



Council

29 April 2014

Matter for Decision

Title: **Establishing Independent Community Groups**

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1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek members guidance as to if they wish to establish two existing Council “arms length” run groups as totally independent self-reliant, fully funded Community Groups from 2014/15.

1.2 These groups are the Multi- Cultural Group and Senior Citizens’ Groups.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Senior Citizens’ and Multi Cultural Groups are established as independent community groups.

2.2 That they are 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 those groups at such a level so that both groups are 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 Proposed 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:- Evolving The Council’s Governance Report to Council on 25 February 2014

Implications	
Financial (JD)	The new arrangements are likely to cost up to an additional £10,000 per year in direct costs however there would be commensurate savings in officer time and resources that would then be diverted to support other corporate priorities. The additional £10,000 would be funded in accordance with financial regulations firstly from virement.
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.