



Report to: Cabinet Meeting: 4 June 2024

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Peacock, Strategy, Performance & Finance

Director Lead: Suzanne Shead, Housing, Health & Wellbeing

Lead Officer: Cara Clarkson, Business Manager, Regeneration and Housing Strategy, Ext. 5923

<b>Report Summary</b>	
<b>Type of Report</b>	Open report, key decision
<b>Report Title</b>	Grant Agreements
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To update Cabinet on the review of grant funding arrangements undertaken by the Policy and Performance Improvement Committee (PPIC) and to present to the Cabinet the recommendations from the Committee.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Cabinet approves the PPIC recommendations to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) move to three-year grant agreements for the charities listed in section 2.2 of the report; and</li> <li>b) apply a 3% inflationary increase in years two and three of the grant agreements detailed in section 2.2 of the report.</li> </ol>
<b>Alternative Options Considered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPIC reviewed in detail the range of regular grant agreements in place with charities to determine whether the council was achieving value for money and could demonstrate impact and delivery of wider outcomes.</li> <li>• The alternative, of ceasing grant funding to charities was considered but it was also considered that the Community Plan can only be achieved by working in partnership with others and at a variety of different levels – sometimes street based, sometimes regionally, nationally and internationally.</li> </ul>
<b>Reason for Recommendations</b>	<p>Ceasing funding to these charities would cause a significant detriment to the service users and would also place additional pressure on the charities themselves (to cover their overheads), and the council and other service providers where gaps in service provision appear.</p> <p>Due to the diverse range of charities supported, there is a positive contribution across the whole community plan, including but not limited to: health and wellbeing, heritage and culture, housing and community spirit and pride of place.</p>

## **1.0 Background**

1.1 In March 2024, the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee considered in-depth, the range and impact of regular Council grant funding to charities. The report considered by the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee is attached as **Appendix A** to the report. The charities currently benefitting from regular grant funding agreements include:

- Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark
- Home Start Newark and Sherwood
- Live and Local
- Newark and Sherwood CVS
- The Furniture Project
- Newark and Sherwood Community Hub (@ Millgate Community Centre)
- Notts and Lincs Credit Union

1.2 These charities have historically secured grant funding as they represent organisations the Council works closely with and has deemed a partner in delivering services locally because of their experience, specialist knowledge or reputation e.g. as an independent and trusted voice.

## **2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered**

2.1 Details of the review of value for money and impact from the grants can be found within the PPIC report as part of the background papers listed below.

2.2 Following the review, PPIC has recommended that Cabinet approves a move to a three-year funding agreement to provide security and stability of funding for:

- i. Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark
- ii. Home Start Newark and Sherwood
- iii. Newark and Sherwood CVS
- iv. The Furniture Project
- v. Live and Local

2.3 PPIC has recommend to Cabinet that the Council ceases to fund:

- i. Notts and Lincs Credit Union in response to the lack of impact and value for money demonstrated through the review
- ii. Newark and Sherwood Community Hub which is voluntarily closing its specific play provision

2.4 PPIC recommended a 10% inflationary increase in 2024/25 in the agreements for Citizens Advice, HomeStart, Newark and Sherwood CVS and The Furniture Project. Due to the timing of the PPIC report, the increase in year one was contained within the full budget presented to Full Council on 7 March 2024

- 2.5 Within the same budget, the funding to Live and Local was approved, remaining at the 2023/24 level reflecting Live and Local's success in securing alternative external funding.
- 2.6 PPIC has recommended that Cabinet approves a 3% increase in the subsequent two years across all grants detailed in section 2.2.

### **3.0 Implications**

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

#### **3.1 Financial Implications (FIN24-25/628)**

The 10% increase for 2024/25 was included within the proposed General Fund budget approved by Full Council on 7 March 2024. The proposal to increase by 3% in each subsequent year was not included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan also approved on the same date. Should this now be approved, subsequent increases to the value of £6,600 in 2025-26 and £6,800 in 2026-27 would need to be provided for within the General fund revenue budgets in those years.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None