

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for Stronger Communities:-

TUESDAY 25TH JUNE, 2019

Following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Councillor Muslim | - Executive Cabinet Member – Stronger Communities |
| Councillor Hornby | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson |
| Councillor Veevers | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson |

Officers

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Ms. S. Johnson | - Borough Treasurer |
| Mrs. H. Gorman | - Borough Solicitor |
| Mr. I. D. Mulholland | - Principal Democratic Services Officer |

1. CONTINGENCY FUNDING – VOLUNTARY SECTOR GROUPS

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval to provide contingency funding support for previously funded groups from the Corporate Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Funding programme until the end of December, 2019 so they were not penalised whilst the development of the Bolton's Fund was undertaken.

By way of background, the Executive Cabinet Member was advised that a strategy for working and investing in the Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector was currently being co-designed with a range of partners which

CC2

included Bolton CCG, Bolton at Home and key representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

The Executive Cabinet Member was informed that one of the necessary elements for the promotion of a thriving VCSE sector that would deliver the Council's and the Vision priorities was the provision of a high quality infrastructure support. It was explained that Bolton CVS had been commissioned to provide that support for a three year period which would become operational from 1st June, 2019.

The report also stated that a further key development that was being co-designed with partners was a new system wide approach for grant funding that would lead to improvements in how scarce resources were allocated across the system. It was stated that the micro and small grants element of the new approach 'Bolton's Fund' had already been tested and co-delivered and could be operational as soon as practicable now that the infrastructure partner was operational. It was also the intention that Bolton's Fund would be co-delivered with pooled funding via the Council's infrastructure partners.

In terms of going forward the Executive Cabinet Member was advised that, in view of the complexities of securing pooled funding, a realistic timetable for the Bolton Fund would be towards the end of this year. The knock-on effect was that this would have a penalising effect on organisations whose funding came to an end on 31st May, 2019 but who would be expected to be bidding into the Bolton Fund in the future.

In view of the above and to ensure that there was continuity of funding whilst further work to develop Bolton's Fund was being undertaken, it was proposed that the existing grant agreements governing this funding be extended until 31st December, 2019 as follows, viz:-

| Organisation | Amount |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Bolton Interfaith Council | £12,600 |
| Bolton Christian Community Cohesion | £19,993 |
| Bolton Hindu Forum | £19,993 |

CC3

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Bolton Council of Mosques | £62,203 |
| Bolton Citizens Advice Bolton | £80,674 |
| Bolton Shopmobility | £12,587 |
| Bolton Community Transport and Furniture Service | £19,865 |
| Bolton Advice Centre | £3,299 |
| Total Proposed Funding (June to December, 2019) | £222,214 |

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the funding for the above groups until the end of December, 2019, as now detailed.