

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2020

Title:

Interim Report of Service Level Agreement Working Group

Portfolio Holder: Cllr D Beaman, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Culture

Head of Service: Andrew Smith, Head of Housing Delivery and Communities

Key decision: Not applicable

Access: Public

1. Purpose and summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to keep members of the Committee updated on the work of the working group (the Group). The final report of the Group will contain detail on the issues considered and will include the recommendations that the Committee will be asked to make to the Executive.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee notes the progress of the Group and makes any observations as appropriate.

3. Reason for the recommendation

As the parent Committee of the Group, the Community Wellbeing O&S Committee will receive the final report of the Group in June 2020, containing the conclusions and recommendations. This interim report is to update the Committee of the work done so far.

4. Background

- 4.1 At its meeting in September 2019 the Community Wellbeing O&S Committee agreed to set up a working group to undertake in-depth work to consider the service level agreement mechanism for funding voluntary and community organisations and make recommendations on future funding arrangements.
- 4.2 The report for the Group is due to come to this Committee (the parent committee) in June 2020.

5. Report

- 5.1 As detailed in the scoping document for the Group (attached at annexe 1), the purpose of the Group is to inform the strategic decision-making of Members as to future funding arrangements of community/voluntary organisations by making recommendations to the Executive through the Community Wellbeing O&S

Committee.

- 5.2 In order to make evidence-based and considered recommendations to the Executive the Group has undertaken research into the current process of funding by looking at the service level agreement pro forma, examples of specifications set out in the service level agreements and monitoring documentation.
- 5.3 The Group has also been briefed on the current health landscape to provide context to the work that is done by the organisations who are funded by the Council.
- 5.4 The Group has done some initial research on funding models of other local authorities to understand how the services provided by the organisations with whom we have service agreements are delivered elsewhere. This research continues and will inform the final recommendations made by the Group.
- 5.5 In order to understand how SLAs work for our partner organisations the Group has organised a workshop (Monday 23 March) and invited representatives from some of the organisations to attend. The outcomes of this workshop won't be discussed by the Group until its meeting Monday 30 March.
- 5.6 Issues the Group will be considering in its final report include:
 - Risks and impacts associated with any recommended change to the funding model the Council uses.
 - Possible new funding streams to mitigate the financial pressure the Council, and therefore the funding, is facing and how these new funding streams could be governed/devolved.
- 5.7 So far the Group has concluded that in its final report it will recommend:
 - Strategic aims linked to the Corporate Strategy should be included as part of any revised mechanism/model that the Council uses to fund these partner organisations.
 - Once a decision has been made as to the long-term model the Council wishes to use to fund the partner organisations, an over-arching framework/set of criteria should be produced in order to fairly assess an organisation's suitability/eligibility for receiving funding.
 - Any changes should build on the strengths of the voluntary and community sector within Waverley as opposed to replacing or infringing upon them.

6. Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan

- 6.1 Outcome 3 of the Housing Delivery and Communities Service Plan 2020-23 is 'the organisations funded through Service Level Agreements are delivering the agreed outcomes' and provision for this working group is included in (action SP20/21HDC3.1) with the purpose of informing 'funding decision for the new round of SLAs starting April 2021'.

7. Implications of decision

7.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)

Any decisions taken informed by the outcome of this in-depth piece of work will need to consider the resource implications.

7.2 Risk management

The risks associated with any changes to the way in which the Council funds the relevant organisations will need to be thoroughly considered.

7.3 Legal

The legal implications of the final report and recommendations of the Group will need to be considered once completed.

7.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

There are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implications in this report. Equality impact assessments are carried out when necessary across the council to ensure service delivery meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

7.5 Climate emergency declaration

Consideration of the Council's environmental and sustainability objectives will need to be made for any decisions made as a result of this in-depth review.

8. Consultation and engagement

8.1 As this report states, representatives from some of the organisations with whom the Council currently has service level agreements are being invited to a workshop in order to understand their view of the current funding mechanism.

9. Other options considered

9.1 The role of the Group is to consider options in terms of mechanisms the Council uses to fund the relevant organisations. The final report will detail the reasons behind any recommendations made by the Group.

10. Governance journey

10.1 This is an interim report for the purposes of the Community Wellbeing O&S Committee. The final report will come to the Committee in June 2020 and will be considered by Executive in July 2020.

Annexes:

Annexe 1 – Service Level Agreement O&S Working Group Scoping Document

Background Papers

There are no background papers, as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972).

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Agreed and signed off by: N/A