

Scrutiny Review of the Role the Council Should play in Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector	
Link to final report	
Recommendations – O&S 4th October 2012	Progress 31.5.13
<p>Key Recommendation The contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector is highly valued in Ryedale. The Council should help to sustain the Voluntary and Community Sector by providing financial and officer support.</p>	<p>All recommendations have been considered by the committee to whom they were addressed. Budget provision for community grants removed as part of the budget making process for 2013/14 by Council.</p> <p>Provision of community grants was considered by Commissioning Board 6 June 2013 with the following resolution: That Members support in principle the establishment of a New Community Grant budget and that the Head of Economy and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commissioning Board and Commissioning Board group representatives, devise the criteria (this will include the maximum amount to be allocated to any group and the need for any match funding to be applied to any grant requests) and consider the resource requirements and an officer report is presented for approval to Council on the 5 September.</p>
Recommendations to Commissioning Board	
1. The Council should undertake a review of how it core funds organisations with a view to commissioning/contracts ensuring continuity for organisations and giving notice of any changes in line with the North Yorkshire Compact. This allows organisations to employ people and plan for the future.	Commissioning Board accepted this giving the following reason: The Council core funds a very limited number of organisations and this review would reflect the approach agreed at Commissioning Board held on 24 January 2013 to core funding of the Ryedale CAB. Reviews now completed for CAB, RVA and Ryecat to establish the commissioning relationship.
2. Core funding should be for a longer time with more notice of change (ie 4 months minimum), linked to commissioning/procurement processes	Commissioning Board accepted as this is in line with the principles within the North Yorkshire compact.
3. Investigate how the Council could help support Ryedale Voluntary Action to encourage volunteering in the Ryedale area.	Commissioning Board accepted as this is consistent with the decision of the CIF Panel to support RVA volunteering services.

Recommendations to Policy & Resources Committee	
4. Grant schemes should be streamlined making it easier for organisations to access and, all decisions should be made by one panel i.e. the CIF panel.	Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation subject to the deletion of “the CIF Panel” and the addition of “the Commissioning Board and to be confirmed by Full Council”
Recommendations to Commissioning Board and Policy & Resources Committee	
5. 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.	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation, recognising that development workers are intrinsic to the delivery of Commissioning Board activities, subject to any wider consideration regarding the Council’s budget</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation with the following reason: Taking account of the additional information presented regarding expenditure on development workers, the Policy and Resources Committee recognises the benefits and financial leverage achieved through these roles.</p>
6. The Council should make it clear what it’s funding priorities are and what outcomes it is trying to achieve.	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this approach is consistent with good practice in budgeting and grant making.</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>
7. The Council should ensure that it is clear with all contracts and grants what it expects and monitor/evaluate/performance manage the outcomes accordingly ensuring Value for Money in the investment made.	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this approach is consistent with good practice in budgeting and grant making. Members welcomed the introduction of additional monitoring of outcomes, subject to available resources.</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>
8. Maintain a small grants element in all grant programmes.	Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation, recognising that small scale grants are intrinsic to the delivery of Commissioning

	<p>Board activities, subject to any wider consideration regarding the Council's budget</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>
<p>9. The Council should take every opportunity to co-ordinate funding and evaluation processes with other funding bodies, for example, lists of projects supported and case studies illustrating the impact of the funding awarded should be published on the Council website.</p>	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this approach is consistent with good practice in budgeting and grant making. It was noted that the extent of such activities would be subject to resources available.</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>
<p>10. The Council should use every opportunity to promote and champion Ryedale and all that it has to offer. It should also support, celebrate and recognise the value and contribution of the voluntary and community sector.</p>	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this reflects current practice at the authority and is a key role of an elected member.</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>
<p>11. When considering future budget decisions, the Council must recognise that the funding available to the VCS to meet the needs of communities in Ryedale is reducing. The Council has a role in championing the needs of Ryedale with other funders.</p>	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation and it was noted that Members considered that the Council already does this at every opportunity.</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>
<p>Recommendations to Management Team</p>	
<p>12. The Council should ensure that any changes to the services it provides are clearly communicated to all those affected. This includes maintaining lists of key contacts for all services on the Council's website.</p>	<p>Management team accepted this recommendation with work ongoing to improve the information available on the Councils website.</p>
<p>13. Investigate better use of the Council's website for communicating and advertising events on behalf of</p>	<p>Management team accepted this recommendation and the Head of Economy and Infrastructure is investigating future options for</p>

the voluntary and community sector.	improvement with their team.
14. Undertake joint member and officer training regarding funding schemes, priorities and processes for those members and officers directly involved with grant making.	Management team accepted this recommendation and training will be arranged for any funding schemes offered by the Council in future
15. Investigate the possibility of supporting VCS organisations with specialist skills available within the Council.	Management team accepted this recommendation. Support for organisations is currently being explored.
16. Review to be undertaken to define the members roles as champions and board members of voluntary and community organisations.	Management team accepted this recommendation and this is included in the terms of reference for the current scrutiny review.
Scrutiny Review of Post Offices 2010-11	
Link to final report	
Recommendations - O&S 15th December 2011	Progress 31.5.13
That the Committee responds to the Department of Business, Innovation & Skills' consultation document on the mutualisation of the Post Office.	Response to the consultation sent by the Committee in December 2011.
Officers continue to work on options for front office for local government with Post Office Ltd.	Council agreed to the bar coding of all council bills to enable more options for payment of bills including council tax for more residents.
Accept any opportunity presented by Post Office Ltd to work in partnership.	Officers continue to work in partnership with PO Ltd. Ryedale has been included in a joint Post Office LGA strategic engagement and the report of this can be found here: http://www.postoffice.co.uk/sites/default/files/Political_Stakeholder_Pathfinder.PDF
Undertake further research on the mobile/hosted and home service.	Survey undertaken in May 2012 with Cllr Janet Sanderson. Results show that although the majority of people would have preferred to see the local branch still open – the mobile service, however, was an acceptable alternative.

Provide feedback to the Post Office regarding their website and how it could be improved for rural areas.	Meeting held with Post Office Ltd and copy of Review document discussed.
Scrutiny Review of Healthy Weight 2010-11	
Recommendations - O&S 6th October 2012	Progress 10.09.12
Review the policy for the scheduling of activities and sessions held at the Councils sport and leisure facilities to encourage residents to more easily access opportunities to participate e.g. for those with young families explore scheduling activities for children at the same time as those which appeal to parents or carers, reinstating early bird sessions for those who work.	The findings for from this review have been incorporated into the draft sports and active lives strategy with the emphasis being More People – More Active – More Often Other recommendations relating to the future operation of the Councils facilities will be considered as part of the re-tendering process for the contract to operate these facilities.
Review pricing policies to encourage people to return to exercise or activities, particularly team activities, e.g. discounted taster sessions, discounted multi-buy tickets	
To encourage people to re-engage with activities through the use of introductory sessions at council facilities and encourage community facilities to offer similar sessions e.g. free or discounted taster or „come and try it“ sessions	
That further research is undertaken with sports clubs and providers to make sure their views and experiences are fully represented in the new strategy, as concern was expressed over the low response rate to this particular survey. Perhaps through the use of focus groups or by visiting some of the clubs and interviewing key people.	
Extend the availability of walks and cycle routes through GP surgeries eg promote the AONB circular walks guides in the local practices	
Promote walking and cycling routes to residents through the Councils website	

Make the most of any future opportunities to influence GP commissioning groups to offer exercise on prescription and patient referral to sports centres, such a scheme has been piloted successfully by the PCT with the Ampleforth Practice	The Council is eager to engage with the new CCG's and this recommendation will be pursued when the CCG's are in a more established form.
Promote the Lunchtime Activity Packs supplied to local businesses within the council for the benefit of staff and linking to the Health and Wellbeing programme.	
Scrutiny Review of Sickness Absence 2009-10	
Recommendations - O&S 19th August 2010	Progress 15.06.2011
That the procedures should be expanded on to ensure they are user friendly and meaningful.	A manager's toolkit has been developed to support the procedures within the current policy.
The policy and procedures need to be adopted consistently across the authority	The Management Team have continued to encourage the management of attendance on a consistent basis across the authority. Human Resources advise managers and make them aware if there approach is not consistent with the rest of the authority.
The triggers points within the policy should remain as they are	Trigger points remain the same as under the preceding policy.
Sickness monitoring should also include positive reporting	This is being done and sent to managers and unison on a regular basis.
The formation of a Health and Well being Group	The Health and Wellbeing Group was formed and have met to agree terms of reference for the group. They are currently working towards producing a Wellbeing Strategy along with a Health and Wellbeing programme. A number of initiatives have been run already e.g. Health and Wellbeing Event for all staff to attend

Ryedale should explore ways of celebrating those staff and departments who have no sickness absence in the year	This is encouraged through the six monthly appraisals, along with general reporting of statistics of employees with no sickness through Human Resources' regular reporting.
Regular training should be given to staff	Training on the revised Managing Attendance Policy was given to all supervisors and managers. Further training is regularly reviewed through six monthly appraisals.
Induction programme to be extended to cover the Absence management policy and procedures	Part of the current induction programme includes advising employees of absence reporting procedures, along with familiarisation of all relevant policies, including the Managing Attendance Policy
A review should take place on flexi time and annual leave	Revised Flexible Working Guidelines were introduced in April 2011. Annual leave is being reviewed.
Currently sickness absence should not have a direct link to pay progression	Sickness absence continues to not have a direct link to pay progression.