

Report to: Executive Cabinet Member
Community Issues

Date: 25 June 2019

Report of: Director of Corporate Resources

Bolton Council

Report No: CEX035

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Report Title: **Contingency Funding - Voluntary Sector Groups**

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Non Confidential:
(delete as approp)

(**Non-Confidential**) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide contingency funding support for previously funded groups until the end of December 2019 so they are not penalised whilst the development of the Bolton's Fund is undertaken.

Recommendations:

The Executive Cabinet Member is recommended to approve:

- Funding for named groups until the end of December 2019.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

Signed:

Leader / Executive Cabinet
Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

1 Introduction and context

- 1.1 A strategy for working with and investing in the VCSE sector is currently being co-designed with a range of partners including Bolton CCG, Bolton at Home and key representatives from the voluntary and community sector.
- 1.2 The strategy will have a clear connection to the new partnership priorities and the delivery plan for Bolton 2030 and will set out clear high-level outcomes that will be further developed through co-design with the VCSE.
- 1.3 One of the necessary elements for the promotion of a thriving VCSE sector that will deliver the council's and the Vision priorities is the provision of high-quality infrastructure support. Bolton CVS have been commissioned to provide that support for a three-year period, operational from 1 June 2019.
- 1.4 A further key development that is being co-designed with partners is a new system wide approach for grant funding that will lead to improvements in how scarce resources are allocated across the system. The micro and small grants element of the new approach 'Bolton's Fund' have already been tested and co-delivered; and can be operational as soon as practicable now that the infrastructure partner is operational. The intention is that Bolton's Fund will be co-delivered with pooled funding via our infrastructure partners.
- 1.5 However, the development of a multi-level investment programme for the VCSE in Bolton involves pooling funding across a range of partner organisations in Bolton. This VCSE strategy is developing alongside the significant work to integrate and reform health and social care and other public service reform which is understandably complex. This complexity and then need to develop new strategic commissioning structures and functions has had a knock-on effect as there are financial relationships that will need more work before an agreed pooled VCSE fund can be agreed.
- 1.6 This means that the realistic timetable for securing pooled funding for the Bolton Fund will be towards the end of this year. The knock-on effect is that this will have a penalising effect on organisations whose funding came to an end on 31 May 2019 but who will be expected to be bidding into the Bolton Fund in the future.
- 1.7 To reduce the likelihood of destabilising these organisations in the short term a contingency funding proposal is outlined below which would be funded out of existing funds that will form part of the overarching Bolton's Fund in the future.

2 Contingency funding proposal

- 2.1 Table 1 below outlines the funding being requested by the Executive Cabinet Member to ensure that there is continuity of funding whilst further work to develop Bolton's Fund. Subject to the Executive Cabinet Member approving this funding, the existing grant agreements governing this funding will be extended until the 31 December 2019 alongside the usual monitoring processes in place.

Table 1 Groups and funding 1 June 2019 – 31 December 2019

Organisation	Amount
Bolton Interfaith Council	£12,600
Bolton Christian Community Cohesion	£19,993
Bolton Hindu Forum	£19,993
Bolton Council of Mosques	£62,203
Bolton Citizens Advice Bolton	£80,674
Bolton Shopmobility	£12,587
Bolton Community Transport & Furniture Service	£10,865
Bolton Advice Centre	£3,299
Total Proposed Funding (June to December 2019)	£222,214

3 Recommendation

The Executive Cabinet Member is recommended to approve:

- Funding for named groups until the end of December 2019.