



Financial Year	2017/18
Proposal no.	NH-2017-311
Directorate	Neighbourhoods

Savings Programme Pre-consultation Report	
Subject:	Review of Community Centre Grant Funding

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Members consider a review of Community Centre Grant Funding as a basis for consultation.

Reason for recommendation

- 1.2 Across the 18 Community Centre organisations the Council currently supports there is a wide variety and level of community activity being delivered. It is important that the Council has assurance that the current grants being provided are being used appropriately.
- 1.3 The aim of the review will be to deliver a saving and ensure that the Community Centres the Council continues to support are delivering on outcomes for local people.

2 Background

- 2.1 There is no statutory duty to fund Community Centres. However, Community Centres provide a valuable service to the communities they serve. They should meet the needs of their individual communities and have a significant impact upon the health and wellbeing of individuals and the quality of life of people in the community.

- 2.2 Currently 18 Community Centres have received annual grants from the Council to enable them to deliver community activity.
- 2.3 The review will examine the level of activity and the positive impact that the Centre has on the local community, and the level of need in the community for the centre.
- 2.4 The review will conclude whether the existing level of grant funding is appropriate, whether funding should be increased/reduced or cease funding altogether.
- 2.5 The level of saving attached to this proposal is initially £75,000. However, once the review has been completed this saving may increase/reduce depending on the outcome.

3 Financial Implications

The saving proposal is 15.9% of the total budget for the area of service affected.

- 3.1 Table 1 provides details of the Proposal to review Community Centre Grant Funding:

	Savings 2017/18		Savings 2018/19		Total savings	
	£k		£k		£k	
	On-going	One off	On-going	One off	On-going	One off
Employees						
Other Costs	75				75	
Income lost						
Net savings	75				75	
Additional income generated						
Total savings						
Implementation costs						
Total savings less implementation costs	75				75	

4 Asset implications

- 4.1 There may be asset implications for the Council arising from this report. However these are difficult to predict until the review has been concluded.

5 Voluntary Sector impact

- 5.1 Both the Council and service users are reliant upon the services and support provided through our partnership working with the voluntary sector. The Council has a commitment through the Borough of Rochdale Compact to continue to support local services and to involve them in the development and provision of services. The Council will continue to work with each of the services affected to ensure that any detrimental impact upon service users is minimised and to provide support in the future development of each of the services.

- 5.2 This will have an obvious impact upon some organisations, these will be considered when the review is concluded.

6 Consultation

- 6.1 The Service Delivery consultation will involve consultation with each of the community centres, their volunteers, service users and stakeholders to consider and mitigate the impact of the reduction in funding.
- 6.2 The Council must ensure that it remains open-minded throughout the consultation period to all alternative proposals and expressions of interest.

7 Alternatives considered

- 7.1 Members could decide not to implement this proposal and provide alternative options.

8 Risk Assessment Implications

- 8.1 There is an overall risk that a reduction in funding to each of the Community Centres affected may result in a reduction of services that are available to people – for example range of services or ‘opening hours’.
- 8.2 As the Council is forced to reduce some services, due to the financial challenges it faces, the role of the Voluntary Sector, including Community Centres becomes increasingly important. The Council will have to work hard with the groups to consider how to develop their future role in community provision.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Council must comply with its obligations under the Borough of Rochdale Compact to give three months’ notice of a reduction in funding to the Community Centres and consult with their staff, volunteers and service users and meet with them to discuss and mitigate the impact of any reduction in funding.

10 Personnel Implications

- 10.1 There are no personnel implications

11 Equalities Impacts

Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment

- 11.1 There are no workforce equality issues arising from this report

12 Equality/Community Impact Assessments

- 12.1 A detailed Equality Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the review. It is not possible to conduct an effective EIA at this time, as the outcome of the review is not known.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR SAVINGS PROPOSALS

The Equality Impact Assessment will be produced once the review is completed.