

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods to the meeting of the Corporate Improvement Committee to be held on 11 March 2008

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Subject:

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND THE THIRD SECTOR REVIEW - TIMETABLE AND SCOPE OF FURTHER REPORT

Summary statement:

Council (16 October 2007) asked the Corporate Improvement Committee to report to Council on the impact and outcomes of the decision taken by the Executive concerning the Community Development Service on 1 November 2005 and related issues. A report to Corporate Improvement Committee on 30 January set out progress on the decisions taken by the Executive and in particular its decision to transfer responsibility for providing voluntary sector support for emerging and existing community groups to the Neighbourhood Support Service.

This report sets out the scope and timetable for a further detailed report to the Corporate Improvement Committee and provides the draft brief for the proposed Third Sector Review which will significantly inform the detailed report to CIC.

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Council (16 October 2007) asked the Corporate Improvement Committee to report to Council on the impact and outcomes of the decision taken by the Executive concerning the Community Development Service on 1 November 2005 and related issues. A report to Corporate Improvement Committee on 30 January set out progress on the decisions taken by the Executive and in particular its decision to transfer responsibility for providing voluntary sector support for emerging and existing community groups to the Neighbourhood Support Service.

This report sets out the scope and timetable for a further detailed report to the Corporate Improvement Committee and provides the draft brief for the proposed Third Sector Review which will significantly inform the detailed report to the Corporate Improvement Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 30 January 2008 a report on Community Support was presented to the Corporate Improvement Committee.

- 2.2 The Committee resolved:

- (1) That the Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Support submits a timetable for the Third Sector Review and the production of a detailed report to the March meeting of this Committee.
- (2) That the detailed report should take into account all the comments made by this Committee and include financial information and roles and responsibilities of different organisations.
- (3) That this Committee be fully engaged in the Third Sector Review.
- (4) That the Director of Bradford Council for Voluntary Service be thanked for his contribution to the meeting.

3 SCOPE AND TIMETABLE OF A FURTHER DETAILED REPORT

3.1 Scope

- 3.1.1 The way that support is provided to communities in the District to improve their quality of life is currently the subject of much discussion and change. The large majority of support is currently provided by the Council and Third Sector organisations.
- 3.1.2 The Council is currently planning to restructure both its Stronger Communities service and its Neighbourhood Support Service under new Assistant Directors for Safer and Stronger Communities, Selina Ullah and Neighbourhood Services, Steve Hartley.
- 3.1.3 Proposals for the Stronger Communities function, focussed on support for 'communities of interest', have already been tabled with staff and unions as part of a formal consultation. Proposals for Neighbourhood Services, who focus on neighbourhoods and Areas which could be seen as 'communities of place', are likely to be drawn up in March and April 2008.

- 3.1.4 A decision to implement a 'Third Sector Review' was taken as part of the Local Strategic Partnership Review agreed by the Executive in October 2007. A draft brief for the Third Sector Review is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.1.5 Many of the funding arrangements for community support are also in a state of flux. The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund which has provided significant resources for community based work, including for the Bradford Vision Neighbourhood Renewal Team and the Neighbourhood Action Planning process, ends on 31 March 2008. The draft brief for the Third Sector Review also points to an examination of resourcing and commissioning of the Third Sector to carry out a community support role.
- 3.1.6 A further detailed report on Community Support will be prepared for the Corporate Improvement Committee. It will draw on the work being carried out in all those areas indicated above and any ensuing changes in order to:
- Detail the kind and level of support that is provided to communities across the district.
 - Clarify the responsibilities organisations have for providing that support and who provides what.
 - Clarify the current funding arrangements for that support and the plans and sustainability of future funding.
 - Detail the performance management arrangements for community support and the framework for the evaluation of its outcomes and effectiveness.
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- 3.17 Both the Third Sector Review and the detailed community support report will need to be informed by views within the Council, other agencies and those both using community support services and those receiving them throughout the district.

3.2 Timetable

- 3.2.1 There are some major changes and pieces of work outlined in 3.1 above. As detailed in Appendix 1 it is intended the Third Sector Review produces reports to the Executive in December 2008. The conclusions of the Third Sector Review will be presented to the Improvement Committee before the Executive considers it.
- 3.2.2 In light of this it is recommended that the detailed report on community support is considered by the Corporate Improvement Committee in November 2008, so that any conclusions of the CIC may be used by the Executive to inform their eventual decision.

4. OPTIONS

The Corporate Improvement Committee may choose to:

- Note the report
- Propose amendments to the scope of the Third Sector Review or the more detailed examination of community support
- Identify some ongoing member involvement through identifying a Link Member(s) or other mechanism.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Community development contributes to the Council priority, *Safer and Stronger Communities*. A strong Third Sector will have a major contribution to make to the delivery of all Council and District priorities.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That the scope for a further detailed report on community support is agreed and that report is presented to this Committee in November 2008.
- 6.2 That the Committee consider how best members of the Committee should be involved in the Third Sector Review.

7. APPENDICES

Draft Brief for the Bradford District Third Sector Review.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Review of the Community Development Service – September 2005
Minutes of Council, Executive and Corporate Improvement Committee, September 2004-
November 2005

Appendix 1

The 3rd Sector Review Brief - Draft V2

Background

In 2007 the Council undertook a review of its strategic partnership arrangements and agreed to a new LSP structure as identified at appendix A. As a result of this it was also identified that a review of the 3rd sector should take place.

Prime objectives for the review

1. Establish what the key functions the district needs of its 3rd sector (areas to explore include: community development, neighbourhood working, community cohesion, stronger communities, community centres/assets and service delivery)
2. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current 3rd sector arrangements in fulfilling those functions and make recommendations for change where necessary
3. Identify and make recommendations for resourcing the core 3rd sector infrastructure arrangements necessary to support a thriving 3rd sector
4. To explore the Council's commissioning process to identify where, if possible, further efficiencies and effectiveness could be made with regard to commissioning the 3rd sector in the partnership arena
5. Establish a district wide definition of the 3rd sector and its engagement/ involvement in the Districts LSP arrangements
6. To explore the use of the Compact as a tool for creating more effective 3rd sector arrangements and relationships with public sector bodies

Methodology

The work will be overseen by a steering group comprised of the following:

- Representative(s) from the Council's Corporate Improvement Committee
- Representatives from KVS and BVS
- Representative from Cnet
- Representatives from ABCD, COEMO, the Equity Partnership
- Representatives from the Councils Asset Management, Partnerships, Safer and Stronger and Neighbourhood Support Services
- Representative from the PCT in relation to Commissioning
- Representative of a Council service that works with the 3rd sector in a service delivery capacity
- If possible a VCS national perspective - TBC

The work and the steering group will be supported by an officer working from the Council's Partnership service.

It is proposed that the work of the review be divided up and allocated to sub groups led by a member of the steering group. Each sub-group will start by producing a project plan that will include the following:

- Research to be undertaken
- Good practice examples
- Analysis and comparisons
- Conclusions and the production of the business case for proposed changes including any invest to save requirements

The review will commence in April and be completed in October 2008. It is proposed that the sub groups will report progress back to the steering group at least twice during that interval. The steering group will approve a final report outlining recommendations and clear responsibilities for implementation to both the LSP and the Council.

Proposed sub groups

1. Role and function of the 3rd Sector – objectives 1&2
2. Resourcing the 3rd Sector – objectives 3&4
3. 3rd sector relationships – objectives 5&6

The sub – groups will need to identify further people and processes required in order to deliver their project plan. The extent to which the objectives can be met will depend on resources identified to support this review. However, if there are areas where further work is required these will be identified in the recommendations and any resulting implementation plans if approved.

The Steering Group will produce its final report in December 2008

Roz Hall

Lead officer for the review

The Bradford District LSP

