

**Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Resources and Council Services)**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**Subject: Grant Expenditure with Third Sector Bodies**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. At the beginning of the municipal year grant expenditure with Third Sector Bodies was identified as a potential area for scrutiny.
2. Members' concerns were less around contracted or commissioned services with the Third Sector but more around grants given through other various means, for example area committees, MICE monies etc. Members were interested to understand how much money was given annually and what controls are in place to ensure money is spent effectively, achieves value for money and desired outcomes.
3. Questions around control and value can only be adequately answered by Directorates as each directorate has its own approval and monitoring regimes for grant awards. In the first instance therefore, officers in finance have provided a summary of total expenditure for 2012/13, detail of specific expenditure over £10,000, and a schedule of all grants paid in that financial year. (Appendix 1)
4. Having received this information Members may wish to discuss with individual directorates, at a further meeting (or via working group), their control mechanisms, whether grants have become defacto contracts and how value for money is determined.

## **Recommendations**

5. Members are asked to receive the information provided by finance and determine what further Scrutiny is required.

## **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

None used

---

<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.