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<b>PART A:</b>	<b>MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS</b>
<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>4 APRIL 2013</b>
<b>REPORT OF THE:</b>	<b>HEAD OF ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE JULIAN RUDD</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: DEVELOPMENT WORKERS</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To reconsider a recommendation made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Policy and Resources Committee in its scrutiny review report into the role the Council should play in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector. This recommendation was deferred by this Committee at its 14 February 2013.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that this Committee consider the deferred recommendation made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the role of the Council in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector, and resolve to accept, reject or defer the recommendation and give their reason for this.

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council presented the recommendations made following the scrutiny review of the role the Council should play in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector to the Policy and Resources Committee. This Committee was requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide a report of the action taken in relation to these recommendations.
- 3.2 The additional information presented in this report enables the Committee to accept, reject or defer the recommendation deferred on 14 February 2013 and give the reason for this.

### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

- 4.1 There are no significant risks in considering this report.

## 5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a scrutiny review of the role the Council should play in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector. The review involved engagement with a range of stakeholders.

## REPORT

### 6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 On 14 February 2013 the Policy and Resources Committee considered the recommendations to the Committee that are made in the scrutiny review report into the role of the Council in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector. Members also noted the decision of Council on 10 January 2013 regarding this matter i.e. that the Board should consider the recommendations applicable to it and each decision to adopt / defer / reject be given with the requisite reasons.

- 6.2 The Committee agreed six of the eight recommendations that were made to it by the O&S Committee, and agreed the reasons for adopting the recommendations. The Committee also agreed a further recommendation, subject to a minor change in wording. However, in relation to one of the recommendations the Board deferred a decision and requested further information.

#### **Development Officers**

- 6.3 A decision on the following recommendation was deferred to allow members to receive more information on the role and the cost implications for the Council:

*Development officers are essential in helping to develop projects within the voluntary and community sector and this role is highly valued by the sector. The Council should continue to provide development officers and continue to support their provision within the voluntary sector.*

- 6.4 In addition to grant funding organisations in the voluntary and community sector, the Council also offers non-financial support, in the form of officer support for development work, helping with grant applications, funding option advice, CRB checks, equipment for tidy groups & waste disposal from litter picks, consultation and design work for parish plan groups.
- 6.5 The Scrutiny review established, through consultation with Ryedale communities and stakeholders, that 'Officer support and advice was highly valued and was seen as an essential element in making projects and events successful. Organisations valued knowledgeable officers, who have the drive and enthusiasm to make projects a success and can work through funding options'.
- 6.6 There are occasional tasks undertaken by a variety of officers (e.g. Building Conservation Officer, Visitor Economy Officer, Regeneration Manager) that in some way represent a development role on behalf of the voluntary and community sector. However, such outcomes are incidental or side-benefits of undertaking roles and actions for other primary purposes (e.g. conservation, regeneration, tourism) and are not reasons for the roles or actions themselves.
- 6.7 Development work for the voluntary and community sector is primarily provided as one element of the work undertaken by two RDC officer posts. This is one of several different roles of the 'Creative Economy Officer' post, which provides advice and support for both commercial and voluntary / community organisations. The best

estimate that can be provided is that development of the community / voluntary sector accounts for, at most, some 30% of this role, which equates to around £11K. In addition, an element of this role is undertaken by the 'Community Partnerships Officer'. This equates to, at most, 40% of this role (if community transport is included), which costs the Authority some £11.5K.

- 6.8 To consider the impact of spending, in total, some £22.5K on development of the community and voluntary sector, Members may wish to have regard to the financial leverage that is achieved into the voluntary and community sector of Ryedale, via assistance with projects and successful funding applications. Over many years of operating a Community Investment Fund, the average level of leverage is that for every £1 of Ryedale District Council investment in a community / voluntary sector project there is some £5 of external investment achieved. Any reduction in development worker capacity would comprise the ability of the Council to achieve this level of leverage from funding awarded as grants.
- 6.9 Members should note that the Council has provided some support to development workers hosted by other organisations, via grant funding. However, this has been funded on a project basis and is time limited e.g. £9K grant from the CIF to Rural Action Yorkshire towards a development worker to support community activities, including parish planning, and the £13K grant from CIF to Ryedale Voluntary Action for provision of funding and development advice to communities. These development workers are also co-funded by the organisations involved via other sources of funding as opportunities present themselves, e.g. the lottery.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial  
The cost of these areas of work is detailed above.
  - b) Legal  
None to report.
  - c) Other  
The potential implications of withdrawal of the above services on the vulnerable and isolated should be considered before any such decision is taken.

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### **Background Papers:**

Scrutiny review report into the role of the Council in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector.

<http://democracy.ryedale.gov.uk/documents/s12492/1a%20Part%20A%20-%20HCS%20-%20Progress%20Reports%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20Recommendations%20Annex%200A.pdf>