

Council – 16 July 2018

Notice of motion - Locality Model/Voluntary and Community Sector Support

A notice of motion has been received from Councillors S. Coughlan, D. Coughlan, Shires, Ward, Jeavons, Jukes, Robertson, Chambers, Underhill, Hussain and Nawaz as detailed below:

That this Council notes the progress made through the Locality Model in bringing partners together to maximise the benefits of shared budgets and helping to tackle the long standing inequalities which have divided communities across Walsall.

Further, this Council notes the continuing effects of austerity measures, imposed by the Conservative Government, and instructs officers to:-

- Investigate ways in which to assist the voluntary sector to bring funding into the borough to add value to work already being done through the locality model.
- Bring a report to Council providing options to devolve budgets to localities in order to give the people of Walsall a say in how certain services such as Grounds Maintenance, Street Cleansing and Clean and Green, are delivered in their locality area.

Locality Model

The council is committed to working collaboratively with partners and the voluntary sector (VCS) to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents, reduce inequalities and maximise potential.

To enhance partnership working arrangements the Council has a locality model which includes:-

Strategic Locality Partnership Boards (SLPB) which meet quarterly. SLPBS are responsible for overseeing the delivery of the Walsall Plan on a local level. Each SLPB is developing a Locality Plan which will be considered by the SLPB's in Autumn 2018.

Operational Locality Panels (OLP) which meet once a week in each of the locality areas. The OLPs discuss cases which require a multi-agency response to vulnerable children, families, adults, locations and themes.

Support provided to the Voluntary and Community Sector

There are a number of service areas that already support the Voluntary and Community (VCS) to improve their ability to attract external funding, including Clean

and Green, Development and Delivery, Money Home Job and Community, Equality and Cohesion Teams.

In addition, the Council has invested resources in the following activities / programmes:-

One Walsall

The Council, Walsall Housing Group and the Clinical Commissioning Group have invested in One Walsall which acts as a key support service to the VCS. This includes providing a whole range of advice and guidance around funding, infrastructure, policy and governance. One Walsall has successfully brought together a number of organisations to work collaboratively and attract large external funding streams.

Locality Model

Through the locality model, the voluntary sector has seen an increase in referrals to various organisations as members of the OLP's now have a better understanding of the support available to residents provided by the VCS. The VCS are also active members of the OLP's and SLPB's.

Community Association Support

The Council has a dedicated officer that supports a number of Community Associations. This includes providing support with funding applications and governance arrangements.

VCS Transformation Programme

This programme includes a range of products aimed to improve the Council's systems and processes to enable the VCS to grow and prosper. Set out below is a summary of each product:-

Community Asset Transfer Policy – promotes independence for the VCS and provides the sector with an opportunity to secure external funding to allow for continuity of its service provision for local people.

Memorandum of Understanding – demonstrates partners' commitment to a supportive, collaborative and transparent cross-sector partnership with the VCS.

Social Return on Investment – enables the Council to measure, manage and account for social value / social impact.

VCS Outcome Framework – supports the sector by improving our commissioning arrangements, encourages collaborative joined up working and focuses on outcomes that are value driven for our communities

VCS Mapping – gives the Council a better understanding of VCS in terms of location and will help support the delivery of the Community Asset Transfer Policy.

Library Sites

Officers have worked with a number of voluntary organisations to reshape libraries which are now run through the VCS. This includes support to attract new external funding.

Progress in respect of the Localities Model has previously been reported to council. Whilst council can receive a report on the devolution of budgets to localities it has to be remembered that it is Cabinet that is responsible for making decisions on how the budget is spent. This has been confirmed in the case of Buck v Doncaster MBC.

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