

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....28th October 2010

1. Title of Item/Report

Support for the Voluntary & Community Sector

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report that set out the package of support Stockton on Tees Borough Council was proposing to make available to the voluntary and community sector.

It presented the principle of a Voluntary Sector Investment Fund as a replacement for the Voluntary Sector Support Fund (VSSF). It was explained a review of the VSSF presented to Cabinet in November 2009 recommended an independent review be undertaken of the fund and that an alternative model be developed. Acumen Community Development Trust was commissioned to undertake the work against a number of core objectives;

- Support the consolidation of the Borough's strategic infrastructure
- Provide a more flexible fund
- Help to measure the contribution of the third sector to the achievement of the Borough's strategic objectives set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy

The proposed model was provided to Cabinet and it was noted that it changed the nature of the fund from a grant giving fund to an investment fund, which would help deliver the Third Sector Strategy and develop a more sustainable and thriving third sector in Stockton that was well placed to access future commissioning opportunities and external grants.

It also presented details of a complementary fund; the Stockton Community Fund, to be created by using under-utilised and dormant trust funds through an arrangement agreed by the Charities Commission.

Together the two funds would provide a cohesive package of financial support to the voluntary and community sector within the borough that supported the delivery of the Cabinet endorsed Third Sector Strategy and helped to ensure a vibrant and sustainable sector for the future.

Other aspects of the package of support include:

- Community Asset Transfer principles (to be approved at a future Cabinet).
- Development of a 'bid bank' holding general and demographic information that organisations can use to support bids to external organisations.
- Participation in, and promotion of, the government-backed rate relief scheme for charitable organisations.
- Commissioning of a Community Empowerment Network function (£100k) - specification to be co-produced in partnership with Catalyst.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the principle and approach to changing the Voluntary Sector Support Fund to the Stockton Voluntary and Community Sector Investment Fund be approved.

2. the principle and approach to creating the Stockton Community Fund from redundant and under utilised trust funds in agreement with the Charities Commission and Trustees be approved

3. the wider package of support to the voluntary and community sector be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

·Completion of a recommendation from the Cabinet report on the VSSF from November 2009.

·Clearly identified the Council's contribution to the delivery of the Third Sector Strategy.

· Provides more clarity to the sector on what support is available from the Council.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cook declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of this item as a result of his position as a Director of the St Ann's Board. Councillor Coleman also declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in

respect of this item as a result of his membership of the St Ann's Board. Councillor Beall declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item as a result of his position as a Council representative on the Catalyst Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than midnight on Friday 5 November 2010.

Proper Officer  
01 February 2010