



**Policy, Finance and  
Development  
Committee**

**3 February 2015**

**Matter for Decision**

Title: **Establishing Independent Community Groups  
Pride of the Borough**

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## **1. Introduction**

1.1 In April 2014 members agreed to establish two existing Council “arms length” run groups as totally independent self-reliant, fully funded Community Groups from 2014/15. These groups are the Multi-Cultural Group and Senior Citizens’ Groups.

1.2 A same request has now been made by the Pride of the Borough Group from 2015/16. This report proposes that the group is set up on the same basis as agreed by members in April 2014.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That the Pride of the Borough Group is established as independent community group.

2.2 That it is established on the principles as set out in Section 3 below.

2.3 That funding will be assessed annually by the Council and mutually agreed with the group at such a level so that the group is able to fully provide the services, events and activities required. The presumption would be that funding will be granted on a 3 year cycle.

## **3. Information**

### **3.1 Agreed Basic Principles for Establishing Community Groups**

a. These are Groups that members want to see continue and also want strengthening as they are popular, valued and successful.

b. They are Groups that engage directly with, and are highly valued by the community.

c. These Groups will need the financial support of the Council in order for them to continue to be successful.

d. There should be member representatives from the Council on these Groups but the Groups should not be dominated by the Council.

e. The Groups should be seen as independent self-reliant “Community Groups” and be embedded more into the community.

- f. The Groups should not be seen or run as “Council” groups or committees.
- g. That the Groups themselves should decide how they are constituted structured and operate.
- h. That the Council will provide the Groups with a mutually agreed annual level of financial support, but no officer support. The Groups can then be and are seen to be completely independent of the Council.
- i. That in order to receive the annual funding from the Council the Groups should have an agreement with the Council based on the premise that they will:

*“Embrace the entire community of Oadby & Wigston, be open and transparent and contribute towards making the community as a whole and residents’ individual lives better”*

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**Background Papers:- Establishing Independent Community Groups – Report to Council on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

<b>Implications</b>	
Financial (JD)	The new arrangements are likely to cost up to an additional £3,000 per year in direct costs. There may also be some initial limited one off set up costs, less than £2,000, which could be funded from the Greening of the Borough Reserve if the Working Group is so minded. The additional £3,000 would be built into the 2015/16 base budget.
Risk (JD)	CR1; Decreasing Financial Resources
Equalities (KG)	An equality impact assessment needs to be carried out to consult with community groups.
Legal (KG)	Any terms of reference will need to establish the nature of the relationship with the Council and transparency of funding streams.