

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Title	Main Grants Programme 2015 to 2018		
Contributor	Head of Culture and Community Development	Item	7
Class	Part 1 (Open)	15 July 2014	

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides details of the proposed consultation on the new main grants programme and seeks the views of members of the Safer Stronger Select Committee prior to approval to consult being sought from Mayor and Cabinet on 16 July 2014.

2. Recommendation

Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are invited to scrutinise the draft consultation pack for the main grants programme.

3. Background

- 3.1 The current main grants programme was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet Contracts in July 2011. Funding was awarded for two and a half years from October 2011 to the end of March 2014 to 73 organisations. An extension to the programme for a further year was agreed in December 2013 taking the current funding to 31 March 2015.
- 3.2 As part of the Lewisham Futures Board programme, officers were asked to consider reductions to the main grants budget. A proposal to reduce the £5.9 million budget by £1.5 million is contained within the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015 – 18 report, that will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet on 16 July 2014.
- 3.3 In addition to the £5.9 million grants budget Lewisham Council has contracts to a value of over £20 million with voluntary and community sector organisations to provide a wide range of services. These include youth activities, children's centres, supported housing and public health initiatives. The types of organisations that Lewisham is contracting with ranges from large national charities to small local community based organisations.
- 3.4 This paper is the first of several opportunities that the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee will have to input into the grants process. Additional reports will be brought to the Committee at the end of the 3 months consultation prior to the programme opening to applications and in April 2015 prior to funding decisions being taken at Mayor and Cabinet Contracts. A timetable for the implementation of the new grants programme is attached at appendix B.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 The Lewisham Compact with the Voluntary and Community Sector requires the Council to undertake three month consultation of changes that affect their funding. The attached draft consultation document provides information about the proposed new grant programme criteria, application process and the proposed overall reduction to the grants budget. Organisations and individuals can respond to the consultation in any form they choose, but a set of questions and response form are included to guide them.
- 4.2 The consultation will open on 30th July 2014 and run until 29th October 2014. A full report on the consultation outcome will be brought to the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee.

5. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation to undertake the proposed consultation. The overall financial implications for the Main Grants Programme 2015 – 2018 will be included in future reports to Mayor and Cabinet Contracts in November 2014 and April 2015.

6. Legal Implications

There are no Legal Implications arising from this report

7. Conclusion

The draft consultation pack for the main grants programme is provided for members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee to scrutinise. Officers will be available at the meeting to answer questions about the consultation process and the proposed programme.

For further information on this report, please contact Liz Dart, Head of Culture and Community Development on 020 8314 8637