



Lewes District Council

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Scrutiny Panel – Valuing the Voluntary and Community Sector

Minutes of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Panel – Valuing the Voluntary and Community Sector** held in the **Garden Room, Lewes House, 32 High Street, Lewes** on **Monday 22 April 2013** at **1.00pm**

Present:

Councillors S J Gauntlett (Chair), J V Harris and E E J Russell

Officers Attending:

R Allan, Scrutiny and Committee Officer

J Blackwell, Interim Property, Regeneration and Enterprise Project Officer

In attendance:

Councillor R Blackman

K Perrin, 3va

P Rideout, East Sussex County Council (Co-opted Member of the Panel)

Minutes

4 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5 Declarations of Interest

Councillor S J Gauntlett declared his personal, non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 3 (Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector).

6 Draft Questionnaire

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the background to the Review. He advised that the recommendations from this Review would be presented at the Cabinet meeting on 30 September 2013. He added that the purpose for this meeting was to discuss consultation options for the Review.

The Scrutiny and Committee Officer took the Panel through the draft questionnaire that had been circulated along with the Agenda. A discussion followed, and the Panel questioned the audience for the questionnaire and highlighted how important it was that it captured useful information for the Review. It was suggested that the questionnaire be published online as well as being produced as a hard copy.

The Panel requested that a clear explanation be circulated along with the questionnaire that clearly explained the purpose of the Review.

The Panel questioned whether more quantitative data and themed questions could be collected as part of the questionnaire to aid the quality of the consultation. Councillors suggested that a range of methods could be used to gather information for the Review, such as targeted phone calls to organisations currently funded by the Council.

The Chair suggested that the questionnaire be distributed after the consultation event invitation, in order that a clear message of the purpose of the Review could be delivered in advance.

(Note: Councillor Gauntlett declared his personal, non-prejudicial interest in this item as he was a trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau and, therefore, was able to take part in the consideration, discussion and voting thereon)

Resolved:

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| <p>6.1 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer be requested to revise the draft questionnaire to include more quantitative and themed questions;</p> | <p>SCO</p> |
| <p>6.2 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer be requested to circulate the revised questionnaire to voluntary and community organisations in the District after details of the consultation event have been published; and</p> | <p>SCO</p> |
| <p>6.3 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer be requested to contact existing voluntary and community organisations currently funded by the Council to gather information about their experiences of working with Lewes District Council to add to the consultation for the Review.</p> | <p>SCO</p> |

7 Consultation

The Chair suggested that the Panel held an evidence day for voluntary and community organisations in Lewes District in order to gather evidence for the Review.

The Scrutiny and Committee Officer explained to the Panel that it was important that voluntary and community organisations had an incentive for coming to the event, and that other workshops or events could be included as part of the consultation event. It was suggested that organisations such as 3va (an organisation that supports the voluntary and community sector in East Sussex) and the Sussex Community Foundation (an organisation that supports charities across Sussex) could be asked to run stalls or workshops as part of the event. The Panel discussed the target audience for the event, and agreed that decision makers as well as officers working directly with local people from voluntary and community organisations should be invited.

In response to a Councillor's question, the Scrutiny and Committee Officer suggested that the event could be in July 2013, so as to give plenty of notice to organisations. The Panel requested that the invitation avoided formal language and was written in plain English.

Councillors discussed the title of the event, and were concerned that the term "value" was too closely associated with monetary value.

Resolved:

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| <p>7.1 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer be requested to email members of the Scrutiny Panel - Valuing the Voluntary and Community Sector with a plan for the consultation event in July 2013;</p> | <p>SCO</p> |
| <p>7.2 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer and the Interim Property, Regeneration and Enterprise Project Officer be requested to work with 3va, an organisation that supports the voluntary and community sector in East Sussex, to organise a consultation event in July 2013 for the Valuing the Voluntary and Community Sector Scrutiny Review; and</p> | <p>SCO/IPR
EPO</p> |
| <p>7.3 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer and the Interim Property, Regeneration and Enterprise Project Officer be requested to provide the Panel with a more apt title for the Review.</p> | <p>SCO/IPR
EPO</p> |

8 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved:

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| <p>8.1 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer be requested to arrange a further meeting of the Scrutiny Panel – Valuing the Voluntary and Community Sector to be held in July or August 2013 after the consultation event in a venue to be notified by the Scrutiny and Committee Officer.</p> | <p>SCO</p> |
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The meeting ended at 2.00pm

S J Gauntlett
Chair