

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....12th January 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Voluntary Sector Support

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the package of support provided by the Council to the voluntary and community sector. The package of support was developed following a review of the Voluntary Sector Support Fund (also referred to as 'core funding'). The report included an early internal evaluation of the Stockton Investment Fund aspect of the support package. Stockton Council was independently nominated and successful in securing the North East Empowering Communities Award. The support package for the Voluntary and Community Sector was credited as the reason Stockton-on Tees Borough Council was awarded this by the regional Voluntary Organisation North East.

In November 2010, following extensive consultation with the voluntary and community sector, Cabinet approved a fundamental change to the way the Council financially supported local VCS organisations in terms of 'core' funding.

The outcome was the establishment of the Stockton Investment Fund which was implemented in the financial year 2011-12 as part of a wider package of support to the VCS arising from the EIT review of community engagement, at a time when other Councils across the country were withdrawing core funding from the voluntary and community sector.

The package of support to the VCS from the council was aimed at supporting the development and sustainability of a vibrant voluntary and community sector that was:-

- well placed to access public (and private) sector commissioning opportunities
- less reliant on grant funding which is diminishing in the current economic climate
- supported at an appropriate level to enhance the engagement and empowerment of local communities in influencing the policies and decisions of public sector organisations

The report detailed the current support package:-

- The Stockton Investment Fund
- The Stockton Community Fund
- The VCS workshop programme
- The Community Empowerment Network
- My Community Webpages on SBC website
- SBC Community Asset Transfer Strategy
- Access to the Community Engagement Team

RESOLVED that:-

1. the report be noted.

2.a further update report reviewing the investment fund in particular and the wider support package be presented to a future Cabinet.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To keep Members up to date with the support provided by the Council to the voluntary and community sector.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Coleman and Councillor Rose declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in the Item entitled Voluntary Sector Support as they were members of the Catalyst Board.

Councillor Beall declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in the item entitled Voluntary Sector Support as he was Chair of Eastern Ravens Trust.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable.

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

Midnight on Friday 20 January 2012

Proper Officer  
17 January 2012