

Audit, Risk and Governance Committee
Meeting to be held on Monday, 20 May 2019

Electoral Division affected: None;

Neighbourhood Wellbeing Grants Update
(Appendix A refers)

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Executive Summary

This report presents an update on the monitoring activity in relation to the Neighbourhood Wellbeing Grants awarded in 2016/17.

Recommendation

That the committee note the update.

Background and Advice

At the meeting of the Audit Risk and Governance Committee on 20 January 2018, it was agreed that further efforts would be made to contact the recipients of the Neighbourhood Wellbeing Grants in 2016/17 to request information on the outcomes achieved from receipt of the grant funding.

Officers have sought to contact all recipients who had not previously provided financial and/or performance monitoring information. The original total of the grants approved was £525,089, to 103 organisations.

- Four of the original awards, totalling £46,900, were either never paid by the council, or were returned due to projects not going ahead.
- Of the projects that went ahead, financial and performance information has been received from 84 of the recipients, totalling £417,259.
- Partial performance and/or financial information has been received from another 8 organisations, for grants totalling £27,200.
- No information has so far been received from 7 organisations, for grants totalling £33,730.

Appendix A provides a further breakdown.

Officers continue to pursue outstanding responses, and information continues to be received. Any updates on this position will be presented at the meeting. In some cases, where it has been difficult to contact the recipient, the assistance of the local councillor has been sought.

The committee will recognise that the passage of time since the grants were awarded has caused some difficulties, for example where personnel within recipient organisations have left, and in some cases, organisations themselves appear no longer to exist. The nature of the grants meant that many small organisations came forward, and indeed in some cases may only have existed for the sole purpose of delivering a project with the grant funding the county council provided.

As the committee is aware, some grants were paid before recipients had signed the appropriate acceptance form setting out the conditions of the funding in relation to monitoring and reporting. This agreement also made clear that should this information not be forthcoming or the project not delivered, the council could seek to recover the money. This option remains open and will be pursued where appropriate.

In three cases, where no information has yet been received, there is no signed agreement, which may impact on the council's ability to recover the funding, should further efforts to obtain information prove unsuccessful.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The council has conducted the monitoring in accordance with the original conditions of the grants to identify whether the funding provided has been spent as intended.

Officers have not identified any incidence or evidence of fraud or misuse of the grant funding.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A