



Policy, Finance and Development Committee	Tuesday, 05 February 2019	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Third Sector and Community Support Funding Requests (Q3 2018/19)**

Report Author(s): **Chris Raymakers (Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits)**

Purpose of Report:	The purpose of this report is to receive approval for grants requested and to give an update on expenditure in the voluntary sector.
Report Summary:	A number of requests from the Resident Forums require approval from this Committee.
Recommendation(s):	A. That the contents of the report and appendix be noted; B. That the contracts for the advice service currently carried out by The Helping Hands Trust and Citizens Advice (Leicestershire) be extended for a further 12 months under the same arrangements as currently in operation.
Responsible Strategic Director, Head of Service and Officer Contact(s):	Stephen Hinds (Director of Finance & Transformation) (0116) 257 2681 stephen.hinds@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Chris Raymakers (Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits) (0116) 257 2891 chris.raymakers@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Priorities:	An Inclusive and Engaged Borough (CP1) Green & Safe Places (CP4) Wellbeing for All (CP5)
Vision and Values:	"A Strong Borough Together" (Vision) Customer Focus (V5)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	The implications are as set out in the report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4) Increased Fraud (CR10)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.

Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Deputy Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	1. Residents' Forums Expenditure (Q3 2018/19)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At Full Council on 05 December 2017, Members approved the setting up of a formal structure for dealing with 'Third Sector and Community Funding'.
- 1.2 This area includes the following funding streams to the community:
- Contractual Funding
 - Core Support Funding
 - Neighbourhood Residents Forums
 - Borough Wide Community Initiatives
 - Community and Youth Grant Schemes
- 1.3 The funds included under this umbrella are all discretionary funds except for the Health And Wellbeing funding which is a ring-fenced fund given by the Public Health Commissioner to the Council to deliver its objectives.
- 1.4 Approval and monitoring of this funding is shared between this Committee and the Community Engagement Forum. All requests should be underpinned by at least one of the Council's Priorities, which are;
- An Inclusive and Engaged Borough (IEB)
 - Effective Service Provision (ESP)
 - Balanced Economic Development (BED)
 - Green and Safe Places (GSP)
 - Wellbeing for All (WFA)

2. Residents' Forums

- 2.1 The table below shows the actual spend at the end of December 2018 for schemes approved by the Forums. Once a scheme is complete, any underspend on that scheme is placed back into the spending pot for future allocation. Members are requested to note the current position.

(Continued overleaf)

Forum	Forum Allocation	Budgets Allocated	Unused Balances for Reserves	Total Unallocated Reserves	Spend 31 December 2018
	£	£	£	£	£
Wigston	259,200	220,566	10,517	49,151	200,291
South Wigston	129,600	118,370	8,068	19,298	100,302
Oadby	259,200	228,462	11,940	42,678	206,654
	648,000	567,398	30,525	111,127	507,247

2.2 The following Resident Forums met as follows in November:

- Wigston Residents Forum (14 November 2018)
- South Wigston Residents Forum (28 November 2018)

There are no grants or funding applications from these Forums to be approved at this Committee.

3. Contractual Funding

3.1 The Council currently has a contract with both The Helping Hands Trust and The Citizens Advice (Leicestershire) to provide an advice service to residents. The current contracts end on 31 May 2019 and are budgeted at a total of £55,000.

3.2 Officers met both providers before Christmas to discuss the service provided and have since received applications for core funding which will allow each provider to continue offering this service to our residents for a further 12 months on a like for like basis.

3.3 Helping Hands Trust

3.3.1 The Trust offers a 'one-stop' bespoke, full and inclusive advice service which is easily accessed through sites across the Borough and through outreach. This service is available to all residents and is tailored to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged and who require personal face-to-face support. The service is accessible through personal visit, an interactive website and social media as well as telephone, email or letter.

3.3.2 The service is free of charge and this extends to all partner services. In 2017, the Trust saw 2,907 residents across all three surgeries, many with multiple issues, and dealt with benefit claims totalling £0.5m.

3.4 Citizens Advice (Leicestershire)

3.4.1 Citizens Advice provides advice and information services to residents of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston, working closely with partner organisations such as the Helping Hands Trust, Social Services and the Council itself. The services are spread over the three town centres to provide an accessible service to residents. They are also accessible by telephone, letter, website and email.

3.4.2 Citizens Advice currently assist in excess of 250 clients per quarter and should through their planned expansion of channels exceed their target of 1,000 per year.

Again many of these clients will have multiple issues.

3.4.3 Officers are recommending the continuation of both the above contracts for a further 12 months in order for a detailed review of the requirements of the service and an appropriate procurement exercise to take place

4. Core Support Funding

4.1 The Council currently supports a number of community groups within the Borough. These currently include:

- Age UK (Oadby & Wigston);
- Oadby and Wigston Senior Citizens Group;
- SSAFA (The Armed Forces Charity); and
- Pride of the Borough.

4.2 The current budget for Core Support Funding is £24,300. All of the above agreements require review during 2019/10.

5. Borough Wide Community and Grant Schemes

5.1 There are no awards to report from the Community Engagement Forum.