Appendix 1

POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP TOPIC SUGGESTION FORM

Suggested topic for PDG review:

The Policy Development Group should routinely review the outcomes achieved by Community Groups and small or third sector Providers in receipt of small grants or commissions from this Council.
The form of the review should be a short presentation from the provider organisation giving evidence of their achievements and the benefit to the community.
Members of PDG will have an opportunity to question the provider and commissioning Council department to enable all to learn from the outcomes achieved.

Reasons for suggesting the topic:	Please consider: • Why should there be a review on this? • How does it link to the Council's priorities? • What benefits to local people could result?
A challenging public sector funding environment has added extra impetus to the perceived need for third sector organisations to demonstrate their achievements so that funders can direct resources to organisations which provide most value for money.[1] Measuring outcomes in the public sector closes the audit cycle and drives improvements in performance and quality. Scrutinising the community benefit outcomes of small grants provides the Council and its decision makers with information about the effectiveness, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of local projects and providers. This information, fed back into the decision-making process, will enable the Council and its decision makers to make rational decisions when awarding small grants.	
Supporting evidence: A lack of robust methodology for scrutinising the outcomes of small grants does not absolve decision makers from the responsibility for ensuring that public money is well spent. Research on impact measurement is at an early stage, but a recent review reveals a growing concern that requirements and demands for key performance indicators and other impact data from third sector funders can take precedence over the requirements and needs of beneficiaries and service users.[1] Social impact measurement has mainly relied on complex tools such as SROI which have not seen widescale adoption by the sector, and SROI and other social impact tools have been subject to criticism for their focus ultimately on the monetary value of activities delivered.[1] In a context of austerity, it is important to consider who should carry the financial burden of impact measurement: funding bodies who require impact data to justify their funding decisions, or third sector organisations themselves.[1]	Please consider: • What evidence is there to support the above reasons? • What are the facts?

A low-key, narrative approach to hearing about 'what works' can enable funders and decision makers to develop an approach to impact measurement which will focus on organisational learning.[1]	
Desired outcome: Requiring organisations in receipt of small grants from the Council to provide a verbal report to the Policy Development Group of the outcome of their project as it develops and at its conclusion will • Encourage organisations to audit their own performance • Provide narrative evidence of community benefit for ratepayers • Enable the Council and its decision makers to learn 'what works' in North West Leicestershire and use this information to guide future decisions.	Please consider: • What would you wish to see happen as a result of any review? • Why do you think the desired outcome is achievable?

The topic (please tick appropriate box):			
	Is my suggestion		Was suggested to me by a member of the public
x	Other (please specify) Was suggested at Policy Development Group as a way forward		

Name:	Signature:	Date:
Cllr Terri Eynon	*Terri Eynon*	17/1/17

Note 1: Review for review

Why should the topic be reviewed?

How does it link to the Council's priorities?

What are the benefits of the review?

Note 2: Evidence

What evidence is there to suggest a review is necessary (i.e. public concern / media coverage / poorly performing service)?

What are the facts?

Has the topic been looked at before? Why was that not successful?

Attach details if necessary.

Note 3: Desired outcome

What would you wish the outcome of the review to be?

1. Harlock J. *Impa**ct measurement practice in the UK third sector: a review of emerging evidence**.* Third Sector Research Centre;2013.