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**Report of the Chief Officer Communities**

**Report to the Director of Communities and Environment**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Subject: Third Sector Infrastructure Support Fund Grant Allocation for 2018/19 to Voluntary Action Leeds**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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

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**Summary of main issues**

1. Leeds City Council award an annual grant from the Third Sector Infrastructure Support Fund to Voluntary Action Leeds comprising a maximum of £267,880 from Communities and Environment Directorate and £81,225 from Children's and Families Directorate and managed by Communities and Environment Directorate.
2. The allocation is made subject to the production of a delivery plan 2019/19 which specifies agreed work priorities and outcomes; and continued compliance with conditions of funding.

**Recommendations**

1. The Director of Communities and Environment is requested to approve grant funding to Voluntary Action Leeds from the Third Sector Infrastructure Support Fund of £349,105 for 2018/19.

## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The report outlines the grant funding to Voluntary Action Leeds from the Third Sector Infrastructure Support Fund. comprising a maximum of £267,880 from Communities & Environment Directorate and £81,225 from Children's and Families Directorate and managed by Communities and Environment Directorate.

## **1. Background information**

- 2.1 Recipients of the Third Sector Infrastructure Support Fund provide crucial support to frontline organisations delivering services in some of the city's most disadvantaged communities.
- 2.2 Voluntary Action Leeds provides key support and development support to the Third Sector in Leeds, which includes the provision of capacity building, business support, group development, and training; as well as facilitating and supporting the Third Sector to have an important voice into, and influence over, the strategic direction of the city, including the redevelopment of the BME Hub; and delivering the Volunteer Centre as a city wide volunteering service.
- 2.3 The funding provided through the Infrastructure Support Fund specifically includes targeted work to ensure the support and development of the smallest of Third Sector organisations; those in disadvantaged wards; and excluded groups.

## **3.0 Summary of Main issues**

- 3.1 The delivery of this work is an important part of the Third Sector work the council are undertaking and more importantly will ensure all third sector organisations in Leeds have the skills, resources, support and voice to achieve their aspirations.
- 3.2 The funding will also support and enable positive social action to build thriving, empowered and inclusive local communities and will support groups and organisations in local communities, of place and interest, to develop and achieve positive social change from within.
- 3.3 During 2018/19 a review will be undertaken of the Third Sector Infrastructure Support grant which will be overseen by the Chief Officer Communities. The purpose of the review will ensure that the Infrastructure Support grant continues to support the council to meet its priorities outlined in the Best Council Plan and provides value for money.

## **4. Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 The Infrastructure Support Fund Grant ensures that the council has strong local leadership, increased community conversations to resolve problems and conflict locally, maximises the use of local intelligence, raises aspirations and creates better

links to social and economic opportunities, and improves the city's resilience to extremist narratives. This will help to reduce dependency on public services and increase community engagement and participation.

## **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

4.2.1 The issue of supporting Third Sector clearly is a significant aspect of equality and cohesion and this will be carefully considered during the roll out of the project. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken on specific pieces of work as required.

## **4.3 Council policies and best council plan**

4.3.1 The grant funding process supports the council's values of spending money wisely and being open, honest and trusted.

## **4.4 Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 The resources to fund this project will be via grant funding from the Communities and Environment Directorate and the Children's and Families Directorate.

## **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

4.5.1 There are no specific legal implications with this report. The report is subject to call-in.

## **4.6 Risk management**

4.6.1 The grant funding application process has been undertaken in a fair, open and transparent way.

## **5. Conclusions**

5.1 Voluntary Action Leeds provides key support and development support to the Third Sector in Leeds, which includes the provision of capacity building, business support, group development, and training; as well as facilitating and supporting the Third Sector to have an important voice into, and influence over, the strategic direction of the city, including the redevelopment of the BME Hub; and delivering the Volunteer Centre as a city wide volunteering service.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 The Director of Communities and Environment is requested to approve grant funding to Voluntary Action Leeds from the Third Sector Infrastructure Support Fund of £349,105 for 2018/19.