

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	LSP EXECUTIVE BOARD	Item 7	Page 1
Report Originator	Community Services Manager Kettering Borough Council	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> -	
Wards Affected	All	15 th July 2016	
Title	KBC Voluntary Sector Service Level Agreements		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the LSP Executive Board on the arrangements for the KBC Service Level Agreement Scheme in 2017 - 2021

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 Traditionally the Council funds a range of voluntary sector organisations through service level agreements (SLAs), in order to secure certain services and support for residents and businesses in the Borough, recognising that other organisations are better placed to provide these than the Council.
- 2.2 The Council spends £271,000 on funding voluntary sector organisations under Service Level Agreements, and this figure has been retained at this level for 8 years. As part of the Council's overall budget strategy; the funding has been protected from reductions experienced by all other parts of the Council's operations.
- 2.3 The current four year funding period ends in March 2017. At the Research and Development (R&D) Committee meeting on 16th February 2016, it was agreed that the Council adopt the approach which has served it well previously which was to carry out a review of the effectiveness of the current SLAs and to look at future needs via a member level task and finish group.
- 2.4 This review has now been carried out and recommendations to the R&D Committee were made to its meeting on 7th June. These recommendations, as agreed were taken to the Executive Committee for ratification. In line with the agreed timetable this will ultimately ensure that final decisions will be made on successful bids by the end of the year. This would provide time to embed decisions in the following year's budget and give adequate notice of any changes in funding to the voluntary bodies concerned. The full timeline is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.5 The R&D committee have endorsed the idea that where appropriate, those organisation who have an SLA should in future be obliged to engage in the Kettering Futures Partnership, and the local Health and Wellbeing Board. This will ensure the continued development of person centred, joined up services wherever possible.

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3. **SLAs TO BE OFFERED**

- 3.1 The table at **Appendix B** gives an overview of the SLAs which are currently being offered by the council and these are currently being advertised.
- 3.2 With regard to the Business Support SLA, a number of potential options were presented to the working group, and it was decided that the best option was that KBC would provide 75% (£22,500) of existing funding that would be match funded by the ESF, to a total of £45,000. This will not only benefit funding for this specific SLA but will allow the re-allocation of £7,500 into the general SLA funding pot.
- 3.3 This recommendation was approved at the April meeting of the Executive Committee. This has now effectively pre-allocated £22,500 of the overall budget for business advice services.

4. **NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 In accordance with the timetable, once the bids have been received there will be an officer assessment panel convened which will consist of a Head of Service, a Deputy Chief Exec, a partner from the LSP, and a Finance officer.
- 4.2 Decisions made at this panel will be put forward to a members panel made up of three members from the Executive Committee who will ratify the successful bids before they are referred to the Executive Committee in November for final approval.
- 4.3 Organisations will be informed of the outcome of bids before December 31st in order that they have plenty of time of service adjustments to be made before the start of the new financial year.

5. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Board receives the report and notes the arrangements for Voluntary Sector Service Level agreements between 2017 – 2021.