

Decision Record – Consultation on future funding of the Voluntary and Community Sector

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Jeff Clarke Environment
Date of Decision	24 October 2014

Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Environment approves the proposals for consultation.

Reasons for Decisions

Austerity and the changing needs and demands of communities mean that a different, more rigorous, approach is now required. The VCS infrastructure itself and the nature of commissioned contracts need to change in keeping with this new context.

In order to address this it is necessary to consult on what the future of support for the VCS will look like.

Background Information

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council has a long established relationship with voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations operating across the County. The relationship has, on the whole, been one of coproduction and focussed on the delivery of shared objectives. However, there are examples where this has not been the case and objectives have been clouded and delivery unclear.
- 1.2 The Council is moving towards being a commissioning organisation and the focus on clear outcomes for those VCS organisations delivering contracted work is paramount. Delivery will be tested through a more rigorous performance management regime, ensuring that commissioning relationships achieve quality outcomes, value for money, and effective social impact for our investments.
- 1.3 The aim is to achieve this new set of relationships within a mutually supportive way of working, which nevertheless provides rigour and challenge.
- 1.4 Through working with the VCS the Council will seek to achieve the following outcomes:
 - a) Community resilience and the capacity of individuals and communities to respond to their needs is increased.
 - b) A diverse Third Sector which comprises a mixed market of providers.
 - c) Clearly defined community need and aspiration.
 - d) Warwickshire's volunteer economy is supported, strengthened and diversified
 - e) A strong offer of targeted support, which supports our most vulnerable

- communities
- f) Innovative, community led solutions
 - g) Demand on public services is managed and reduced through growing and diversifying the service offer of the VCS
 - h) A Commissioning framework which is informed by a robust knowledge base and needs analysis
 - i) A Flexible VCS provider market which is responsive to change

Financial Implications

None direct

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Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jeff Clarke

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or Exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

Reports considered

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3088/Committee/550/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jeff Clarke
 All Strategic Directors
 Legal – Ian Marriott, Peter Oliver, John Gregory, Ann Belcher
 Finance – Liz Firmstone
 Equality – Minakshee Patel
 Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Communities OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Richard Chattaway, Jenny Fradgley, John Holland and Wallace Redford