



REPORT TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 16 FEBRUARY 2012

REPORT OF THE: HEAD OF TRANSFORMATION
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 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

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

4.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has commissioned a scrutiny review of the Council's role in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector.

4.2 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. (Attached at Annex A)

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 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 The inaugural meeting of the task group took place on Monday 23 January 2012. The agenda included:

- A discussion of the current policy position in relation to Localism and the Big Society
- The legislative context - the Localism Act and the Best Value Statutory Guidance.
- Other scrutiny reviews being undertaken and how lessons can be learned from these and also a current review being undertaken in Harrogate which could provide some opportunity to share evidence and information
- A desk based study of other research has identified a number of recent documents which are referenced at the end of this report
- A discussion on the relevance of the role of demographic information in the review
- Key actions and milestones for the review
- Development of a plan for undertaking the review

6.3 The task group agreed a plan for undertaking the review which will be reviewed at each task group meeting and is as follows:

Date	Tasks
Mon 23 January 2012	Inaugural meeting of the VCS Review Task Group
Weds 7 March 2012	Present initial findings of Audit of support provided by the Council to the VCS. Identify key areas to study the impact of the support provided.
Thurs 29 March 2012	Present the audit of report and assessment of impact
Thurs 26 April 2012	Plan engagement activity with VCS organisations and partners in Ryedale, include session with parishes in May
Thurs 14 June 2012	Hold the engagement event at RDC, undertake any visits and meet with partners and funding bodies
Thurs 19 July 2012	Present the findings of the engagement activities
Thurs 16 August 2012	First Draft of report and 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

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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 \(a best practice guide for local authorities\)’](#)

Background Papers available for inspection at:

Online see links above or in the Transformation Team Office – Ryedale House

Appendix A – Revised Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Review of the Councils Role in supporting a sustainable voluntary and community sector

<p>Aim of the Review</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The review will try to answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the current profile of the VCS in Ryedale? • How sustainable is the sector in Ryedale and what is the role of the Council in this? • How does the Council commission or procure work from the VCS, how is this funded, what is expected and what is the impact of this work? • What expectations are there of the VCS in the current policy and funding environment and how can these best be met whilst delivering value for money for both the Council and the communities of Ryedale? • Is there potential to increase the co-ordination of funding to the VCS both within the Council and with external partners? • Can savings be made from the financial support provided or value added through pooling resources? • Are there any grants that are not cost effective to administer or receive? • Are there barriers to RDC working with the VCS and vice versa, VCS working with the Council?
<p>Why has this review been selected?</p>	<p>Changes being implemented by the government towards the achievement of ‘The Big Society’ agenda are placing increasing emphasis on the role of voluntary sector and community organisations. Members felt that the Council needed to review its policies and those of partners and the government in relation to these organisations.</p>
<p>Who will carry out the review?</p>	<p>The review will be carried out by a task group including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 2 members of the O and S committee (but open to all members of O and S) • The Head of Transformation • The Economic and Community Services Manager • Support will be provided by members of the Transformation Team
<p>How the review will be carried out?</p>	<p>The task group will consider the impact of the Localism Act and Big Society policy agenda on the Voluntary and Community sector and also review the Councils policies in relation to the sector.</p> <p>Consideration would be made of existing data and evidence, national research on the impact of recent policy decisions made by the government on the VCS and any local research undertaken.</p> <p>This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews undertaken previously by the Council • Reviews undertaken by other local authorities • Government policy and the impact of reviews of funding arrangements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research undertaken by organisations representing the interests of the VCS <p>The task group will also liaise with representatives from the VCS in Ryedale.</p>
What are the expected outputs?	It is expected that the task group will produce a report, summarising the evidence they have gathered and containing specific recommendations for the Council and other partner organisations as appropriate.
What outcomes are anticipated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To influence criteria for future funding schemes • To influence assessment criteria for applications and evaluation of grant applications and schemes • To establish ongoing dialogue with the VCS in Ryedale • Identify options for future community development support in Ryedale
Timescale	It is anticipated that the group will conclude the review In October 2012. Progress reports will be submitted to the committee throughout the review.

CS version 2 – revisions post 15.12.11 O&S and Task Group Meeting 23.1.12