



REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	5 JULY 2012
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES CLARE SLATER
TITLE OF REPORT:	SCRUTINY REVIEWS PROGRESS REPORT – ‘SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR’
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present the progress of the scrutiny review currently being undertaken.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That members note the progress made with the current scrutiny review

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has commissioned a scrutiny review of the Councils role in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 No significant risks have been identified at this point but this will be reviewed as the review progresses.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

5.1 The terms of reference for the review were agreed at the previous meeting of the Committee and these will be reviewed periodically throughout the period of the review.

5.2 Engagement of the voluntary and community sector, partners other funding bodies and parish councils is being planned as part of the review to be undertaken.

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

6.1 The aim of the review is to make recommendations to the policy committees of the Council on the options available to Council for ensuring it utilises any of its resources

in the most efficient, effective and economical way to support a sustainable voluntary and community sector.

6.2 At the meeting of the task group held on 26 April, the Chief Officer of Ryedale Voluntary Action (RVA) gave a detailed presentation to members covering the following areas:

- The structure of the organisation
- The core services they deliver including the on-line directory of organisations and the Volunteer Centre.
- A summary of their achievements and details of events and training they have undertaken
- The direction and development of the RVA
- The national and regional context for the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Changes and issues for the RVA
- Profile of the voluntary sector in Ryedale
- Challenges facing voluntary and community organisations in Ryedale

6.3 On the 19th June, the task group hosted a 'Consultation Café' event involving previous funding recipients or organisations who had received other support from the Council. The event was well attended with a wide range of voluntary and community organisations represented. Following the World Café consultation method, groups had conversations based around three questions, whilst enjoying tea, coffee and cake.

The three topics discussed were:

- What does your organisation value most about what the Council does/offers to support the voluntary and community sector in Ryedale?
- How can the Council improve the way it works with the voluntary and community sector?
- Thinking about the opportunities and threats facing your organisation, what role do you think the Council should play in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector in the future?

The full outcomes of the discussions will be documented and will feed into the review.

Initial themes coming out of the consultation included:

- Communication
- Themed networks/forums
- Skills/knowledge sharing
- Transport co-ordination
- Advocacy
- Support offered by the Council and it's officers greatly valued
- Duplication of roles
- The value of funding – core vs project, range of grants available

Next steps for the review involve undertaking further consultation and research which includes:

- a survey of the residents of Ryedale in relation to the impact of grant funding
- consulting with voluntary organisations that have not been funded by the Council

- engagement work with other funding bodies.

6.3 The schedule for future task group meetings is as follows:

Date	Tasks
Thurs 19 July 2012	Engagement work with other funding bodies
Thurs 16 August 2012	Present the findings of the engagement activities and formulate recommendations
Thurs 13 Sept 2012	Draft Report and recommendations agreed by task group
Thurs 4 October 2012	O and S Committee meeting consider draft report and recommendations

Clare Slater
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Background Papers:

A Plain English Guide to the Localism Act:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismplainenglishupdate>

Statutory Best Value Guidance

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1976926.pdf>

National Council for Voluntary Organisations:

- [‘NCVO New Best Practice Guide’](#)

Community Development Foundation :

- [‘Structures for community development in local authorities’](#)
- [‘the role of the community sector within localism’ evidence to select committee](#)

Action with Communities in Rural England :

- [‘Making the most of Community Led Planning \(a best practice guide for local authorities\)’](#)