

ITEM 7a

MINUTE EXTRACT

Time began 6.00pm

Time ended 7.20pm

COUNCIL CABINET 14 DECEMBER 2010

Present Councillor Jennings (Chair)

Councillors Grimadell, Holmes, Ingall, Marshall, Poulter, Webb and Williams

In attendance Councillors Allen, Bayliss and Skelton

This record of decisions was published on 16 December 2010. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may be implemented on the expiry of five clear days unless a key decision is called in.

140/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jones.

152/10 Voluntary Sector Grants Aid Strategy 2011-15

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Voluntary Sector Grants. The Council was reviewing its Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Strategy to ensure it helped deliver the aims of the new plan for the city, the Derby Plan. The Derby Plan had been drawn up following extensive consultation and participation from Derby residents and city partners. It focuses on three main themes: People, Place and Prospects. The Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Strategy would help Derby create a strong, cohesive society where families, networks, neighbourhoods and communities work together to build the Big Society. The Council remained committed to supporting the Voluntary Sector as a city partner and provider of valued community services. It had signed a Compact with the sector and would conduct its business in compliance with the terms of the Compact. It was proposed there was a period of consultation on the Grant Aid Strategy. Groups currently in receipt of grant aid had already been alerted that their future funding could not be guaranteed as the Council needed to ensure it funds organisations that support its strategic priorities and offer excellent value for money. An open grants round would be run where groups could apply to provide services against the Council's stated commissioning intentions. The grant aid pot from controllable Council budgets would be £1.971 m for 2011/12.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services – Monitoring Officer stated that 4.1 of the report should also include the need to have regard to the Race Relations Act duties and consider the wider implications of the strategy on the voluntary sector.

The Council Cabinet also considered a late report of the Neighbourhoods Commission relating the Arts Grants section of the strategy. The Commission's report stated that they were broadly supportive of the inclusion

of arts grants within a corporate policy on grant aid and the proposed principles about how the arts grant budget was to be distributed and that they reserved the right to subsequently scrutinise the actual allocation of funds to organisations.

Other Options Considered

1. It was considered whether to leave the voluntary sector grant aid programmes as they were but this would mean that they might not offer the best strategic fit with the new city plan. It was important that the Council achieved the best possible outcomes for Derby people by the appropriate strategic use of all its resources, including grant aid.
2. It was considered whether all grant aid should be cut in order to offer greater protection to statutory services. This was rejected because it was recognised that the Council needed to continue to invest in the preventative and direct services that the voluntary sector provides.
3. It was considered whether grant aid should be protected and not had any reduction. This was rejected as it would mean essential statutory services would have had to be reduced even more severely.

Decision

1. To provisionally approve the Grant Aid strategy and its key funding themes as set out in sections 4.5 to 4.8 of the report and approve the process for commissioning voluntary sector services for 2011-15.
2. To undertake a 12 week consultation on the proposed Grant Aid strategy.
3. To receive a report back to Council Cabinet in April 2011 to ratify the Grant Aid strategy in light of the feedback from the consultation.
4. To note the Neighbourhoods Commission's report.

Reasons

1. The Council needed to ensure all resources were used to the maximum benefit of Derby people. It was in the process of adopting a new city plan, the Derby Plan, and it was therefore appropriate to review the use of grant aid funding to ensure it supported the objectives of the Derby Plan and offered excellent value for money.
2. The process set out in the report ensured compliance with the Compact.

In accordance with Procedure Rule AI26, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Commission had been advised that this item would be considered although not included in the Forward Plan.

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