



REPORT TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 12 APRIL 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 second meeting of the task group took place on 7 March 2012. The initial results of the audit of Council support for the VCS were discussed at the meeting. The following action points were agreed:
- That a high level budget analysis be undertaken of the non financial support provided by the Council and identified in the audit
 - A detailed analysis be undertaken of the profile of the funding support offered through grants to regularly funded organisations and assessment of the impact of this funding and the matching funding it attracts
 - The key areas for more in depth study in relation to the impact of the support provided by the Council were identified as the grants to regularly funded organisations, and the grant awarded for the provision of sports facilities.
- 6.3 Due to unforeseen circumstances a number of changes have had to be made to the schedule of meetings for the review 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.
Mon 2 April 2012	Present the audit report and assessment of impact of major grants to regularly funded organisations
Thurs 26 April 2012	RVA to present profile of VCS in Ryedale. Plan engagement activity with VCS organisations and partners in Ryedale, include session with parishes in May
Tues 19 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

	<p>arrangements</p> <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