

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY WELLBEING
25 MAY 2021

Interim report of the Service Level Agreement Working Group

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Kika Mirylees, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Culture

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

Key decision: No

Access: Public

1. Purpose and summary

1.1 To present the interim report of the Community Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Working Group on Service Level Agreements.

1.2 To ask the Executive to endorse the interim report and commend its recommendations to the Executive Working Group on Service Level Agreements.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Executive ask its working group to ensure that its proposals reflect the principles and recommendations outlined in Annex 1.

2.2 That the Council should retain a six-month notice period for informing not-for-profit partners of any changes to their Service Level Agreement.

3. Reason for the recommendation

To ensure that the Council's funding mechanism and approach to not-for-profit organisations is fit for purpose in meeting the Council's new corporate priorities and evidence-based community needs.

4. Background

4.1 Community Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee ('the Committee') confirmed the scope of the Working Group at its meeting on 13 November 2019. However, this work was disrupted by the outbreak of Covid-19.

4.2 In February 2021, the Executive approved the renewal of the current Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the 12 partner organisations for one year only, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, and agreed the establishment of an Executive Working

Group to review the council's funding mechanism to voluntary sector organisation from 1 April 2022.

4.3 In light of this, the Committee agreed a revised scope in March 2021.

5. Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan

5.1 As discussed in the body of the Working Group's report (Annexe 1), a key objective of the recommendations is to ensure that the council's funding mechanism to not-for-organisations is aligned with its corporate priorities.

6. Implications of decision

6.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)

If the recommendations were implemented then officer time within the Communities Team would likely be required to implement and administer any agreed funding process.

6.2 Risk Management

Changing the approach through which funding is allocated may have adverse financial implications for existing funded partner organisations. Given that some of them are reliant on Council funding towards their running costs, this may impact their ultimate viability.

6.3 Legal

The current SLAs are legally binding documents and are reviewed by the council's Legal Services team. The same would likely apply to any new funding agreements.

6.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

An Equality impact assessment will need to be carried out to ensure the council is fulfilling its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

6.5 Climate emergency declaration

Consideration of the Council's environmental and sustainability objectives will need to be made when making decisions on levels of funding.

7. Consultation and engagement

7.1 The possibility of changes to the way the Council funds not-for-profit organisations from 1 April 2022 and beyond have been discussed with the current partner organisations and with statutory partners. Please see the Executive report from 9 February 2021 for more details.

8. Other options considered

8.1 The Executive could decline to accept the recommendations from the O&S Working Group on this topic. However, that would remove the contribution of scrutiny from their decision.

9. Governance Journey

9.1 This report originated from the Community Wellbeing O&S Committee and is now being considered by the Executive for a decision on the recommendations.

Annexes:

Annexe 1 – final report of Working Group, Community Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny: Service Level Agreements

Background Papers

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

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