

Agenda Item No: 8 **Report No:** 158/14

Report Title: Strengthening our Relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector Scrutiny Review – Update Report

Report To: Scrutiny Committee **Date:** 13 November 2014

Cabinet Member: Councillor Phil Howson

Ward(s) Affected: All

Report By: Nazeya Hussain, Director of Business Strategy and Development

Contact Officer(s)-

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Purpose of Report:

To update the Committee on the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review - Strengthening our Relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Officers Recommendation(s):

- 1 To consider the update and make recommendations for further action if required.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 1 To ensure the Committee is kept fully up to date with the recommendations from Scrutiny Reviews.

Information

- 2 During 2013/14, a Panel of the Scrutiny Committee, chaired by Councillor Stephen Gauntlett, undertook a Scrutiny Review to examine how the Council could strengthen its relationship with the voluntary and community sector.
- 3 As part of this, the Panel consulted with over sixty voluntary and community organisations. The main part of this consultation was an event held at Newhaven Fort.
- 4 As part of the review, a representative from 3VA (Council for Voluntary Service, providing support for voluntary and community organisations across the Eastbourne, Lewes District and Wealden areas of East Sussex) was co-opted to the Panel.

- 5 The Panel wrote a detailed report on their findings, this can be found as part of the background papers in paragraph 15.
- 6 The Panel agreed six recommendations, please Appendix A for an analysis of the recommendations.
- 7 All recommendations were agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 24 April 2014.
- 8 This Report provides the Committee with an update on the recommendations.
- 9 The newly formed Business Strategy and Performance Team at the Council is leading on the Council's work with the voluntary and community sector.

Financial Appraisal

- 10 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report, the Scrutiny Committee has a budget to undertake Scrutiny reviews if required.

Legal Implications

- 11 There are no legal implications arising from this Report.

Sustainability Implications

- 12 I have not completed the Sustainability Implications Questionnaire as this Report is exempt from the requirement because it is a progress report.

Risk Management Implications.

- 13 There are no risk management implications arising as a result of this Report.

Equality Screening

- 14 I have completed the initial Equality Impact Assessment screening exercise and have identified no negative impacts arising from this Report. Therefore, a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

Background Papers

- 15 [Strengthening our Relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector – Final Cabinet Report](#)

Appendices

- 16 Appendix A: Update on Recommendations

Appendix A – Update on Recommendations

Recommendation	Update	Timescale
That a dedicated responsibility be appointed at the Council to work with voluntary and community sector groups.	This role has been given to the Business Strategy and Performance Team.	Completed
That engagement with the voluntary and community sector be delegated as a separate portfolio of a Cabinet Member or within the title of the Health and Environment portfolio	This role has been made part of the new Cabinet Portfolio for Councillor Phil Howson.	Completed
That a consistent approach to monitoring be drafted detailing how and why voluntary and community sector groups are funded in Lewes District and how the Council currently supports the voluntary and community sector.	This is being undertaken, the Service Level Agreements are being rewritten and research has been undertaken to examine how the sector could be better supported in the future. New monitoring systems are being examined to ensure consistency, and new reporting lines to Councillors will be established from 2015/16.	June 2015
That the Council be requested to offer regular space in publications and the website to voluntary and community groups and to raise awareness of existing mechanisms for continued dialogue.	Already happening, the Council is looking at how we can offer more space in District News and other publications.	December 2014
That the staff volunteering scheme be widened at the Council so staff can work with voluntary and community sector groups within the District.	The Council are working with 3VA to extend the Scheme, the Business Strategy and Performance Team are leading on this.	December 2014
That the Council be requested to explore whether there is a benefit to the sharing of resources and space between the Council and voluntary and	The Council are working with key partners in the voluntary and community sector to assess if space in council buildings, such as Southover House	June 2015

community groups.	reception, can be shared with partner organisations.	
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