

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 17/09/03	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Individual Decision Making – Implications for Voluntary Sector Grants - Addendum Report	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Head of Social Inclusion	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That this report be considered in conjunction with the main report on individual decision-making. The report provides further information in relation to the recommendations of Standards Committee on the approval of voluntary sector grants.
2. The Head of Social Inclusion recommends that the financial limits be:
  - Over £25,000 decision by individual member
  - Under £25,000 decision by Chief Officer

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Policy on Award of Grants

3. The Executive, on the 29th July 2003, considered the Fast Track Review of Voluntary Sector Funding. The Executive agreed Option B – “Policy led Option” for future decision-making.
4. Environment and Community Support Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee also considered the Fast Track Review of Voluntary Sector Funding and supported the adoption of Option B – “Policy led Option”.
5. Under this model, decisions on the programmes with a direct link to service needs would be made by individual Members or Chief Officers. In the case of the current Community Support programme, which has a cross cutting corporate set of policy drivers, the funding decisions would be made by the Executive. There would no longer be an annual grant allocation round, as not all grants would need to be allocated at the start of the financial year.
6. The decision relates to the row (a) of the table at paragraph 24 of the main report. The Executive did not make a specific recommendation on the financial threshold, however, advice from the Head of Social Inclusion is that the recommended financial limits be:
  - Over £25,000 decision by individual member
  - Under £25,000 decision by Chief Officer
7. The threshold of £25,000 is in line with Option C of the Fast Track Review of Voluntary Sector Funding. A table showing how many decisions would be taken by members using this threshold is included in Table 1 of this report.

**Recommendation of Standards Committee**

8. Standards Committee have recommended permitting the approval of voluntary sector grants by individuals. They have commented on three particular aspects:

- The need for an upper threshold for individual decisions above which decisions would be taken either by:
  - the portfolio holder in conjunction with the Executive Member for Resources, or
  - the full Executive
- The need for reports to indicate any other grants applied for or awarded to an organisation and the need for the cumulative total to be monitored
- The need to allow personal representations by organisation at the time consideration is given to the making of an award.

9. The first two points have been made as recommendations to Council Assembly. Further information in relation to each of these aspects is provided below.

**KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

**An upper threshold for individual decision making**

10. Table 1 below indicates the number of grants above a threshold of £25,000 – recommended for individual decision-making. Table 2 indicates the number and value of grants within varying financial ranges in order to assist in any decision on an upper threshold for individual decision making.

**Table 1**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Current number of funding decisions taken by the Executive i.e. over £2,500</b>	<b>Number of decisions for 2003/4 that would have been taken by Members if decisions under £25,000 (other than Community Support) are delegated to Chief Officers</b>
Arts	20	5
Early years	19 (moving to contracts)	Moving to contracts for 2004/05 so decisions covered by CSO
Play	8	4
After school	8	2
Supp Ed	28	1
Youth	27	12
Parks	4	4
Sports Devpt	13	None
Regeneration	5 grants Moving to contract	May be moving to contract None
Planning	5	None
Environment	2	None
SS adults	14	2
SS children	1	1

**APPENDIX 10**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Current number of funding decisions taken by the Executive i.e. over £2,500</b>	<b>Number of decisions for 2003/4 that would have been taken by Members if decisions under £25,000 (other than Community Support) are delegated to Chief Officers</b>
Advice	7	Moving to contracts so decisions covered by CSO
Community Support	45	45 (All Community Support grants would go to the full Executive)
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>76</b>

**Table 2**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Up to £5000</b>	<b>£5001-£10,000</b>	<b>£10,001-£50,000</b>	<b>£50,001 - £100,000</b>	<b>&gt;£100,000</b>
Arts, Culture, Heritage	No. £	8 22,258	4 40,373	6 163,535	2 128,018	
Early Years	No. £	1 3,500	5 35,103	3 77,782	3 253,870	7 866,903
Play	No. £			5 89,434	3 170,230	
After-School	No. £	2 2,170	3 22,741	2 60,228	1 55,874	
Supplementary Education	No. £	10 37,929	10 64,055	7 121,378	1 67,884	
Youth	No. £	3 12,363	1 9,515	19 513,444	4 281,377	
Parks	No. £			3 123,164	1 97,658	
Sports Development	No. £	10 28,890	3 17,832			
Environment	No. £			2 22,000		
Employment Training (contracts)	No. £	Not yet agreed	Not yet agreed	Not yet agreed	Not yet agreed	Not yet agreed
Regeneration (various)	No. £			5 103,020		
SS Adults	No. £	3 6,761	2 13,815	2 54,932	2 136,926	5 739,178
SS Children	No. £				1 97,612	
Advice Agencies	No. £			3 102,533	1 84,071	3 882,112
Community Support	No. £	6 12,999	5 35,024	24 574,653	9 591,169	1 112,855
<b>Total</b>	<b>No. £</b>	<b>43 126,879</b>	<b>33 238,458</b>	<b>81 2,006,103</b>	<b>28 1,964,689</b>	<b>16 2,601,048</b>

**Information on other grants/applications to be provided**

11. Reporting on other grants awarded or applied for from the Council would be a straight forward matter. Members would need to bear in mind that there are a number of organisations that receive support through different Council grants programmes for different activities. Officers reports would be based on ensuring there was no duplication of funding and no concerns around performance issues.

**Personal Representations**

12. The current arrangements require grants officers to submit copies of reports on grant awards to organisations these impact on. Organisations are encouraged to comment on these reports and to provide any supplementary information they consider should be made available to Members. In addition to this, many organisations take advantage of the opportunity to make deputations to the Executive at the time grants are being awarded.
13. An objective of the recent Fast Track Review of Voluntary Sector Grants was to bring decision-making arrangements into line with decision-making in relation to other areas of Council activity. It has sought to emphasise the role of Council voluntary sector resources in supporting Council objectives in this respect.
14. Individual decision making will not provide the same opportunity to make formal representations to the Council on grant matters although where decisions are taken by the full Executive organisations will continue to be able to request deputations.
15. Council Assembly may wish to consider emphasising the need for officers to ensure that their reports to decision makers on the making of awards report fully on the views of relevant organisations.

**Lead Officer:** Nathalie Hadjifotiou, Head of Social Inclusion

**Report Author:** Stan Dubeck, Social Inclusion Division (x57402)