

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

20TH MAY 2021

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Portfolio (Access, Communities and Community Safety) – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Steve Nelson

VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY 2021

SUMMARY

This report presents a Volunteering Strategy for the Borough for endorsement by Cabinet. It has been produced by the Council and Catalyst in collaboration with many partner organisations and therefore reflects the experiences and interests of a representative range of organisations. There are many charities and organisations delivering high quality, valuable volunteering activity across the Borough and this strategy aims to set out a vision for continued development. It also sets out the commitment that the Council and Catalyst will make to supporting partners organisations in delivery of the vision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to endorse the Volunteering Strategy.

DETAIL

1. This report sets out the proposed Volunteering Strategy for the Borough (attached at **Appendix 1**).
2. This document sets out a framework to inform, support and develop work with Volunteering in the Borough
3. The vision set out in the Volunteering Strategy is to ensure that we have a Borough where:
 - a. More people will be sharing their skills and talents for the good of the community through volunteering.
 - b. Volunteering in the Borough will be a positive experience for volunteers and the people and organisations they volunteer with.
 - c. The contribution volunteers make to the Borough will be recognised and celebrated.
4. The intention is to launch the strategy in May and to follow it up with activities in National Volunteers Week (1-7 June 2021).

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

5. This strategy will promote volunteering in our communities and encourage volunteers from diverse backgrounds to participate by providing equal access and adjustments to facilitate this. This strategy will promote volunteering across all sectors to encourage organisations to get involved and provide opportunities for the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The actions are to be met through existing services and budgets

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. The development of the Volunteering Strategy is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce the risk.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

9. The Volunteering Strategy will promote the equality of volunteering opportunities across the Borough and provide support to organisations to develop their volunteering offer recognising the economic impact of volunteers in our communities.
10. This approach will support development of stronger communities by championing volunteers and recognising the social impact of volunteering in our communities.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no corporate parenting implications as a direct result of this report.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

12. The Volunteering Strategy was produced following consultation with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Officers and the VCSE.

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Education related? No

Background Papers

Not applicable

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

Not applicable – does not relate directly to specific wards.

Property

Not applicable