

## ITEM 5b

### Minute Extract

Time began: 6.03pm  
Time ended: 7.03pm

#### **COUNCIL CABINET 16 OCTOBER 2013**

Present                      Councillor Bayliss (Chair)  
                                    Councillors Banwait, Repton, Shanker and Tittley

In attendance              Councillors Hickson and Jones.

This record of decisions was published on 18 October 2013. 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.

#### **91/13              Voluntary Community and Faith Sector 2013/14 and 2014 and 15 Funding Consultation**

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Voluntary Community and Faith Sector 2013/14 and 2014 and 15 Funding Consultation. As a result of cuts in the Council's revenue grants, the Council had been responding to austerity measures for a number of years now. On 30 January 2013 Council approved the revenue budget for 2013/14, which included savings proposals for 2013/14 and 2014/15 subject to the completion and consideration, where relevant, of any further consultation exercises and equality impact assessments. One of these savings proposals was a reduction in Adults, Health and Housing long-term grant funding to the Voluntary Community and Faith (VCF) sector of £493k in 2014/15.

Council Cabinet were reminded that the budget for VCF grants was approximately £1.5m in 2011/12 prior to the cuts imposed. Following the current latest saving proposal the budget would be reduced to approximately £500k. This scale of reduction was beyond local control as the Council tried its best to protect statutory services to the most vulnerable people in the city.

A full consultation took place on this VCF grants saving proposal between March and May 2013. The report summarised the outcomes of the consultation and equality impact analysis, making recommendations for 2013/14 and 2014/15 funding.

The majority of consultees who responded to the consultation were opposed to the funding reductions. However, the Council had to remain within the overall budget. The report contained a summary of the consultation findings. The full consultation report was attached at Appendix 5 to the report.

The consultation responses clearly expressed that those services directly providing support to older and disabled people and information and advice were the most important.

Appendix 3 of the report detailed the current funding and recommended future funding level for each organisation. The recommendation was that for the 39 services currently being provided:

- To cease funding for 2 services from 1st February 2014
- To maintain funding at the current level for 4 services in 2014/15
- To reduce funding for 25 services in 2014/15
- To cease funding for 8 services in 2014/15

The Monitoring Officer reminded Council Cabinet that when making a decision on this matter to have “due regard” to its duties under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 which were set out in detail in the Legal Implications in Appendix 1 of the report. In doing so Council Cabinet took account of the impact the financial proposals could have on different equality groups and considered ways of mitigating or avoiding any adverse impact.

These services supported vulnerable groups of people with protected characteristics as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Council Cabinet noted that by reducing funding for these services there were negative impacts on these groups of people. To assist Council Cabinet to make an informed decision on these matters a full Equalities Impact Assessment had been carried out and the results were summarised in Appendix 1 and set out in full at Appendix 4 of the report.

During the consultation period, one petition was received from Relate Derby and South Derbyshire with 322 valid signatures. He was proposing to end the funding for Relate Derby and South Derbyshire.

### **Options Considered**

To continue to fund these organisations. However, this would cause the Council to over spend its available budget requiring savings to be made from other areas.

To cease funding all current services and go out to the sector for a new grant funding application round. This was rejected as the Council undertook this process against a new set of service specifications supporting adult social care priorities in 2011/12 to get the range of services we currently had. In addition, given the relatively small remaining budget a new funding round would raise false expectations in the sector and many more organisations would fail to secure any funding than the number which would succeed.

To reduce all services by the same percentage. This was rejected as it would not be an intelligent response to the difficult service decisions facing the Council.

## **Decision**

1. To approve the grant funding amounts listed at Appendix 3 of the report for individual organisations and services.
2. To approve the notification to Hardwick Clinical Commissioning Group (lead funder) that the Council's funding for the Rethink Focus Line and Derbyshire Voice services would cease from 1st February 2014.
3. To approve the serving of notice of all changes to organisations listed in Appendix 3 of the report from week commencing 28 October 2013.
4. To delegate to the Strategic Director of Adults Health and Housing, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health, authority to adjust therecommended funding amounts, within the overall budget and delegated authoritylimits.

## **Reasons**

1. The funding recommendations enabled the Council to achieve the proposed savings and support the Council to achieve a balanced budget for 2013/14 and 2014/15.
2. The serving of a minimum of 12 weeks notice allowed the Council to comply with grant funding agreements and was in line with the principles of the Compact.
3. Whilst making these recommendations the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Housing was mindful of the need to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities but also discharged our fiduciary responsibility to manage within the resources the Council had available.

Minute Extract End