the cost of their Adult Services social care.

Southampton CAB Board feels the specialist Immigration Advisor, Home Visitor and Advice Supervisors are important posts, and bring in substantial social and financial gains to the City.

- An investment of £20,281 in the Home Visiting Service brings in £650,000 of additional funding each year to the city via unidentified benefits (this excludes any kind of council or housing benefit).
- An investment of £35,925 in the specialist Debt Advisory Service prevents at least 200 people from becoming homeless through our work with County Court – a saving of £5.2 million annually. Each year we help reduce and manage debts in excess of £840,000 through Debt Relief Orders. The links between debt and suicide rates and mental health are clearly evidenced and well researched.

In general, 4 in 10 people who used our service were financially better off as a result, half of these received one-off payments, but a quarter gained regular weekly or monthly income. Of those who gained a one off amount as a result of getting in touch, three in five received more than £100, and 25% of these gained more than £1,000.

Equally important is our Immigration Advisory Service that sees 1,500 clients from BME communities, and is the only OISC Level 2 free advice and case work service within a 30 mile radius. Our Immigration adviser provides ongoing training for all our volunteers in order that they can continue to provide OISC level 1 Immigration advice.

Revised Funding Request:

We are aware of the changing landscapes and council pressures; however if SCC were able to fund CAB an extra £30,000 per year over the next three years and look at redefining the taper so there's less of a hit in the first year we would be able to maintain general advice, immigration advice; the home visitor service and remain open 4 days per week. We are keen to explore all options and are aiming to reduce core costs in a few years time to around £160,000.

Some of our planned activities include developing more satellite working with 3 Kings Park Road as the hub and build on the success of working in the library and GP surgeries.

We are also reviewing our service delivery model to include wider access especially via use of new technology. We have already submitted a bid for £350,000 on behalf of all advice agencies in Southampton for new development work. Please note this fund limits the use of monies for frontline service delivery to 25%.

We are working to transform our service and maximise our social capital but in order to achieve this and continue delivering a service that is already oversubscribed we need some additional financial breathing space and £90,000 over 3 years would afford us this essential requirement.

Southampton Advice and Representation Centre

Whilst we are grateful to have received continued funding, there is a reduction which will in time have a serious impact on our ability to provide a service that will meet current service demand, let alone the anticipated increase from welfare reform.

Even if there were short term funding to help over the next few years to try and tackle the volumes of work created by welfare form, it would be appreciated.

Southampton Amateur Gymnastics Club

It's very disappointing to hear there is no recommendation for us to be considered for a grant, it will have a negative impact on the club's future, for sustainability and progress. Particularly as we have had running costs grants for the past number of years, it is already looking for this year, without the grant that it will have a huge financial impact on the sustainability of the club.

Updated 14 February 2013

The impact to the club of receiving no grant award would be significant and a major blow after receiving support from Southampton City County for 33 years and consistently meeting the targets set. In essence, beyond being unable to implement plans to widen participation, it is likely that existing services will be reduced, resulting in a disproportionately negative effect on children between the ages of six and sixteen from poorer families, and gymnasts with disabilities.

Without support, we will not be able to continue to subsidise our volunteer-lead Centres, located in Sholing, Southampton City Centre, Bitterne, Redbridge and Brookfield. We

currently offer reduced fees for gymnasts attending these Centres. Even with this discount, we have seen children dropping out from participation due to their inability to afford the fees. Without the grant, we will have no choice but to reduce the subsidy for these Centres, which will inevitably increase the rate of dropout. Furthermore, we will struggle to develop and sustain the volunteers that run these Centres, as we will not be able to afford to keep their education up to date. It is highly likely that Centres will close, thus reducing opportunities for participation.

The disabilities section of the Club will also be affected. The Club is currently only able to offer an access session for the junior disabilities group, which limits their general participation and means that we cannot offer them competitive opportunities. We had planned to increase their hours, but this would no longer be possible. Furthermore, in the past year we have closed the senior disabilities group, we would not be able to re-establish this.

Plans to appoint a Community Support Officer would be placed on hold; as a result we would not be able to open new outreach Centres, which would have widened participation. The Club is a not for profit organisation and does not hold any money that could be used to support the aforementioned affected areas. Any reserves are fully allocated, as detailed in the financial appendix of our application.

Southampton Nuffield Theatre Trust

The Nuffield Theatre has provided entertainment, education and contributed to the quality of life in Southampton for over 40 years. An important part of this has been the long term partnership with Southampton City Council and our other funders. We are at a moment of transition, growth and new developments. However, the recommendation for the next three years represents a real and genuine challenge to our evolution and continued place as the key performing arts company in Southampton.

Overview

- We understand that Southampton City Council needs to respond to a very challenging financial situation, but the proposals for arts grants are for a disproportionate reduction (26.4% versus a total reduction of 6.8%) and the majority of the actual reduction from the cultural grants is proposed to fall to The Nuffield (a reduction of £52,589 out of a total reduction of £79,746).
- The Nuffield's SCC grant has reduced by 85% (including inflation) over the last fourteen years. The company has made savings of 2-4% year on year to cover this, and last year made a further saving of £100,000 by reconfiguring its work.
- In addition to savings, The Nuffield undertook a review with external consultants last year to develop a new business model with additional trading and fundraising income replacing lost public funds. The company has invested its total reserves in changes in order to achieve the necessary additional income, but we need longer for these changes to achieve the necessary additional income.
- For 2013/14, the company had planned for a total reduction of a further £28,000 being a reduction of 12%* from SCC together with a 1% reduction from Arts Council England, 1.9% from Hampshire County Council and standstill funding from the University of Southampton. The additional 15.5%* reduction proposed by SCC cannot be absorbed by the Company without impacting on front line services which will in turn compromise our agreements with our other funders and threaten the £800,000 PA inward investment. The Nuffield was informed of this proposal on 8 January, giving the company only twelve weeks to make adjustments accordingly.

- We were not informed in advance of the assessment scoring system that has been operated and whilst we understand its objectivity, we are concerned that it does not reflect the full picture in terms of company's needs, contributions and strategy in a changing and demanding environment.
- In particular we would like the assessment team to revisit the 7/10 mark for value for money given the Nuffield's leverage of over £800,000 inward investment of public funding into the City in the current economic environment.
- The proposal for such a significant cut and its threat to the Nuffield's new Business Plan may also undermine Arts Council England's confidence in SCC's commitment to funding the arts in general and the Cultural Quarter and the New Arts Complex project in Guildhall Square in particular.
- It will be increasingly difficult for The Nuffield as the key performing arts company to play its part in the City's plans for cultural regeneration and to combat the effects of the recession if it cannot operate efficiently.
- The Nuffield employs a significant number of Southampton residents and the majority of its leveraged and earned income is spent within the city and with local businesses.
- The Nuffield is a key to Southampton's cultural provision and a delivery partner in the City's audience development and animation project. This work and the City's longer term plans for the Cultural Quarter may be compromised if the Company is unable to continue its arts and audience development activities in the crucial years ahead of Southampton New Arts Complex (SNAC) opening.
(*compared to the 2012/13 grant)

Southampton School Sports Association

Further to our unsuccessful bid for funding the SSSA has been asked to provide extra information regarding the participation of the young people 5 – 16 covered by the Associations activities. The table below gives a summary of the activity in the academic year 2011/12 gleaned from our annual branch reports.

Background

The SSSA is a voluntary association which has been organising extra- curricular sport in the city for over 100 years. All primary and secondary schools are members and have access to all its activities. It is made up of existing and retired members of staff volunteering to run teams at a school, local and regional levels. It included over 100 adults across the sports giving of their time voluntarily, after school and at weekends.

Impact of Funding Withdrawal

- Most of the funding covers the hire of pitches and officials. Hence it will be very difficult for the activities to even get off the ground without the basic hire of facilities and officials. Therefore, a large number of competitions would cease to take place hence having a huge impact on the number of competitions and the participation rates.
- Psychologically it would damage the association, after 100 years of voluntary work with no payments to its organisers, coaches etc.
- Denial of this small amount of funding will mean that many of the volunteers will wish to call time, as they feel that their efforts are not valued. Particularly, when many of the other funded activities are around salaries for the staff for the activities being offered.
- Once the volunteers and level of competition is lost it will be very difficult to restart, leaving a huge hole in the community.

Impact of the Association

- For many thousands of young people this has been their first opportunity to be involved in sport, leading to involvement in competition at an inter school level.
- For a number this has led to competition in teams between schools then selection for district and regional teams.
- For a few this has led to selection into national teams and lengthy playing careers in sports at the highest level.
- If you read the autobiographies of these individuals they often point to the fact that their school coach/teacher was a big influence on their decision making in their early days.
- The figures in the attached table demonstrate the levels of competition between school and at district levels.

Branch Sport	Numbers Schools Involved	Competitions (League/Cup)	School Teams Entered	Pupils Participating
Athletics / Cross Country	15	29	90	1450
Basketball	26	6	60	720
Cricket	12	5	38	456
Football	35	34	300+	3000+
Netball	8	8	52	468
Rugby	10	5	46	490
Swimming and Diving	10	21	30	280
Table Tennis	6	2	16	64
Trampolining	32	8	36	184
Totals		118	668+	7112+

Southampton Street Pastors

We are very grateful to have been recommended to receive grants from the SCC Commissioned Grants Programme.

It is a great relief for us to see the possibility of significant income supporting our development plans for the next 3 years. With these funds we are confident that we will be able to extend the successful NTE street pastor model into youth and community contexts over the next 3 years, whilst maintaining our existing NTE and school patrols.

We note that the sums recommended leave us with a budget shortfall around 15%. We will need to devote more of our resources to looking for additional income, which may slow us down somewhat, but we remain optimistic and committed to our goals.

Turner Sims

Whilst the sum being requested is small relative to TS's turnover the value for money which it represents is significant. Investment from SCC whether at the current level (£7,000 in 2012-13) or that requested (£10,000 per year from 2013-14) acknowledges the

key role which TS plays in the city's cultural life. It consequently strengthens our applications to and negotiations with other funders and stakeholders, helping to unlock more investment, and bring more creative opportunities to residents in Southampton.

Support of our promoted concerts and outreach work also enables us to highlight SCC's investment at a regional and national level. Through activities such as the acclaimed 'Southampton's Musical Alphabet' weekend in March 2012, or our pioneering work with Southampton Music Services and Southampton Music Hub, TS has brought much positive national media coverage to the city, profiling not only the projects themselves but SCC itself. On 23 January 2013 Kevin Appleby was named Concert Hall Manager of the Year at the prestigious Association of British Orchestras/Rhinegold Awards. The press release and profile to national media for this accolade acknowledged the part the City Council played in supporting activity.

The withdrawal of funding, and therefore perceived endorsement of the work we deliver, puts the opportunities for delivering planned activity, securing external funding and profiling local investment at immediate risk.

Weston Church Youth Project

I am writing to express our gratitude to the City Council for the opportunity to submit a grant application and for the subsequent recommendation of a grant from the above programme.

Whilst the amount recommended (a 25% cut in our original application) will limit the overall programme we can deliver, we understand the financial restraints on the City and the dilemmas posed when having to cut services and funding.

With the grant at this level we are confident that we should be able to keep core staff and to raise additional funding from other sources. Whilst we may have to slim down our delivery for a while, the recommended grant will enable us to continue to achieve the positive outcomes for young people outlined in the application. We thank you for believing in us.

We would like however, like to make the Council aware that the level of funding we have for next year is currently at a bare minimum. Any further cut would make it substantially likely that we would lose at least one member of our core, committed team.

Thank you once again for the opportunity you have given us to be part of the Council's strategic delivery.

Workers Educational Association (Southern Region)

Impact on organisation

As explained in the application, without the full funding for the project the WEA would be unable to deliver the work effectively. The following consequences would be predicted based on our work in the community in the last 15 years.

- Without the community outreach support marginalised communities would not fully engage with the learning and education process. Our experience from a range of very successful projects including Prevent, TRIF, Community Learning Champions, Sure Start, Children's Fund and ESF indicates that that target groups are most successful in accessing and sustaining activity when they are supported by outreach activity.

The community outreach work enables us to reach the most hard to reach groups. These include the BAME groups including Eastern European, Afghan and white British families in the SO14 area and beyond. The outreach work is crucial to the success of the service as it enables the very marginalised/vulnerable families to learn about the learning opportunities offered, access them and throughout this process have support.

The work of the community outreach is focussed not only in recruiting, supporting and enabling but also involves giving advice and guidance as part of a range of support activities. For a majority of the families suffering layers of deprivation, this outreach service is essential.

Outreach work is not funded by the Skills Funding Agency and therefore without the SCC grant our work with targeted communities would be at risk.

- We would be unable to provide infrastructure support to local voluntary and community groups as this element of the work is not funded by the Skills Funding Agency.
- The reduced funding will prevent the WEA being able to support the development of community groups. This will have particular impact on BAME communities in Southampton. It has been recognised that BAME marginalised women in particular have limited opportunity to contribute to community consultations or actively participate in civic life. We know that without the support of the community outreach work it would be very difficult for the groups to sustain themselves. Recently, the Women's groups based at the Clovelly Centre were awarded the WEA national award in "**Exceptional contribution to sustainability through partnership**" at the Houses of Parliament which is recognition of the development work carried out at the Centre.
- In addition, the lack of group development will impact on learner recruitment as most effective methodology for recruiting hard to reach learners is empowering members of the community to act as outreach workers. This is done best through working with community groups to build confidence, knowledge and skills
- The reduction in funding may impact in the future on the delivery of provision in Southampton through WEA national funding which is the additional funding from which the people of Southampton benefit.

Impact on equalities

Since 1996 the WEA has been working in the inner city of Southampton with BAME groups particularly BAME women from visible minority communities. In 2011 our management information systems indicated that more than 98% of our learners do not have English as their first language or are on income related benefit or have a qualification that is below level 2. We know that without the requested amount of funding the following negative consequences would happen to **women, particularly BAME women from low income households**.

- Without the community outreach work, potential learners with language and communication needs will not be aware or access educational opportunities. Usually these learners are from BAME communities and particularly women with young families who are on some kind of income related benefit or have low household income.

- We would be unable to provide infrastructure support to local voluntary and community groups as this element of the work is not funded by the Skills Funding Agency. As mentioned previously, most of this support is given to BAME women's groups in Southampton to make them independent, manage themselves efficiently and have a voice in civic life. This support enables the BAME women's groups to develop individually and collectively. It is essential that we are able to provide support to such groups otherwise gender stereotypes will constantly be reinforced.
- We would aim to continue with the work, but we would have to charge learners fees which could be up to £79.00 per person. We know that the cost would be prohibitive and would stop learners, particularly women from joining courses which would benefit them personally, socially and economically in the long run. People may still access the provision but they may not be the targeted ones that need the most support in terms of moving them from the vicious cycle of poverty and deprivation.
- We may also have to charge for childcare, which we know prohibits potential learners from engaging with the learning process. In September 2012, we recorded 40+ women who could not afford to pay either the course or crèche fees and had to be turned away.

Youth Options

I would like to make the following representation to Cabinet against the decision to not recommend a grant allocation to Youth Options through the Commissioned Grant Programme.

Youth Options scored 66 points out of a possible 100 leaving it in band F with no recommendation of grant. Having requested the appraisal of the application there are several comments that I would like to take issue with.

1. Firstly, against the question 'Does this application represent good value for money?' the comment has been made that it is 'a high cost for work in just one area of the city', and a score of 4/10 has been given. My first issue is that there was no indication in the application criteria that the service would be penalised for being located in just one area of the city. Secondly the value for money is not diminished by virtue of being located in one area, it is in fact increased as less time and money will be spent on travelling between homes, and allows all children in the families to attend after school clubs without transport being needed.
2. Against the question 'Are the stated targets satisfactory?' the comment has been made that it is 'Not clear how many people are actually being supported', and a score of 5/10 has been given. It states quite clearly in question 2.4 of our application that 'This bid seeks to continue the project for 10 referred families per year (30 in total) in Thornhill to access the support as described in question 2.3.' Whilst we cannot be clear about exact numbers of people I think this is a sound indication. Also the question asks about satisfactory targets, and we set the following:
 - a. 80% of children will show improved school attendance
 - b. 50% of parents supported to engage with education, employment or training
 - c. 80% of children show improved behaviour both in school and at home
 - d. 50% of parents supported to engage with education, employment or training
 - e. 100% of parents understand the changes in Welfare Benefit, and how they are affected

- f. 80% of parents report improved parenting skills
- g. 80% of families report improved parent/children relationships
- h. 70% of families achieve their family targets set at referral to the project
- i. 50% of families increase the amount of physical exercise they undertake

I find it hard to believe that these targets warrant a score of only 5/10, given that they directly relate to the criteria set out in the guidelines.

3. With regard to the question 'How well will this application meet the outcomes it says it will?' the comment has been made that it has 'Good outcomes for Thornhill, but reach is limited.' We have scored 20/30 for this question. I have issue with the fact that we have already been penalised twice in the appraisal prior to this question for only delivering in Thornhill, and I do not believe it to be fair or professional to keep penalising for the same issue throughout, especially when that penalty represents a third of the marks available for this particular question.
4. In the final section, which reflects the Officers professional opinion our application scored 20/30, and several comments were made, which I would take issue with.
 - a. Once again it is mentioned that the project has limited reach, which indicates that once again marks have been deducted for something we have been penalised for three times already.
 - b. It says that we are duplicating the work of a post recently appointed at Kane's Hill Primary School; this is not strictly true as we offer after school support, activities throughout all school holidays for all members of the family, coffee morning and regular home visits, all of which are not offered by the school. We work closely with the appointed member of staff at Kane's Hill to ensure that we do not duplicate work, and that we support the work of the school.
 - c. It also says that there are 'concerns with how this fits with the Families Matter programme – other sources of funding could be available.' We have quite clearly stated in question 2.6 that 'This project, if it secures further funding, will also support the Government's Troubled Families (Families Matter) agenda, from which approximately 600 families have been identified in Southampton.' I would also take issue with the fact that there are other sources of funding available; due to the high profile of this Government Agenda, and the amount of money allocated to it other funders are unwilling to put their funds into such programmes.

I believe that taking into account all of the above points our application should have scored a higher mark than 66/100, and would, therefore, be eligible for a recommendation of funding.

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