

## 11. EVALUATION AND REVIEW OF SOCIAL INITIATIVES FUND

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The purpose of this report is to report to the Committee on the evaluation of the Social Initiatives fund and remind the Committee of the review process.

### BACKGROUND

The Social Initiatives programme began in the 1997/98 business year. The programme provided three year funding to fifteen providers to provide a total of twenty-two separate projects at a combined cost of \$1.1million per year. In the first operating year, projects began on a staggered basis as resources and facilities became available. (The staggered start of the projects has meant the projects three years of funding is spread over five operating years). The achievements being made by these organisations have regularly been reported to the Committee.

The Council's long term financial planning allows for the continuation of the programme. However, the criteria for future funding have not been determined.

### REVIEW

The Council agreed at its September 1999 meeting that the Social Initiatives Funding programme should be reviewed during the Output and Standards review. At the same meeting the Council agreed that any project that's funding was due to end prior to June 2001 receive a years additional funding.

The Council identified that as the programme is in its third year it is important that decisions are made early to allow time to negotiate changes or new funding arrangements. It is also important that if funding to any provider was to cease they should receive appropriate warning.

The Community Services Output and Standards Committee agreed to the following review process:

- 1. Evaluation of Programme Effectiveness** – a review of whether the programme has been effective and if so in which ways
- 2. Strategic Fit** – identification of the future priority for the programme which are consistent with Council objectives and policy outcomes.
- 3. Funding criteria and process** – identification of the basis for determining the kind of projects to be supported by the social initiatives funding programme, including transparent selection and prioritising process
- 4. Future Reporting and Monitoring Requirements** – identification of the preferred evaluation and accountability processes

It was agreed that this should be completed over two meetings with the *Evaluation of Programme Effectiveness* considered at the first meeting (this meeting) and *Strategic Fit, Funding criteria and process and monitoring requirements* at the second meeting.

#### **EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME**

A report on the programme prepared by George Clark, Community Adviser, will be separately circulated. This report provides an assessment of the programme and details of each project. The report also provides recommendations.

#### **FUTURE OF SOCIAL INITIATIVES FUNDING**

It is proposed that the future of the programme including desired outcomes, funding criteria and process, and evaluation and monitoring requirements be considered at a Seminar meeting in early September.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Committee receive the Evaluation Report of the Social Initiatives Programme.
  2. That the Committee adopt the recommendations in the Evaluation Report of the Social Initiatives Programme.
  3. That the Committee agree that the next stage of the review be completed at a seminar meeting in early September.

#### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.