

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee - 8 March 2022

Subject: One Year Extension to the Our Manchester Voluntary & Community Sector (OMVCS) and Development Fund Grants Programmes 2022/23

Report of: Director of Policy, Performance and Reform

Summary

This report summarises the approach to extending the grant funding arrangements in place with voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations currently funded through the Our Manchester Voluntary & Community Sector (OMVCS) and Development Fund Grants Programmes. The paper presents the process and timescales for this extension throughout the 2022-23 financial year.

Recommendation

The committee is invited to note and comment on the contents of this report.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

A range of VCSE organisations funded through the OMVCS and Development funds deliver activities which aim to advance the City's zero carbon ambitions. As part of the extension process, organisations are asked to detail these types of activities and levels of engagement with them, and anything that organisations are doing or have planned to reduce their own carbon footprint. This will be strengthened further in any future funding programmes.
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Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Manchester's VCSE sector generated a total income of £496.9m in 2019-20 and in addition to its paid workforce, created 162,278 volunteering opportunities, with volunteers giving 480,901 hours each week valued at £242m p/a (based on living wage of £9.50 p/h) (<i>Manchester State of the VCSE Sector report, 2021</i>). The OMVCS and Development Funds support this activity with a combined investment of circa £2.625m p/a.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	The VCSE organisations supported through these funds are run and supported by a diverse range of skilled workers, both those in paid roles and those giving voluntary hours. In addition to providing work opportunities, many of the funded organisations provide employability support, often working with those communities and individuals requiring specific types of support to benefit from Manchester's economic success.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The OMVCS and Development Funds support organisations whose primary funded activity is to work with individuals and communities to maximise their potential and have an active contribution in Manchester. These includes organisations providing activities targeted on a geographical, community or characteristic basis, delivered through a diverse range of approaches.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	OMVCS and Development Funded organisations frequently work with residents to celebrate their achievements, contributions and identities. Organisations promote Manchester as a place of choice by celebrating the value of the city and its people.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Funded organisations have progressed the digital inclusion agenda significantly in the last two years, adapting service delivery to online and / or blended options, and working with key stakeholder groups to address and remove digital barriers. As a result, some resident groups (i.e. older people, people whose first language is not English, sensory impaired people) are more able to connect with VCSE services than ever before.

Contact Officers:

Name: James Binks
Position: Director of Policy, Performance and Reform
Telephone: 0161 234 1146
E-mail: james.binks@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Keiran Barnes
Position: Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE)
Telephone: 0161 234 3036
E-mail: keiran.barnes@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

- *Update on Work with the VCSE Sector During Covid-19 report*, Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee, 8 October 2020

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper outlines the approach for the Council to extend the Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (OMVCS) grant and Development Fund to March 2023. Both programmes have already been extended once, from April 2021 to the end of March 2022. In the current financial climate, a second extension continues to provide stability within the sector and for residents in the city that require continuity of services. Importantly, it also ensures that going forward, consultation, engagement and co-design on future funding options can be adequately undertaken with stakeholders to deliver the right funding approaches, aligned to the priorities for the city.
- 1.2 The extension process is very similar to that undertaken last year; the organisations on both programmes (see *Appendix 1* for the list of funded organisations) are required to complete an extension proposal which outlines how they intend to use the funding to continue to meet the objectives of the programme and adapt services to meet the needs of residents. As before, the proposal is not part of a new application round or assessment, but instead focuses on the financial position/organisational health of voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) groups and to ensure that Council funds will continue to be used as intended (see full list of questions asked in section 3).

2.0 Process Timeline

- 2.1 Below is a comprehensive timeline which includes activity that has taken place so far:

13 January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organisations on OMVCS and Development Fund programmes informed of the extension to the programmes until March 2023 and the requirement to submit a proposal by mid February.Organisations have been given opportunity to talk to the team and/or attend drop in sessions to help them complete the process.
17 Jan 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Councillors also informed through Key Fact sheet
19 Jan 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Extension proposal form opens and email notification to groups that it is liveNotification issued to all groups that the form is live
Late Jan / early Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drop-in sessions, one to one calls and reminder notifications to support successful completion of proposals
16 Feb 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">11:59 pm Deadline for the extension proposal form submissions
Late Feb/early March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of proposals by the Programme Team with follow-ups to organisations where neededRAG rating of all organisations based upon their submissions and monitoring where applicableFollow up with groups where needed for assurance
Mid March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Following budget confirmation new grant funding agreements for April 2022 – March 2023 will be issued and confirmed.
By End of March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Groups return signed grant agreements by 25 March and payments are made to groups.

3.0 Extension Proposal Questions

3.1 The extension proposal form asks funded organisations to answer the following mandatory questions:

- Contact details questions – i.e. named contacts related to your project and a third contact for remittances.
- Rate the organisation's CURRENT operational and financial position – i.e. Unsustainable / Challenging / Stable / Good / Strong
- Describe the organisation's current operational and financial position in more detail e.g. tell us about income, turnover, grant awards you have received, use of reserves and any other activities you have done to manage your organisation's operations and finances.
- Overall, how would you rate your organisation's anticipated operational and financial position through April 2022-March 2023? [Unsustainable / Challenging / Stable / Good / Strong]
- Please describe any significant risks you are aware of that could affect your organisation's operational and financial position over April 2022-March 2023
- What future planning work has your organisation done or plans to do in the next 3-6 months to mitigate against the risks mentioned in Q5 and to adapt to the ongoing and potential impacts of Covid-19?
- Will any of the activities you deliver over April 2022-March 2023 be significantly different to the ones currently funded (e.g. new projects and services, working in new wards, working with new groups/partners, new outcomes)? Please describe any significant differences and how these relate to the OMVCS / Development Fund programme objectives (see list below).
 - *Strong sense of citizenship and pride in the city*
 - *Support the contribution older people make (Age-Friendly city)*
 - *Collectively improve health and wellbeing*
 - *Increase volunteering*
 - *Support carers*

3.2 In addition, organisations funded through the Development Fund only are asked to describe how they will continue to meet the development actions and objectives previously agreed.

3.3 All organisations across both funds are asked the following optional questions:

The Council declared a Climate Change Emergency in July 2019 and agreed its 2020-25 Climate Change Action Plan in March 2020. Our target is for the City to be Zero carbon by 2038 at the latest. The Council is committed to embedding zero carbon ambitions into all decision making and to build addressing climate change into our grants to the Voluntary & Community sector. This is being reflected in our commissioning and grant arrangements. Please use the space below if you would like to tell us about the progress your organisation is making in reducing its carbon footprint and/or addressing the

impacts of Climate Change, as well as anything you have planned for the future.

Is there anything else you would like the OM Funds programme team to know about? If yes please let us know in the comment box below.

4.0 RAG Rating

4.1 Organisations will be given a RAG rating based on:

4.1.1 Their reported financial position and organisational health and if there are any immediate or critical concerns

4.1.2 That Council funds have been used and will continue to be used as intended and that adequate mitigation is in place to maintain delivery through 2022/23

4.2 Organisation monitoring returns will also be considered where necessary to inform RAG ratings.

4.3 Where there are concerns, follow up will take place with the group to understand what their support needs are and any additional mitigation that may be required.

5.0 Next Steps

5.1 The Extension process will continue to be delivered as outlined in the timescales above.

5.2 The Committee is asked to note and comment on the approach above.