

Progress Update – Voluntary & Community Sector

Number	Recommendation	Responsibility	Anticipated Completion Date/ Completion Date	Evidence of progress - 19/05/09	Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4) 19/05/09	Evidence of Progress – 27/10/09	Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4) 27/10/09
3	That an appropriate, willing core funded organisation be identified to have responsibility for provision of a 'volunteering bureau'	SRCGA	August 08 December 08 April 09	Stockton Residents & Community Groups Association included funding for a volunteering bureau in a Lottery bid for Basis II funding. The bid was unfortunately unsuccessful. An alternative approach is being developed with a modest investment of kick start funding from the Community Development Team. The proposal will be discussed with the prime contractors who have secured funding to deliver activity using the Community Fund. This approach involves partnership working with the Professional Services Group who assisted in the delivery of an excellent training programme for Stockton's 3rd sector in the autumn of 2009	3 - Slipped	A new approach has been devised under the brand name "Viva Volunteers". A modest investment from the Community Development Team has supported the Professional Services Group to develop this initiative. Additional funding to roll the developing programme out is being secured including a contribution of 10k from the Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership.	2 – On Track
4	That the Corporate Directors of DNS and CESC should take forward a response to the Audit Report on Youth and Community Centres, including reference to the status of Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre and that a report should be	Joint Working Group	Jan-09	This work has been superceded by the EIT review concerning Properties and Facilities Management. The Properties and Facilities Management Review is a year one EIT review and will be a comprehensive review covering the management of community buildings and address the issues contained within the audit report referred to.	3 - Slipped	This work has been superceded by the Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Review concerning Property and Facilities Management led by Gary Cummings.	2 – On Track

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	prepared for CMT and reported back through the scrutiny monitoring process within six months						
6	<p>That the Council should continue to review and resolve governance issues including:</p> <p>to ensure that Members receive appropriate support to fulfil their roles on VCS bodies, including a review of guidance currently issued, and to consider how information regarding the activities of VCS organisations appointed to by this Council may be best brought to the attention of Members;</p>	Team Leader-Democratic & Member Services	Apr-09	All Councillors appointed to outside body organisations for 9/10 have been advised of contact details of each organisation they have been appointed; and have been informed or whether their role is as an executive of; or adviser to, the organisation concerned. Members have also been signposted to the existing guidance available to support them on outside bodies; and in particular to the Checklist to be considered by Councillors before commencing their role with the organisation, and FAQ's re this role. New guidance has also been prepared by the Council's Community Development Team (in consultation with the Council's Risk Management Section) regards insurance arrangements for voluntary sector organisations; and this has been sent out to all relevant outside body organisations with details of the Councillors appointed to them for this year; and a reminder of what information they should provide to members (checklist) upon commencing their duties. Preparations are also being	2 - On Track	Further training for Councillors regarding their role on VCS Boards will be devised and delivered.	2 – On Track

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				made by the Community Development Manager/Democratic Services to provide further training opportunities for members regarding their role on voluntary sector organisations. Regarding information about the activities of outside body organisations, information is now provided on the Council's website and Intranet of all outside & joint body organisations appointed to by the Council; which includes contact details for each and, where authorised, web links to the organisations themselves containing the latest information/minutes of their activity.			
8	That, building on what information the Council already holds, a mapping exercise should be carried out in order to ascertain the full extent of the Borough's voluntary and community sector, where the Council has a funding or contractual relationship	Procurement Team and devolved procurement	Apr-09	Mapping of Contract Register complete and Agresso FMS updated to identify VCS 'suppliers'. Final report and validation check still to be run - expected to be complete in May.	3 - Slipped	Achieved – non-commercial suppliers have also now been included in the Procurement Team's information.	1 - Achieved
12	That core funded organisations should consider the merits of attaining charity status, in view of the potential reduction of	Commissioned training delivered by the Professional Services Group	September – December 2008	The planned training and information sessions was delivered during the autumn of 2009 highlighting the considerations of different operating structures including	1 - Fully Achieved	The benefits of considering charity status have been highlighted to VCS organisations in receipt of core funding	1 Achieved

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	costs to the Council in relation to rate relief and themselves in reduction of energy costs			charity status. The sessions were well attended.			
13	That the council examine the issues in relation to funding and relationships (outlined in page 29 - 30) as part of future work in relation to the core funded organisations	Principal Community Officer	ongoing	The approach to the review of the Voluntary Sector Support Fund was considered by Cabinet and Renaissance in March 2009. The review is underway with 410 questionnaires having been delivered to different interest groups throughout the Borough. The questionnaire is being backed up by specific workshop sessions to be delivered in May 2009 at venues in Billingham, Stockton and Thornaby. Promotional material highlighting awareness of the review is on the Council's website, the Catalyst website and appeared in the Evening Gazette on May 4th.	2 - On Track	A report concerning the Voluntary Sector Support Fund is on the agenda for Cabinet on November 26 th .	2 – On Track