

CABINET – 13TH JANUARY 2022

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

ITEM 6 CHARNWOOD GRANTS – STRATEGIC PARTNERS 2022-23 – 2023-24

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Charnwood Grants – Strategic Partners report.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. It was acknowledged that the information in the report was clear and comprehensive and members thanked officers for the work involved in the Strategic Partner Grants process.
- ii. The report had recommended that a Strategic Partner Grant of £9,537 for 2022/23 provisional amount be awarded in principle to Syston Volunteer Centre, as opposed to the two-year funding recommendation for other applicants. This was due to the Council requiring further evidence to demonstrate that relevant criteria were met. Officers were confident that the Syston Volunteer Centre was able to develop their offer to residents as outlined by the Council and provide evidence of this to secure further funding in the 2023/24 period.
- iii. The Syston Volunteer Centre was historically a transportation service for resident. The Council had encouraged the Centre to develop further services to meet requirements for the allocation of grant funding. The service had developed stronger relationships with partner organisations and a successful befriending service had been set up during the pandemic. The Centre was continuing to develop their offer to residents.
- iv. The financial offer to each organisation was relative to the services provided and this was reviewed annually as part of the monitoring and evaluation process before the second-year funding was allocated to each organisation.

- v. Some of the organisations discussed within the report had met criteria related to sustainability and carbon reduction. However, it was acknowledged that some organisations had adopted measures to improve sustainability and reduce carbon and had not referred to this in the application process. It was suggested that this be considered during subsequent grant awarding processes by encouraging organisations to discuss sustainability and carbon reduction in their applications.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Paper:	Scrutiny Commission Minute 80 2021/22, 10th January 2022
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