

## **Cabinet – 05 September 2018**

### **One Walsall – Future Funding**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Perry – Community, Leisure and Culture

**Related portfolios:** N/A

**Service:** Communities and Partnerships

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### **1 Summary**

- 1.1 The infrastructure support for the community and voluntary sector has historically underperformed and this has been recognised by the council and partners. A report commissioned in 2015 by Walsall Voluntary Action (WVA) and Walsall Council, the Connected Communities report, has identified a blueprint for recovery. WVA has been rebranded as One Walsall and to date One Walsall is on target to deliver that blueprint, the history of which is set out at 3.1.
- 1.2 Funding for One Walsall was for three years and a decision now has to be made on the on-going funding arrangements accepting the financial pressures on the council and its partners.
- 1.3 A community development grant with One Walsall for three years allows for the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Walsall to continue its improvement journey.

#### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Cabinet welcomes the progress made by One Walsall over the last two and a half years in creating a stronger VCS infrastructure organisation, which is part of our success.
- 2.2 The Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Transformation, in consultation with the portfolio-holder, to finalise and agree the outcomes-based framework, tripartite grant funding arrangement with Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the VIEW (Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Limited) Board and grant agreement with One Walsall. The basis of these negotiations will be to develop a three-year outcomes-based grant arrangement with One Walsall from 1 April 2019, with a council contribution of £170,000.

**3 Report detail**

- 3.1 In 2015, due to concerns around the robustness of the then WVA, Walsall Council and WVA commissioned a joint report from John Taylor to look at the “Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in Walsall and the effectiveness of Walsall Voluntary Action (WVA) to support it.” The report, Connected Communities, was published in September 2015.
- 3.2 The report identified that the existing voluntary sector infrastructure organisation was failing to provide effective support to the sector within Walsall.
- 3.3 The current financial outlook for the public sector is challenging and many activities historically supported by the public sector will diminish or cease. This is particularly challenging when Walsall is seeking to deliver the priorities identified within the Walsall plan. As key partners the community and voluntary sector can play a major part in the redesign of services and therefore there is a practical need to ensure the VCS is in a position to take on these challenges.
- 3.4 One Walsall’s key role will encourage the growth of the market through the support of new organisations, support the growth of existing organisations and attract existing national organisations to Walsall.
- 3.5 The report recommended a number of key activities including a stabilisation of funding to ensure One Walsall could plan and invest for the long term. The report recommended “a trinity” of local funders, Walsall Council, Walsall CCG and Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Limited (VIEW).
- 3.6 The recommended funding was £270,000 for five years with the following allocation from funders:

Walsall Council	£170,000
Walsall CCG	£50,000
VIEW	£50,000

- 3.7 It was recognised as part of the Connected Communities report that the purpose of the refreshed voluntary sector infrastructure organisation would be “to support the growth of the sector - including social enterprises, support public sector transformation, innovate and develop future sector leaders by focusing on bringing people together, connecting communities, external service delivery and effective communication with the sector and partners”.
- 3.8 The council, as part of the budget for 2016/17 agreed to provide three years’ funding at £170,000 per annum.
- 3.9 The council is seeking support from Walsall CCG and VIEW to enter into a further three-year grant funded arrangement.
- 3.10 The three-year investment from the council and partners has achieved significant results. With a firm financial and staffing base One Walsall is in a position to achieve its five-year plan. The organisation has refreshed itself and is now re-branded as One Walsall. With further financial stability One Walsall can continue

its successful journey. The first two years' performance has, of course, included a period of stabilisation and the following have been the major achievements:

- Successful transformation into a trusted organisation with a new and generally trusted brand.
- Supported successful funding applications totalling £1.8 million in 2017/18.
- Increased volunteering capacity, capability and activity.
- Worked collaboratively working across the sector and with partners on both design and delivery.

3.11 Cabinet is now asked to consider the future funding of One Walsall.

3.12 There has been consideration of three options available for future funding. The three options are:

- Remove funding
- Commission One Walsall with reduced funding
- Commission funding for a further period at the same level

It is proposed that any agreed funding, if Cabinet agrees would run for a further three years.

3.13 There is a tension between the increased pressure on council finances and the need to support the VCS. This financial pressure is shared by our funding partners. However, it is a key moment in the development of the VCS and to remove funding totally would have a serious negative impact on the sector.

3.14 Any grant arrangement with One Walsall will be based on outcomes assumptions, which will be agreed by all three funding partners in a tripartite grant funding agreement. The draft outcomes specification is attached as appendix (a).

3.15 The council also provides infrastructure support through the provision of accommodation in the town centre.

3.16 Any new grant agreement will include a clawback mechanism to be invoked if the agreed outcomes, as identified in an agreed joint action plan, are not achieved.

#### **4 Council Corporate Plan priorities**

4.1 One Walsall will play a key part in the delivery of our priorities as set out in the Walsall Plan 2018-2021.

4.2 The role of volunteering as a gateway to employment is growing and One Walsall has an infrastructure to support volunteering activity. In addition the core purpose to support the growth of the sector includes a focus on social enterprises.

4.3 One Walsall and the Walsall VCS should support the internal focus drive for efficiency and effectiveness through more joint and integrated service delivery.

- 4.4 Supporting people, children and communities is at the heart of what One Walsall does, providing an infrastructure to support the growth of the VCS at a time when there is less public money available.

## **5 Risk management**

- 5.1 Failure to provide significant funding to a VCS infrastructure organisation will potentially result in reduced capacity and grant funding within Walsall with a significant impact on the community.

## **6 Financial implications**

- 6.1 To provide continued funding arrangements to One Walsall for a further three years from 2019/20 to 2021/22 at £170k per annum.
- 6.2 The draft budget options for 2019/20, as reported to council in February 2018, referred to a potential saving of £168,795 (saving reference 28). The continuation of this agreement will therefore mean that no saving will be achieved. Alternative savings have been identified to meet the 2019/20 budget proposal.

## **7 Legal implications**

- 7.1 Legal Services will support the development of a community support grant.

## **8 Procurement implications/Social Value**

- 8.1 Procurement advice will be sought to ensure the compliant establishment of the grant arrangement.
- 8.2 There is no legal requirement for compliance with the Social Value Act 2012 nor the Council Social Value Policy due to the fact that this is a proposed grant arrangement. However opportunity to maximise Social Value return is within the spirit of such an arrangement and will be maximised where possible and appropriate to do so.

## **9 Property implications**

- 9.1 One Walsall currently occupies Jerome Buildings in Bridge Street, with an annual rental of £21,500.

## **10 Health and wellbeing implications**

- 10.1 Creating a vibrant VCS is a foundation of the council's work with communities to ensure appropriate support for individuals' health and wellbeing

## **11 Staffing implications**

- 11.1 Not applicable

## 12 Reducing inequalities

12.1 A strong VCS will support the objectives across the corporate plan and will enable local communities to become self-sufficient and independent. Working proactively with the VCS will:

12.1.1 Support economic growth through the creation of new organisations, including social enterprises, and the identification of new income streams supporting the Walsall Economy.

12.1.2 Increase the independence of people and communities to create greater personal and community resilience reducing the need for council and partner services which will enable greater focus on those in most need.

12.1.3 Provide a particular focus on supporting children and young people, keeping them safe and raising their aspirations in a cohesive Walsall.

## 13 Consultation

13.1 There are on-going conversations with the CCG and VIEW over funding of One Walsall.

### Background papers

None

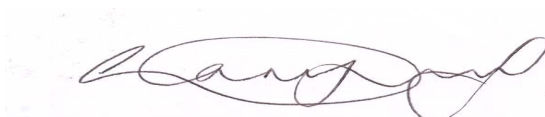
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James Walsh  
Executive Director

5 September 2018



Councillor Perry  
Portfolio holder

5 September 2018

## Appendix (a)

### Draft outcomes for One Walsall grant

Item	Outcome	Measurement
1	One Walsall to gain local and national recognition for its VCS lead role within Walsall.	More organisations coming to Walsall to see how we operate with the VCS sector.
2	The Walsall VCS sector to gain greater local and national recognition.	Number of organisations gaining the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.
3	Despite high levels of deprivation Walsall has historically under-performed in relation to grant income from national funding organisations. There needs to be an increased level of funding coming into Walsall and the VCS sector needs to over-perform.	Increased amount of grant income to VCS organisations within Walsall.
4	Walsall-based VCS organisations to become financially stronger and more professionally run, gaining greater credibility in the local market place.	<p>A greater % of commissions delivered through Walsall-based VCS organisations measured across all council directorates.</p> <p>Increase in reserves of Walsall-based VCS organisations.</p> <p>Increase in the number of volunteers achieving a professional sector qualification.</p>
5	One Walsall to become the preferred route into volunteering, whether for career progression or philanthropic reasons.	<p>Increase number of volunteers appointed to local volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Increase in volunteers moving into employment,</p> <p>Increase in volunteers moving into further education.</p>
6	Better balance of volunteers across the borough.	Number of active volunteers by locality with an increased % working in the south, north and west of the borough
7	One Walsall to promote and support new VCS start-ups.	Increase in local VCS organisations registering with One Walsall

8	Strategic alignment of the VCS within Walsall to the strategic priorities as identified within the Walsall Plan.	A greater % of commissions delivered through Walsall-based VCS organisations measured across all council directorates
9	A strong board of trustees representing the communities of Walsall.	Diverse board of trustees
10	Encouragement of social enterprises within Walsall.	Increased number of social enterprise start-ups within Walsall

## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

<b>Proposal name</b>	<b>One Walsall – Future Funding</b>		
<b>Directorate</b>	Resources an Transformation		
<b>Service</b>	Communities and Partnerships		
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Paul Gordon		
<b>Proposal planning start</b>	1/2/2018	<b>Proposal start date (due or actual date)</b>	1/4/2019

<b>1</b>	<b>What is the purpose of the proposal?</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>New / revision</b>
	Show which category the proposal is and whether it is new or a revision.		
	Policy		
	Procedure		
	Guidance		
	Is this a service to customers/staff/public?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Revision</b>
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?	<b>Commissioned</b>	<b>Revision</b>
	Other - give details		
<b>2</b>	<b>What is the business case for this proposal? Please provide the main purpose of the service, intended outcomes and reasons for change?</b>		
	To continue to fund One Walsall to provide Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support		
<b>3</b>	<b>Who is the proposal likely to affect?</b>		
	<b>People in Walsall</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>Detail</b>
	All		People involved in the Community or Community Activities either from membership of an organisation, participation in activities or volunteering
	Specific group/s	Y	
	Council employees		
	Other (identify)		
<b>4</b>	<b>Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer's protected characteristics.</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is borough wide and therefore the data relating to protected characteristics is the same as borough data</li> </ul>		
<b>5</b>	<b>Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal. (Please sue a separate box for each engagement/consultation).</b>		





Engagement and Consultation has been with One Walsall, the VIEW board and Walsall CCG

**Consultation Activity**

N/A

<b>Type of engagement/consultation</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Who attended/participated?</b>			
<b>Protected characteristics of participants</b>			
<b>Feedback</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>		

**6 Concise overview of all evidence, engagement and consultation**

N/A

**7 How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group? The effect may be positive, negative, neutral or not known. Give reasons and if action is needed.**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Affect</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Action needed Yes / No</b>
<b>Age</b>	Positive for all groups as they increase the opportunity for all groups to engage with the VCS infrastructure organisation		
<b>Disability</b>			
<b>Gender reassignment</b>			
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>			
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>			
<b>Race</b>			
<b>Religion or belief</b>			
<b>Sex</b>			

	<b>Sexual orientation</b>	
	<b>Other (give detail)</b>	
	<b>Further information</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative effect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details.</b>	(Delete one) <b>Yes</b>
	Yes this proposal links with the proposal to agree a memorandum of understanding with the VCS and partners. Both will have a positive impact on the community and equality groups.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation feedback suggest you take?</b>	
A	<b>No major change required</b>	

<b>Action and monitoring plan</b>				
<b>Action Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Outcome Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>

Where the assessment indicates a potential negative impact (B, C or D in question 7), identify how you will reduce or mitigate this impact. The full impact of a proposal will only be known once it is introduced, so always set out arrangements for reviewing the actual impact of the proposals e.g. 6 month or 12 months after implementation.

Identify who the monitoring will be reported to and what it is part of e.g. service monitoring or project monitoring. Then ensure the outcome of each action is added, this is just as important as identifying the potential impact.

<b>Update to EqIA</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Detail</b>
	Use this section for updates following the commencement of your proposal.

**Contact us**

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