Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Resources and Council Services)

Date: 24th February 2014

Subject: Grant Expenditure with Third Sector Bodies

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

Summary of main issues

1. Members will recall that at the December 2013 meeting of the Board officers from finance provided the meeting with detailed information on grants, including a summary of total expenditure and detail of specific expenditure over £10,000, and a schedule of all grants paid in the 2012/13 financial year. (Appendix 1)

2. The main areas of discussion at the December meeting was

   - The criteria used to support individual grant giving
   - The existence of different approaches to grant giving in Directorates
   - The difference between grants and commissioned services
   - Whether rigorous financial checks are undertaken on organisations receiving grants to assess their solvency
   - The work currently being undertaken corporately by the Corporate Commissioning Group

3. It was agreed that questions around control and value could only be adequately answered by Directorates as each directorate had its own approval and monitoring regimes for grant awards. The Board agreed therefore to invite representatives from City Development, Environment & Housing and Adult Social Care (as high grant givers) to today's meeting to discuss the issues raised. Written reports have not been requested from the Directorates.

4.   Members are also advised that Audit is also currently looking at the funding of voluntary organisations. Their finding will be shared with Scrutiny when available.

Recommendations

5.   Members are asked to discuss with those officers present issues around grant giving and monitoring and determine what further Scrutiny is required.

Background documents[1]

     None used

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[1] 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.