



Lewes District Council

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Scrutiny Panel – Strengthening our Relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector

Minutes of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Panel – Strengthening our Relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector** held in the **Ditchling Room, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes** on **Thursday 31 October 2013** at **10.00am**

Present:

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

Officers Attending:

R Allan, Scrutiny and Committee Officer

J Blackwell, Regeneration Project Manager

K Kingston, Head of Regeneration and Economic Development

In attendance:

K Perrin, 3VA

Minutes

14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15 Scrutiny Review - Strengthening our Relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector

The Committee considered Report No 175/13 regarding the draft Report of the Scrutiny Review - Strengthening our Relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

The Chair took the Panel through the Report. He advised that this Report would be considered by Councillors at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 7 November 2013. The final Report would be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 6 January 2013.

The Panel discussed the content of the Report and the referencing that was throughout the Report.

In response to a Councillor's question, the Scrutiny and Committee Officer questioned whether the section of the Report that detailed the consultation event that took place at Newhaven Fort, as set out on page 7 of the Report,

was necessary as it was already within the Appendix.

The Scrutiny and Committee Officer took the Panel through the list of recommendations, as set out on page 9 of the Report. She explained that the key recommendation of the Scrutiny Panel was the request for a part time officer within the Regeneration Team to work with the voluntary and community sector. She added that without the approval by Cabinet of that recommendation, the other recommendations could not be implemented as there was not an officer within the team to deliver this work.

In response to a Councillor's question, the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development advised that a covering Cabinet Report would be drafted to accompany this Report which would detail the financial implications of the Report's recommendations in more detail.

The Panel discussed the list of recommendations and questioned whether the order was the most logical.

The Regeneration Project Manager advised Councillors that recommendation 3, as set out on page 9 of the Report, could be widened in order to recommend that a policy was drafted that highlighted how and why the Council funded voluntary and community sector groups. A discussion followed, and the Panel agreed that any monitoring that took place must be appropriate to the level of funding that the group had received from the Council, and that it would be useful for the detail of current funding levels to be within the Report.

In response to a Councillor's question, the Scrutiny and Committee Officer advised that none of the Cabinet Member's portfolios at the Council referred directly to the voluntary and community sector within its title. The Panel held the view that the inclusion of this would help to raise the profile of the Council's work with the voluntary and community sector.

The Chair thanked officers for their work in drafting Report No 175/13.

Resolved:

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| <p>15.1 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer be requested to insert footnotes to the bottom of relevant pages to indicate the source of references in Report No 175/13;</p> | <p>SCO</p> |
| <p>15.2 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer be requested to remove the section of the Report regarding the consultation event at Newhaven Fort, as set out on page 7 of Report No 175/13;</p> | <p>SCO</p> |
| <p>15.3 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer be requested to make recommendation 6 the first recommendation and shorten the list of recommendations from ten to six by grouping recommendations 5 and 2 ,followed by recommendations 8, 9 and 10 together, as set out</p> | <p>SCO</p> |

on page nine of Report No 175/13;

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| 15.4 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer be requested to add a further recommendation requesting that work with the voluntary and community sector be included within a Cabinet Member's portfolio title or as a separate portfolio; and | SCO |
| 15.5 That the Scrutiny and Committee Officer be requested to add an Appendix detailing the voluntary and community organisations currently funded by Lewes District Council . | SCO |

The meeting ended at 11.00am

S J Gauntlett
Chair