
External Funding and Grants Protocol

To: **Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 26 March 2015**

Main Portfolio Area: **Corporate**

By: **External Funding Officer**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All**

Summary: To present the new External Funding and Grants Protocol.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to introduce the revised External Funding Protocol to take account of changes recommended by Overview and Scrutiny in relation to community grants.

2.0 Background

2.1 The original External Funding Protocol put in place robust procedures to prevent breaches of external funding grant conditions and possible repayment of grants as a result.

3.0 Current Position

3.1 The protocol was previously approved by Governance and Audit on 24 September 2014 and is regularly reviewed. This revised version reaffirms the procedures, but in addition provides guidance around community grants.

3.2 The revised External Funding and Grants Protocol is presented at **Annex 1**.

3.3 Consideration was given as to whether a separate protocol was required. However, on reflection the last funding that fell into the Community Grant category was money received by Vattenfall back in 2010. Prior to that be-quests and grants to be given and distributed for community use were very rarely received and would have meant any protocol specifically written for this purpose would be in danger of failing into insignificance through underutilisation. The External Funding protocol is a high profile document that Officers are fully aware of and regularly updated on, by incorporating the Scrutiny recommendations within that report means that it was more visible to officers.

3.4 Section 106 or developer contributions are outside of the remit of the protocol as these are governed by separate legal agreements.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

4.1.1 There are no direct financial implications; the protocol ensures that potential financial risks are considered prior to, during and after grant drawdown to avoid adverse impact on the Council's finances.

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 Section 151 of the 1972 Local Government Act requires a suitably qualified named officer to keep control of the Council's finances. For this Council, this is the Interim Director of Corporate & Regulatory Services (S151 Officer), Paul Cook, and this report is helping to carry out that function.

4.3 Corporate

4.3.1 Corporate priorities rely in part on the success of external funding applications. The protocol assists the Council in applying and managing the risk associated with external funders requirements.

4.4 Equity and equalities

4.4.1 There are no equity or equality issues arising from this report.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 That Overview and Scrutiny recommends to the Governance and Audit Committee the adoption of the revised External Funding and Grants Protocol.

Contact Officer:	Clive Bowen, External Funding Officer, 01843 577225
Reporting to:	Nicola Walker, Interim Head Of Financial Services

Annex List

Annex 1	External Funding and Grants Protocol
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Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Clive Bowen, External Funding Officer
Legal	N/A