

To: Leadership Board

On: 20 April 2022

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Funding for Engage Renfrewshire 2022-2023

1. Summary

1.1 This report recommends the award of funding to Engage Renfrewshire, in relation to its role as third sector interface in Renfrewshire to support the capacity and resilience of the voluntary and community sector. This builds on existing funding arrangements and relates to the 2022/23 financial year only. A grant support agreement in relation to this funding has been developed and performance against this agreement will be monitored during 2022/23.

1.2 In line with the Developing Communities review within the Right for Renfrewshire programme, all activity in relation to community empowerment and capacity building is currently being identified, and options for future funding and commissioning of local services to support this work will be considered during 2022.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Leadership Board:

- approves grant funding of £360,610 to Engage Renfrewshire to deliver the service outlined within the grant support agreement attached at Appendix A

3. **Background**

- 3.1 Engage Renfrewshire is the designated Third Sector Interface for the Renfrewshire Council area. Engage provides services to support the operation and growth of community and voluntary sector organisations (also known as the third sector), including Social Enterprises, within the area.
- 3.2 In addition to its role supporting to its members, Engage Renfrewshire is also a key partner in Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership. Engage Renfrewshire acts as a voice for the third sector within the Community Planning Partnership and helps co-ordinate the significant contribution made by the third sector in delivering the outcomes agreed by the Partnership.
- 3.3 Engage Renfrewshire is funded to provide support to local community and voluntary sector organisations by the Scottish Government, and to deliver against the TSIs outcome framework for Scotland. Engage also generates its own income through trading. Membership of Engage Renfrewshire is free to organisations and individuals.

4. **Key activities delivered during in 2021/22**

- 4.1 Engage Renfrewshire has delivered against the key activities within the Grant Support Agreement throughout 2021/22. Key activities through the 2021/22 financial year included:
- Building capacity within the community and voluntary sector by supporting members to access development, support and funding. Engage now has a membership of 402, including 388 local groups. This includes co-ordinating the Renfrewshire Social Enterprise network, enabling members to access specialist support to develop their organisations.
 - Working as a critical partner within networks across the Community Planning Partnership, including chairing the Forum for Empowering Communities, connecting Renfrewshire's third sector to the wider Community Planning agenda and playing a critical role in other partnership groups such as the Local Employability Forum.
 - Co-ordinating the Our Children Forum, and acting as a critical partner alongside Children's Services, including the Early Action Systems Change initiative and as part of the governance for the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy.

- Building solid cross-sector relationships with colleagues in health by supporting work which contributes to the aims of the Health and Wellbeing Priorities for Renfrewshire; Healthy and Active Living, Place and Connectedness, Mental Health, Inequalities, Early Years and Vulnerable Families and Housing as a Health Issue.
- Managing and distributing funding on behalf of the Scottish Government, including over £0.5million for the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund and smaller funds such as the Community Based Adult Learning Fund alongside the Council.
- Supporting local volunteering activity, including being involved in the national evaluation and relaunch of the Volunteer Friendly Award, promoting Volunteers Week and co-ordinating Saltire Awards across Renfrewshire.
- Establishing a Leadership Learning Club in partnership with the Open University, the first Scottish pilot of its kind.
- Appointing an Affordable Credit Officer to support the work of the Renfrewshire Affordable Credit Alliance, and third sector organisations to support people around affordable credit options. Renfrewshire Affordable Credit Alliance was awarded the Stop Loan Sharks Charter Mark in November.
- Establishing and growing the Renfrewshire Integration Network (IN-Ren), including developing a Race Equality Toolkit to build capacity of Renfrewshire agencies to be more inclusive in both employment and service delivery.

4.2 In addition, Engage provides a third sector ‘hub’ for local organisations within the Engage offices – with tenants including West College Scotland, Quarriers, Renfrewshire’s Access Panel, Prince’s Trust & the Scottish FA. They also provide a range of payroll services to individuals, organisations and voluntary groups who employ people – this includes individuals in receipt of Self-Directed Support or Independent Living Fund employing personal care staff or workers in the community.

4.3 Further information on Engage Renfrewshire’s full range of services and activities for 2020-21 can be found within their Annual Report published on their website.

5. **Grant funding for 2022/23**

5.1 The recommended grant award would allow Engage Renfrewshire to continue to operate in Renfrewshire, and continue to support the delivery of the following key activities:

1) Building community and voluntary sector capacity by providing a range of supports to their member network

Supporting member organisations to meet operational and development needs in order to build community and voluntary sector capacity. This includes:

- Third sector constitutions, operating within the law and standards of good governance appropriate to business aims.
- Use of digital technology, social media and marketing.
- Growth and development of community and voluntary sector groups, including training and development and social enterprise.
- Cessation of operations of third sector groups.
- Funding opportunities.
- Management of finances on behalf of individuals and member organisations.
- Sourcing community benefits from public sector contracts.

2) Representing the third sector within Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership, and delivering on the key strategic priorities outlined within Renfrewshire Community Plan

Participate as a full partner agency in the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership with direct representation in community planning structures as required by the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Oversight Group. This includes:

- The Chief Executive of Engage Renfrewshire will be a partner in the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group and be a voice within this Group for the third sector contribution to addressing community planning priorities.
- Lead the Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities, with support from Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive's Service, to facilitate partnership working on community planning priorities between community and voluntary sector agencies, public services and the private sector.
- Build the capacity of community and voluntary sector agencies to participate in Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership arrangements and activity, providing advice and support as appropriate.
- Contribute as the Third Sector Interface and develop the contribution of community and voluntary sector organisations to addressing specifically the Community Planning Partnership strategic priorities identified within Renfrewshire's Community Plan.

3) Providing a strategic and operational lead for volunteering in Renfrewshire

Develop and promote a culture of volunteering in Renfrewshire by supporting placement of volunteers in appropriate volunteering opportunities. This will include the following:

- Promote and publicise the value and benefits of volunteering to members of the public, member organisations and partner organisations.
- Provide a service matching prospective volunteers with volunteering opportunities.
- Promote good governance arrangements in volunteer management and provide appropriate learning and development opportunities.

5.2 In addition to the three priority areas detailed above, the Grant Support Agreement would require Engage Renfrewshire to continue to support the third sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic locally, and as a strategic partner in the delivery of Renfrewshire's Social Renewal Plan.

5.3 Appendix A sets out the details of the proposed Grant Support Agreement between Renfrewshire Council and Engage Renfrewshire for 2022/23, which provides further detail on the services offered by Engage Renfrewshire.

5.4 Appendix B sets out a summary of Engage Renfrewshire's Business Plan for 2022/23, which will be used to inform monitoring of performance during 2022/23.

5.5 Engage Renfrewshire will continue to submit a quarterly performance monitoring report to officers in Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive's Service for review and agreement.

5.6 Moving forward, work will be undertaken as part of the Developing Communities workstream within Right for Renfrewshire to agree the ongoing requirements from Engage Renfrewshire in achieving the Council's strategic objectives and the most appropriate commissioning relationship moving forward.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – commitment of £360,610 in grant funding to Engage Renfrewshire.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None

3. **Community/Council Planning** – funding for the Third Sector Interface supports the third sector contribution to all priorities detailed within both the Council and Community Plans.
4. **Legal** – None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. Supporting the Third Sector Interface would have a positive impact on equalities outcomes, by developing and engaging a range of diverse voices in the community planning process and supporting the development of equalities-led third sector organisations.
8. **Health & Safety** - None
9. **Procurement** - None
10. **Risk** – Funding the Third Sector Interface mitigates risk of community and voluntary sector organisations not being able to contribute to community planning outcomes.
11. **Privacy Impact** - None
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – Cosla supports the principle of community planning as a means of improving outcomes and reducing inequalities and the importance of Third Sector Interfaces in delivering this.

List of Background Papers - None

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GRANT SUPPORT AGREEMENT

between:

ENGAGE RENFREWSHIRE

And

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

1. AGREEMENT OVERVIEW

1.1 This is an agreement between Renfrewshire Council, a local authority incorporated under the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994 and having its Headquarters at Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AX and Engage Renfrewshire, a private limited company, limited by guarantee, having a registered company office at 10 Falcon Crescent, Paisley, Renfrewshire, PA3 1NS and a registered company number of SC120101.

1.2 Engage Renfrewshire is a third sector interface that supports charities and other not-for-profit groups. Engage Renfrewshire empowers other organisations to be safe, resourceful and effective, and to grow and develop their services. They have a leadership and coordinating role that is regional and national.

1.3 This Grant Support Agreement relates to the provision of Third Sector Interface activities by Engage Renfrewshire in the Renfrewshire during financial year 2022/23.

1.4 The Grant amount to be paid to Engage Renfrewshire relative to the support it will provide pursuant to this Grant Support Agreement is £360,610, payable quarterly in advance and commencing from 1st May 2022 until 31 April 2023. The Grant is governed by the Council's Conditions of Grant forming appendix A of this Grant Support Agreement.

2. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS GRANT SUPPORT AGREEMENT

2.1 This Grant Support Agreement sets out the elements of support provided by Engage Renfrewshire pursuant to its award of grant funding from Renfrewshire Council.

3. PERIODIC REVIEW

3.1 The Grant Support Agreement will be reviewed on an annual basis following the end of the financial year. Performance against the service agreement will be reviewed on a quarterly basis or on a more frequent periodic basis where determined by Renfrewshire Council.

4. SUPPORT AGREEMENT

4.1 Engage Renfrewshire is required to develop and maintain positive relations with and between community and voluntary groups operating within Renfrewshire.

4.2 Engage Renfrewshire is required to demonstrate the provision of the following support in fulfilment of its remit as the Third Sector Interface organisation for Renfrewshire:

Building community and voluntary sector capacity by providing a range of supports to the Engage Renfrewshire member network

Support member organisations to meet their operational and development needs in order to build community and voluntary sector capacity. This will include provision to community and voluntary organisations of support provided directly and/or signposting to other available services on the following subjects:

- Third sector constitutions, operating within the law and standards of good governance appropriate to business aims.
- Use of digital technology, social media and marketing.
- Growth and development of community and voluntary sector groups, including training and development and social enterprise.
- Cessation of operations of third sector groups.
- Funding opportunities.
- Management of finances on behalf of individuals and member organisations.
- Sourcing community benefits from public sector contracts.

Providing a strategic and operational lead for volunteering in Renfrewshire

Develop and promote a culture of volunteering in Renfrewshire by supporting placement of volunteers in appropriate volunteering opportunities. This will include the following:

- Promote and publicise the value and benefits of volunteering to members of the public, member organisations and partner organisations.
- Provide a service matching prospective volunteers with volunteering opportunities.
- Promote good governance arrangements in volunteer management and provide appropriate learning and development opportunities.

Representing the third sector within Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership, and delivering on the key strategic priorities outlined within Renfrewshire Community Plan

Participate as a full partner agency in the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership with direct representation in community planning structures as required by the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Oversight Group. This includes:

- The Chief Executive of Engage Renfrewshire will be a partner in the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group and be a voice within this Group for the third sector contribution to addressing community planning priorities.
- Lead the Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities, with support from Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive's Service, to facilitate partnership working on community planning priorities between community and voluntary sector agencies, public services and the private sector.
- Build the capacity of community and voluntary sector agencies to participate in Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership arrangements and activity, providing advice and support as appropriate.
- Contribute as the Third Sector Interface and develop the contribution of community and voluntary sector organisations to addressing specifically the Community Planning Partnership strategic priorities identified within Renfrewshire's Community Plan.
- Develop the contribution of community and voluntary sector organisations to other strategic work in Renfrewshire including Future Paisley, Tackling Poverty, Digital Renfrewshire, Promoting Good Health Behaviours and Active Ageing, Implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and Promoting Equality.

Continuing to support the third sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic locally, and as a strategic partner in the delivery of Renfrewshire's Social Renewal Plan

5. MANAGEMENT OF AGREEMENT

Maintain a membership database of community and voluntary organisations who are members of Engage Renfrewshire and ensure data protection in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations. Provide on request data and analysis regarding membership and trends.

Provide Renfrewshire Council with all appropriate management information necessary to manage the performance of the agreement. Reports are required on a quarterly basis, aligned to grant payments, setting out performance against the elements of service outlined above. A quarterly meeting between Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive's Service and Engage Renfrewshire will take place to discuss performance and agree any changes required to deliver fully the elements of service required.

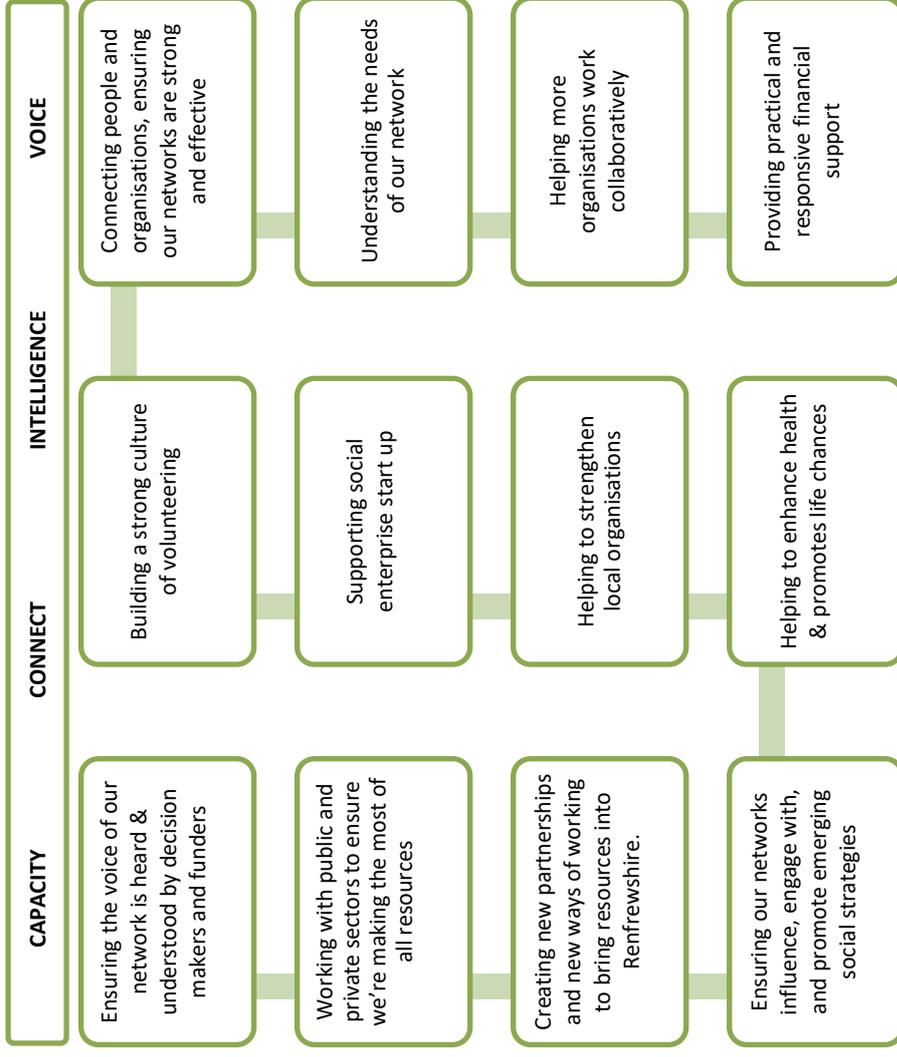
Please confirm that you can comply with the Grant Support Agreement:

RESPONSE: YES, CAN COMPLY

NO, CANNOT COMPLY (please comment)

Engage Renfrewshire – Business Plan 2022/23

Our aim is to help charities and community groups to be well managed, well resourced, well represented and well connected.



During 2022/23 we will:

- Support Scottish Government, Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership and Renfrewshire's communities within the 'Recovery' agenda
- Deliver on agreements associated with the Community Mental Health & Wellbeing fund
- Continue to Support Scottish Government, Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership and Renfrewshire's communities with EU transition as required
- Support high standards of volunteer recruitment and management within our network while promoting volunteering as part of the employability pipeline
- Promote social enterprise as a viable business model through workshops and training programmes
- Assist partners to increase and develop their awareness and understanding of the local third sector
- Develop a Renfrewshire Social Enterprise Overview Report
- Promote Engage Financial Services to all members and partners
- Arrange and facilitate area based initiatives in support of developing community assets
- Support the delivery of the IN-Ren Network
- Increase the number of external funding applications being submitted by members
- Provide advice and support in response to humanitarian crises as they arise
- Increase volunteer retention rates and/or positive destinations
- Evaluate, survey and gather stats on the impact of volunteering
- Promote digital as a platform for engagement and use digital communications to promote the work of the Third Sector
- Deliver a training timetable reflective of the needs of our members
- Support promotions and engagement sessions around access to fair and affordable forms of credit.
- Promote financial governance as a key responsibility for local organisations and local trustees

Schedule of Monitoring

Quarterly updates prepared for Engage Renfrewshire board & Renfrewshire Council

6 monthly report for Scottish Government

Medium Term Outcomes (2022 to 2027)

Volunteering - key to health, wellbeing, and employability

Local organisations accessing increasing amounts of funding

Local organisations - well governed and delivering quality services

Local organisations are contributing to a strong local social economy

Improved levels of cross sector collaboration

Community Empowerment central to local governance



Renfrewshire Council



ENGAGE
RENFREW SHIRE