

# **Management Committee**

## **12 December 2017**

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

#### **For Decision**

#### **Portfolio Holder(s)/ Briefholder**

Cllr Christine James

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

S Hill, Strategic Director

#### **Report Author:**

Susan Ward-Rice, Community Development Team Leader

#### **Statutory Authority**

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To seek approval for the renewal of the grant to Dorset Race Equality Council for one year with review thereafter subject to the potential formation of a Weymouth Town Council and devolution of finances as part local government re-organisation.

#### **Recommendations**

- 2 To approve a grant of £2,000 for one year (2018-19), then subject to a further review.

#### **Reason for Decision**

- 3 To support the ongoing work of Dorset Race Equality Council in Weymouth & Portland. The one year period has been introduced to allow for developments in relation to Local Government Re-organisation.

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

- 4 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. Although Dorset has much lower levels (4.5%) of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents than the country as a whole (19.5%), Weymouth & Portland has a higher BME population (5.1%) than Dorset

County. In addition, 2.1% of the Weymouth and Portland population do not have English as their main language as opposed to the county figure of 1.7%.

- 5 Furthermore, the five major non-Christian world religions Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism constitute 1% of Dorset's residents religious beliefs, the main non-Christian religious groups are concentrated in Dorset towns and Weymouth has just over 300 residents of Muslim faith.
- 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 GroupDorset County Council has a separate grant agreement Dorset REC which is managed by Citizens Advice in Dorset (CAiD).
- 7 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.
- 8 Dorset Race Equality Council is located in Bournemouth, but staff regularly attend events and meetings around Dorset including Weymouth & Portland.
- 9 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:
  - Successfully obtaining funding from the Big Lottery 'Diverse Neighbourhoods Project' to deliver celebration events across Dorset including holding an event in Chapelhay in partnership with Chapelhay Play Park. The event attracted over 80 local residents, and was aimed at bringing people together from diverse ethnic and faith backgrounds to share a community meal.
  - Continuing to organise and facilitate the Forum for Equality and Diversity (FED) on behalf of Dorset County Council, although none of the meetings were located in Weymouth this year, attendance at meetings in Dorchester and Lyme Regis included organisations from Weymouth & Portland.

- Working with Weymouth College to deliver an equality and diversity fair at the college for the third year running.
- Organising and facilitating the annual One World Festival in Dorchester, this event was attended by families from Weymouth & Portland and the event celebrates diversity through music, dance and food.
- Regular dialogue with the Verne Immigration Removal Centre in terms of both supporting staff around equality and diversity and also detainees including supporting a detainee who was attacked by a fellow detainee with his complaint.
- Using funding from Comic Relief to capture the views of Muslims (the majority of whom are Bengali and Arabic), with limited or no English across Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole, information is being used to develop targeted projects. Contact was made with Muslim residents and workers in Weymouth & Portland via the Weymouth Mosque.
- Continuing to act as a third party reporting centre for people who experience a hate crime, including capturing hate crime incidents post the EU referendum (June 2016) where 60 reports from across Dorset were reported. In addition, Dorset REC has continued to provide advocacy, advice and support in cases of religion-based abuse or discrimination, dealing with 37 cases in the last year, 23 in Bournemouth, 6 in Poole and 8 in Dorset including 2 in Weymouth & Portland.

10 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

11 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>

- 12 The terms of the agreement 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.
- 13 Quarterly monitoring meetings take place between partner representatives and Dorset Race Equality Council, where monitoring reports are discussed and priorities identified.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan**

This report has links to the following areas of the Corporate Plan:

- Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities
- Improving Quality of Life

### **Financial**

A grant of £2,000 is requested for 2018-19 and there is a budget provision of £2000 in the 2018/19 budget setting accounts. The grant would be managed by the Community Planning & Development Team.

### **Equalities**

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 discriminated against because of their race, ethnicity, faith and/or belief.

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

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**

The Community Planning & Development Team support the work of Dorset REC, including attending the joint funder meetings and working with them to develop initiatives in Weymouth and Portland.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

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**

None

### **Background Papers**

A range of information about Dorset Race Equality Council, including their recent annual report, financial information and the consultation Arabic and Bengali Consultation Report 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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