

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8 MARCH 2022**

**GRANT AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTARY ACTION ANGUS FOR 2020/21-23**

**REPORT BY VIVIEN SMITH, THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC POLICY, TRANSFORMATION AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM AND ALISON SMITH, THE DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

**ABSTRACT**

This report seeks committee approval to continue the existing grant agreement to support Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) for an additional one year (year 3 of 3) to deliver services in Angus subject to annual review

**1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (i) agree to extend the existing agreement with Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) and provide grant funding for the amount of £52,078 to Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) in the 2022/23 financial year (year 3 of 3) for the services outlined in section 3 of this report; and
- (ii) authorise the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, to agree the terms of a Grant Agreement with Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) to document the grant funding to support the provision of said services.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/COUNCIL PLAN**

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan:

**ECONOMY**

- 1. An inclusive and sustainable economy
- 2. A skilled and adaptable workforce
- 3. Attractive employment opportunities

**PEOPLE**

- 4. The best start in life for children
- 5. More opportunities for people to achieve success
- 6. Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being

**PLACE**

- 7. Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
- 8. A reduced carbon footprint
- 9. An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) was established in 2012 through the merger of Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations (AAVO) and Volunteer Centre Angus (VCA). VAA was formed in response to the Scottish Government's requirement to have a key local Third Sector Interface (TSI) in each local authority area. Funding for VAA from Angus Council in 2020/21 was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee (Report 141/19 refers) with commitment to consider extending the agreement by up to an additional two years subject to review.

- 3.2 Further to an internal audit of Service Level Agreements, Grants and Contracts, the financial support to VAA from the Council is considered to be a Grant.
- 3.3 The Council will agree the terms of the grant funding with VAA which is providing the following services which the Council wishes to support:
- Enhancement and support work in the third sector
  - Kirriemuir Friday Nite Project
  - Volunteering services for young people
- 3.4 It should be noted that the provision of the services by VAA is subject to the monitoring arrangements as set out in the corporate standard for grant agreements. In addition, the grant agreement schedule requires varying types of reporting dependant on the respective service. Each report will be assessed by the responsible Council service with support from the Council's Senior Practitioner – Strategic Commissioning.

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The ongoing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic over the last financial year has created unavoidable challenges in VAA progressing towards the outcomes identified within our agreement. Their continued assistance in coordinating support efforts to the public in partnership with the Council and other partners throughout the pandemic has however been crucial in supporting the overall community response and it is understood the impact this had on undertaking business as normal activity during this period.
- 4.2 VAA have also provided key resilience assistance to the Council and our communities throughout the adverse weather experienced over the last year.
- 4.3 In light of the impacts of COVID over the last year and the hopeful trajectory of our communities out of the pandemic it is anticipated that most of the delivery methods proposed by VAA in achieving our agreed outcomes can be undertaken with minimal disruption.
- 4.4 The only area of the Agreement which has had continued difficulties in being delivered is the Friday Night Project. This is due to the varying restrictions and uncertainties associated with COVID-19 which has similarly impacted delivery of the various other Friday Night Projects across Angus by other providers. The Friday Night Project in Forfar, delivered by PitStop, has been able to continue with some outdoor learning programmes. Other providers have been supported to continue some engagement with young people but they have not been able to deliver their projects due to these ongoing restrictions, VAA in engagement with the Council's Senior Practitioners for Strategic Commissioning and Community Learning & Development have continually attempted to restart the Kirriemuir provision throughout the last year however the varying landscape brought on by COVID meant this was not possible.
- 4.5 Given the growing confidence in the reopening of facilities and reduction in restrictions, VAA met with ANGUSalve and the Council's Senior Practitioners for Strategic Commissioning and Community Learning and Development in early February. This meeting assisted VAA in developing an agreed plan on how they can reintroduce the Friday Nite project in Kirriemuir at the beginning of March.
- 4.6 Following appointment of the Council's Service Leader for Vibrant Communities and with reference to Report No 192/21 last year where the Policy and Resources Committee agreed to a review of the funding arrangements around Friday Night Projects there will now be an internal review of how these services are delivered and the outcomes they achieve. This will include learning from the reintroduction of delivery in Kirriemuir and input from VAA and other providers along with ANGUSalve.
- 4.7 The Grant Agreement holds the option for amendments, and this will be considered as the Scottish Government guidelines in relation to COVID-19 develop and VAA may be required to adapt their approach to delivering services. This will be monitored and recorded by the responsible Council Services with support from the Council's Senior Practitioner – Strategic Commissioning.

- 4.8 VAA and the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership have also become engaged with the Council's ongoing transformation project for ANGUSalive. This project has developed over the last year and we have been identifying where future service provision opportunities and efficiencies may lie between partners for development. This and any collaborative opportunities discovered will be developed over the forthcoming financial year.

## 5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 While we unavoidably lost momentum last year due to the pandemic, it is planned that through effective management of the Grant conditions, closer working, and frequent reporting we will make good progress this year with improving outcomes. The developed structure of our agreement still permits freedom for VAA to plan how they will deliver on the agreed outcomes which will be key to its success.

- 5.2 The proposed breakdowns of grant funding for 2022/23 are shown in the following table: -

Service	Amount 2022/23
Enhance and support work in the third sector	£7,540
Kirriemuir Friday Nite Project	£13,440
Volunteering services for children and young people	£31,098
Total	£52,078

The funding in year 2022/23 will be subject to budget availability, negotiation and ongoing review with the Council pertaining to the progress made and agreed future direction of these services.

## 6. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out as part of the original funding proposal and included with the committee Report previously approved by this committee for the year 2020/21 (Report 114/19 refers).
- 6.2 As there is no change to the scope or nature of the work to be carried out by VAA on behalf of the Council at this stage (other than to exercise a contracted option to continue the Grant Agreement for a further year), no further EIA is required. In the event that a further review of the grant funded work carried out and in consequence a change to the nature or scope of the grant funded work is subsequently proposed, e.g. as a result of COVID, then a further report will be submitted to this Committee for consideration and a further EIA will be carried out at that time.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The total value of the grant agreement being proposed for 2022/23 is £52,078. The grant agreement can be funded in full from the existing Angus Council Vibrant Communities Core Budget. Due to the current and future unpredictable landscape facing service provision the level of funding for this year may be reviewed and amended depending on level of provision permitted through restrictions. Any proposed funding amendment will be reported to Committee for consideration and approval prior to inclusion within the agreement.

## 8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Chief Executive Officer of VAA has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

**REPORT AUTHOR: Pete Morton, Senior Practitioner – Strategic Commissioning & Tricia Ryan,  
Senior Practitioner Community Learning & Development**

**EMAIL DETAILS: [mortonp@angus.gov.uk](mailto:mortonp@angus.gov.uk) & [ryant@angus.gov.uk](mailto:ryant@angus.gov.uk)**