

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 05 February 2018

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| Portfolio: | Leisure and Community |
| Subject: | One Community Contract Extension |
| Report of: | Head of Leisure and Corporate Services |
| Corporate Priority: | Strong, safe, inclusive and healthy communities |

Purpose:

To agree an extension to the current contract with One Community to provide help and support to voluntary and community groups in the Borough of Fareham.

Executive summary:

Fareham Borough Council provides funding to support and maintain a vibrant community and voluntary sector in the Borough. The Council recognises the importance of well-supported, effective community and voluntary activities. It is well documented how these informal opportunities meet local need and encourage residents to have full, active lives, as well as establishing a stronger connection to their local area.

Following a report to the Executive in March 2015, the Executive approved the option to tender the service to provide support for community and voluntary sector organisations. At the meeting on 7 September 2015 One Community was awarded a two-year contract to deliver this service which expires on 31 March 2018.

The reduction of funding available from Hampshire County Council has impacted on the organisations and the models for providing support are changing. Given the changes that are occurring in this sector it is considered that re-tendering the service should be deferred until the sector has stabilised.

Extending the existing contract with One Community will allow this to happen and will give the opportunity for a re-appraisal of the different organisations and service models over the coming months. A more informed decision can then be taken on what is the best service delivery model to support the community and voluntary groups in the Borough of Fareham.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive:

(a) approves a one year extension to the existing contract with One Community which expires on 31 March 2018, with the option to extend for a further year beyond 31 March 2019; and

(b) agrees that delegated authority be given to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community to extend the contract for a further year.

Reason:

To sustain the varied range of local community and voluntary groups in the Borough the Council has provided a resource to assist the Council in supporting a robust and active community and voluntary sector in the Borough.

Cost of proposals:

There is a budget of £40,000 in the Leisure and Community revenue budget to fund the cost of the One Community contract.

Appendices: None

Reference Papers:

Executive Report - 2 March 2015 – Proposed Funding Arrangements for Community Action Fareham (CAF) - 2015-16

Executive Report – 7 September 2015 - Award of Contract –Support Services for Community and Voluntary Services, Fareham

Background Papers:

File of Correspondence (Exempt by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

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| Date: | 05 February 2018 |
| Subject: | One Community Contract Extension |
| Briefing by: | Head of Leisure and Corporate Services |
| Portfolio: | Leisure and Community |

INTRODUCTION

1. Fareham Borough Council provides funding to support and maintain a vibrant community and voluntary sector in the Borough. The Council recognises the importance of well-supported, effective community and voluntary activities. It is well documented how these informal opportunities meet local need and encourage residents to have full, active lives, as well as establishing a stronger connection to their local area.
2. Traditionally such support activity has been provided by Councils for Voluntary Service or CVS as they are more commonly known. CVS's work for the benefit of local residents, community groups or organisations and they offer support to a range of community organisations across a raft of issues. This includes the provision of services and activities to meet the recreational and social needs of local residents, either as individuals, through volunteering opportunities or through working as part of a group or organisation that may be involved with community activities.

BACKGROUND

3. Following a report to the Executive in March 2015, several options were suggested for providing targeted support and assistance to the local community groups and organisations in Fareham.
4. The priorities identified for the Borough of Fareham were, volunteering, funding advice and support and governance. These were referred to as the 'Big 3'.
5. The Executive approved the option to tender the service and seek expressions of interest from community and voluntary sector organisations to operate the service. Interested parties were invited to explain how they planned to run the service, whilst exploring new emerging collaborations and working to promote greater opportunities.
6. In total, six tenders were received and four were evaluated by officers and the Panel of three members from the Leisure & Community Policy Development and Review Panel.

7. The results of the tendering exercise were considered by the Executive at the meeting on 7 September 2015 and a two-year contract was awarded to One Community. They are the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) for Eastleigh Borough where they have experience of providing similar services.
8. The contract commenced part way through the financial year in October 2015. The contract was subsequently extended to expire in March 2018 so that it ran concurrently with the Council's financial year.

CONTRACT EXTENSION

9. Quarterly monitoring of the contract takes place with officers and the Executive Member for Leisure and Community. One Community make an annual presentation to the Leisure & Community Policy and Development Review Panel outlining the work it has undertaken and its key achievements.
10. There have been significant changes in funding for groups and organisations who work in the community and voluntary sector in recent years. A key factor has been the reduction in funding from Hampshire County Council and further funding pressures are expected going forward.
11. This has resulted in groups and organisations merging and exploring different models for providing help and support to voluntary and community groups. While the 'Big 3' remain a priority for the Borough of Fareham, the impact of changes taking place in this sector will take some time to filter through.
12. Given the current situation, this is not the best time to re-tender the service and it would be prudent to allow some time for things to settle and allow a revaluation of the situation in the future.
13. Therefore, it is proposed to extend the existing contract for one year with an option to extend for a further year if required.

CONCLUSION

14. One Community has a two-year contract to provide help and support for the community and voluntary organisations in the Borough of Fareham. The contract expires on 31 March 2018.
15. The reduction in funding available from Hampshire County Council is resulting in changes to the organisations and the models for providing support. Given the changes that are occurring in this sector it is considered that re-tendering the service should be deferred until the situation has stabilised.
16. Extending the existing contract with One Community will allow this to happen and will give the opportunity for a re-appraisal of the different organisations and service models over the coming months. A more informed decision can then be taken on what is the best service delivery model to support the community and voluntary groups in the Borough of Fareham

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Emma Watts. (Ext 4440)