

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

Referral from Cabinet regarding the Voluntary Community Faith Sector Task Group report 7th March 2018

Report of Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the comments made by Cabinet with regard to the Voluntary Community Faith Sector Task Group report.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider Cabinet's comments with regard to the Voluntary Community Faith Sector Task Group report, set out in paragraph 2.3 of this report.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 13th February 2018, Cabinet considered the recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with regard to the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector Commissioning Informal Task Group.

2.0 Details

Councillor Ashworth, as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, advised Cabinet that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had rejected the task group report at its meeting on 10th January 2018. Whilst there were no plans to reconstitute the task group, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would work with the Budget & Performance Panel to ensure the additional work identified by the Committee during their consideration of the task group report would be undertaken.

- 2.2 Cabinet agreed with the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as follows:

- (1) That Cabinet retains the current status quo regarding voluntary community and faith sector commissioning grant funding for 2018/19.

2.3 In addition, Cabinet proposed two additional recommendations:

- (2) That officers be requested to explore the possibility of introducing lottery funding to support Voluntary Community Faith Sector funding in the future.
- (3) That the following comments be forwarded to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:
 - That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider conflicts of interest when appointing task group members (particularly the chairman)
 - That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers the inclusion of the following items when progressing the work on the voluntary community and faith sector commissioning framework:
 - a. *Description of the current procedure of the Council for allocating grants*
 - b. *How much officer time is devoted to the allocation and management of grants each year?*
 - c. *What are the Council's priority areas for allocating grants and should these change?*
 - d. *How do organisations apply for grants, and how easy is it for new ones to apply?*
 - e. *What does the Council require of organisations receiving grants (e.g. reports, outcomes) and does this need to change?*
 - f. *Evidence from stakeholders or service providers.*

3.0 Proposals

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the comments made by Cabinet when undertaking the additional work identified to complete the work on Voluntary Community Faith Sector funding prior to reporting back to Cabinet within the next financial year.

With regard to the comment regarding conflict of interest when appointing to task groups it is up to the Political Groups to appoint members to task groups and therefore the Overview & Scrutiny Committee does not determine which members are appointed to task groups. When considering the composition of future task groups it would be sensible for Group Administrators and proposed task group members to identify and advise the Monitoring Officer of any potential conflicts of interest in order that it can be determined whether the appointment is appropriate.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):

There are no implications as a result of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this referral report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this referral report.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces:

None arising from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comment to add.

DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments, other than to reiterate that the Monitoring Officer is able to give advice on any conflicts of interest to members or to political group administrators.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

none

Contact Officer: Liz Bateson

Telephone: 01524 582047

E-mail: ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk