

# **Management Committee**

## **13 December 2016**

### **Grant Agreement with Dorset Race Equality Council**

#### **For Decision**

#### **Briefholder**

Cllr Christine James – Social Inclusion

#### **Senior Leadership Team Contact:**

S Hill, Strategic Director

#### **Report Author:**

S Ward-Rice, Community Development Team Leader

#### **Statutory Authority**

The Equality Act, 2010

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To seek approval for a grant agreement to Dorset Race Equality Council in line with the council's Discretionary Grants, Loans and Subsidies Policy (at Appendix 1) and to ensure that the council complies with its legal equality duties.

#### **Officer Recommendations**

- 2 a) To approve a grant of £2,000 for one year (2017-18), then subject to a further review.  
b) That any funding for 2017-18 be built into the 2017-18 budget process.

#### **Reason for Decision**

- 3 To support the ongoing work of Dorset Race Equality Council in Weymouth & Portland.

#### **Background and Reason Decision Needed**

- 4 Following the approval of the discretionary grants, loans and subsidies policy in 2012, all grants to outside bodies of £1,000 or more are subject to committee approval.

- 5 Weymouth & Portland Borough Council has continued to provide financial support to Dorset Race Equality Council (Dorset REC), which has enabled Dorset REC to provide information, support and advice to victims of racial discrimination, encourage good relations between and within local communities and provide advocacy services for ethnic minority communities. Weymouth and Portland has a higher, 5.1% Black Minority Ethnic (BME) population than Dorset County, 4.5% and 2.1% of the population do not have English as their main language as opposed to the county figure of 1.7%. Melcombe Regis Ward has a BME population of 8.3%.
- 6 The council in partnership with other local authorities across Dorset has had a joint grant agreement in place since April 2012. This agreement is currently managed by Bournemouth Borough Council and includes the following:
  - Poole Borough Council
  - North Dorset District Council
  - West Dorset District Council
  - Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
- 7 Dorset County Council has a separate agreement with Dorset REC which is managed by Citizens Advice in Dorset (CAiD).
- 8 Dorset Race Equality Council was established in 1991, current trustees include Councillor Pauline Batstone (North Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council) and Roger Hayre (treasurer) a resident and business owner in Weymouth.
- 9 Dorset Race Equality Council has a core staff team comprising of Chief Executive Officer, three Community Development Workers and an administrator.
- 10 Dorset Race Equality Council is the only organisation of its kind in Dorset. Its stated aims are to:
  - Ensure that ethnic minority individuals and communities in Dorset feel empowered to challenge racism and discrimination and have access to support and information.
  - Promote the celebration of ethnic, cultural and religious diversity in Dorset society and strengthen local ethnic minority organisations.
  - Work towards making public, private and voluntary sector agencies in Dorset fully representative of, and responsive to, the ethnic, cultural and religious diversity of the population; offering equal opportunities and equal access to all.
- 11 Dorset Race Equality Council is located in Bournemouth, and staff regularly attend events and meetings around Dorset including Weymouth & Portland.
- 12 Dorset Race Equality Council has worked on a number of initiatives and projects in Weymouth and Portland in the last year and this includes the following:

- Attending community events such as Weymouth Carnival and the Gypsy & Traveller Awareness Event.
- Continuing to organise and facilitate the Forum for Equality and Diversity (FED) on behalf of Dorset County Council and holding this event on Portland on 28 July 2016, which attracted 25 attendees and included presentations from Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, The Verne Visitors Group and Dorchester Islamic Centre.
- Regular dialogue with the Verne Immigration Removal Centre supporting staff around equality and diversity.
- Continuing to act as a third party reporting centre for people who experience a hate crime. Three people from Weymouth & Portland contacted Dorset REC to report their incidents. Dorset REC then liaised with Prejudice Free Dorset and the Police around these incidents.
- Working with Dorset County Council and partners on the development of Syrian Resettlement Programme for Dorset, including holding a recent public event in Weymouth to raise awareness of migrant workers by distributing yellow roses as a gesture of friendship.
- Working with Weymouth College to deliver the equality best practice fair at the college for the second year running.
- Organising and facilitating the One World Festival in Dorchester, this event was attended by families from Weymouth & Portland and the event promote diversity through music, dance and food.
- Continuing to provide an advocacy service for people who experience race related issues; two people from Weymouth have been supported in the last year.
- Working in partnership with Sustainable Food Partnership to successfully apply to the Big Lottery 'Celebrate' Fund to deliver the 'Diverse Neighbourhoods Project' delivering events across Pan-Dorset including one in Weymouth & Portland, this event will be an opportunity to celebrate diversity and better understand different cultures.
- Successfully applying for funding for a Bengali-speaking community consultant to develop a relationship with the Weymouth Mosque.
- Working with the Community Planning & Development Team to improve social cohesion in the Melcombe Regis area. This work will continue into the 2017-18 year.

13 A significant proportion of the core funding for Dorset Race Equality Council is provided by local authorities and Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, as such a joint grant agreement between Dorset Race Equality Council and Bournemouth Borough Council, Poole Borough Council, North Dorset District Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council exists. The services covered by this joint agreement are to:

- Act as an independent third party reporting centre for BME people who experience prejudice and discrimination, and provide a signposting service to those affected by such prejudice and discrimination.
- Work with the community and voluntary sector and statutory partners to promote the participation of BME people in Dorset life.

- Challenge and provide strategic support to statutory agencies in the delivery of the race equality agenda

14 During 2016-17, each grant partner contributed the following;

<b>Funding Partner</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bournemouth Borough Council	£20,000
Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group	£20,000
Poole Borough Council	£14,000
North Dorset District Council	£1,750
West Dorset District Council	£1,845
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council	£2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£59,595</b>

15 The terms of the agreement will include the following: responsibilities of the councils and the recipient, the grant amount, duration and payment schedule, use and payment of the grant, monitoring and reporting, publicity, grant termination, waiver and variation and complaint and dispute resolution.

16 Six monthly monitoring meetings take place between partner representatives and Dorset Race Equality Council, where monitoring reports are discussed and priorities identified.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan**

Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities  
Improving Quality of Life

### **Financial**

17 A grant of £2,000 is requested for 2017-18. There is currently no budget available for the grant therefore if approved the request for funding would need to be fed into the 2017-18 budget process. The grant would be managed by the Community Planning & Development Team.

### **Equalities**

18 The provision of council funding to Dorset Race Equality Council will enable people to access advice and support and were they feel they have received a poor service or have been treated differently because of their race, ethnicity, faith and/or belief.

19 The provision of council funding will also ensure that Weymouth & Portland Borough Council continues to meet its general duty as part of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

## **Risk Management (including Health & Safety)**

- 20 There may be a risk that the Council could be challenged for failing to exercise its equalities duties under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 21 Without funding from the local authorities the core work of Dorset Race Equality Council would not be able to continue. This would mean that, in addition to victim support, advice and training, some valuable project work would be lost.

### **Human Resources**

- 22 The Community Planning & Development Team support the work of Dorset REC, including attending the joint funder meetings.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

- 23 Group Leaders of Weymouth & Portland Borough Council have been consulted with this report in line with the Council's Discretionary Grants, Loans and Subsidies Policy.
- 24 The Joint funders listed in paragraph 6 of this report, are aware of this request being put forward. The interim Chief Executive Officer of Dorset REC has had sight of this committee report.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Weymouth & Portland Borough Council – Discretionary Grants, Loans & Subsidies Policy.

Appendix 2: Data profile of Weymouth & Portland

### **Background Papers**

A range of information about Dorset Race Equality Council, including their recent annual report and financial information is available online at <http://www.dorsetrec.org.uk/>

### **Footnote**

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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