

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 5 September 2016

**Report Title:** Community Partnership Funding 2017 - 2019

**Report By:** Monica Adams-Acton  
Assistant Director for Regeneration and Culture

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### **Purpose of Report**

To set out the recommendations for the Community Partnership Funding (CPF) 2017 - 2019 programme.

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### **Recommendation(s)**

That Cabinet adopts a commissioning approach to future Community Partnership rounds with a focus on the new priorities as set out in the report.

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

The current round of CPF comes to an end in March 2017. The proposals set out in this report have been developed following a consultation process with the community and voluntary sector. Many of the organisations responding to the consultation (Appendix 1) generally agree with the proposed new priorities and commissioning process.

## Background

1. The current round of CPF comes to an end in March 2017. The previous round was agreed and commissioned in 2014 covering the 2015-16 & 2016-17 programme.
2. With continued pressures on the Council's budget over the next two years, and the need to focus on the most vulnerable in our community, the council reviewed the 2017 – 19 programme priorities to establish its future for the next two years.
3. The review was conducted in consultation with the local community and voluntary sector between 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016.
4. During the consultation process, the council received feedback from ten organisations, a summary of which is provided in Appendix 1 (CPF Consultation Feedback). This also provides the Council's response to the consultation feedback.
5. In general, most organisations supported or understood the need to focus on a reduced number of priorities, targeting support for services that are needed by the most vulnerable residents in Hastings.

## CPF - previous programme (2015-17)

6. The total funding levels for the 2015-17 programmes were £ 278,967 in 2015-16, and £260,277 in 2016-17. There were five thematic areas - job creation/ employment, advice services, safer communities, active involvement of residents, and digital inclusion - with broad outcomes set for each. 13 organisations were awarded funding to deliver various projects covering all these thematic areas.

## The new CPF Programme (2017-19)

7. The proposed new approach to delivering the CPF Programme would involve commissioning services from the community and voluntary sector for specifically identified outcomes.
8. The Council wishes to prioritise services to the most vulnerable in our community, recognising the need to maintain a basic level of support at a time of public sector cuts. Although it has always encouraged new and innovative funding bids, it also recognises the importance of maintaining key existing services.
9. Following consultation with the community and voluntary sector the council's new CPF Programme priorities will be as follows:
  - a. Housing, Legal, Welfare and Debt Advice
  - b. Domestic Violence Support
  - c. Advice and support to organisations (voluntary sector infrastructure support)
  - d. Rough Sleepers Outreach Support
  - e. Advice and support to migrant and newly settled communities
10. The priorities will be commissioned by providing a broad specification for each of the service areas and inviting applications using an adapted version of the current

CPF application form. Comments during the consultation about being proportionate in the commissioning process will be taken into account.

11. The Council believes there are clear advantages to these new proposals:

- Focusing on selected outcomes rather than broad priorities enables the Council to assist the community and voluntary sector fill gaps and complement councils' services that are not met by other programmes or not available generally.
- With improved clarity on the priorities, fewer organisations will waste valuable resources completing detailed applications where their chances of receiving funding are generally low.
- The proposed approach enables the Council to maintain the CPF programme over two further years.

12. The Council recognises that these proposals will have an immediate impact on some traditionally funded organisations. This does not mean the council will stop seeking alternative funding to support the other priorities such as digital inclusion, employment and business support and other community support activities. An example of this is the Community Led Local Development proposals currently being developed with more than six voluntary and community sector partners to address a wide range of social and economic inclusion issues.

13. However, with continued pressure on our budgets, we believe focusing investment on these key outcomes maintains a level of support for local residents provided by the community and voluntary sector over the next two years.

14. The Council timetable for the 17/18 CPF Programme is as follows:

**June / July 16** – consultation on CPF priorities and process

**August/ September 16** -Cabinet approval of priorities and process

**Early September 16** - open programme commission

**Mon 10<sup>th</sup> October 16** - Closing date for submission of application forms

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> October 16** - applications to panel members

**Mon 31<sup>st</sup> October 16** (w/c) - application panel

**Fri 11<sup>th</sup> November 16** - deadline for report completion

**Mon 5<sup>th</sup> December 16** - Cabinet meeting approval

15. The proposed changes to the CPF Programme 2017 –19 relates to the funding priorities and the process rather than the level of funding available, which will be set as part of the Council's normal budgeting process.

16. The Council faces significant financial challenges, and therefore the narrowing of the CPF priorities and the commissioning approach will best ensure that future budgets are concentrated on supporting services that are directed to the most vulnerable in the community.

## Policy Implications

### Equalities and Community Cohesiveness



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The CPF programme funds a wide range of services which supports improved equality of service and community cohesion. The reduction in priorities will affect some organisations' ability to deliver services they currently provide.

**Crime and Fear of Crime**

The CPF programme intends to fund a Domestic Violence reduction service which helps to reduce crime and fear of crime.

**Economic/Financial Implications**

The Council needs to determine the level of funding available to fund the CPF programme over the next two years. It has not been possible to agree this at this stage of the CPF programme.

**Organisational Consequences**

The final prioritised program and the process will have an impact on the level of resources required to commission CPF projects and monitor their progress their after, allowing for a more efficient process and use of limited resources.

**Local People's Views**

A seven week consultation process was conducted between 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and 8<sup>th</sup> Aug 2016.

**Anti-Poverty**

The CPF programme maintains prioritised free services for the benefit of local people.

**Wards Affected**

All

**Policy implications**

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Yes
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	Yes
Anti-Poverty	Yes



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## Background Information

Appendix 1- **Community Partnership Funding 2017-19 Consultation Feedback**

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## Officer to Contact

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