

## Lancaster City Council | Report Cover Sheet

<b>Meeting</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date</b>	1 March 2022
<b>Report</b>	Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Advisory Group		
<b>Report of</b>	Chief Executive		
<b>Purpose of Report</b>			
To propose that Cabinet form an Advisory Group to consider how the council can play its most effective role, alongside other local partners, in supporting the work of local Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise organisations.			
<b>Key Decision (Y/N)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Date of Notice</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Exempt (Y/N)</b>			
<b>N</b>			
This report is public.			

### Report Summary

The council's provision of 'core' funding to local Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise organisations was established in 2013. The council is also engaged in various other financial and non-financial relationships, such as joint projects and initiatives, with organisations across the sector.

It is recognised that local groups across these sectors contribute significantly to the council's 2030 Priorities around environment, economy, community and services.

This report proposes that an Advisory Group be established, in order to take a democratic leadership role and an engaging, deliberative approach to considering how the council and local partners can support the work of local VCSE organisations.

Draft Terms of Reference are appended to this report, although the Advisory Group itself will have a role in defining its activities. Membership of the group is at the discretion of the Chair and will be established as part of the group's formation; it is envisaged that membership will include a mix of elected members, officers, VCSE partners and other cross-sector partners.

### Recommendations of Councillor Caroline Jackson

- (1) That Cabinet establish a Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Advisory Group.
- (2) That the Advisory Group be established based on the Terms of Reference proposed at Appendix A, recognising that the Advisory Group itself will have a role in shaping its specific activities.

### Relationship to Policy Framework

The work of partners across the Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise sector contributes substantially to each of the council's 2030 Priorities:

- A Sustainable District
- An Inclusive & Prosperous Local Economy
- Healthy & Happy Communities

- A Co-operative, Kind & Responsible Council

Support for partners therefore makes an indirect contribution to the achievement of each of the Priorities. The Advisory Group will consider the most effective ways to collectively achieve this impact.

### **Conclusion of Impact Assessment(s) where applicable**

Climate	Wellbeing & Social Value
Digital	Health & Safety
Equality	Community Safety

No direct impact arising from the Advisory Group itself; the Advisory Group may make recommendations to Cabinet, within which any impact will be considered.

### **Details of Consultation**

The Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group are founded on a comprehensive programme of engagement and consultation with local partners.

### **Legal Implications**

No direct implications; the Advisory Group may make recommendations to Cabinet, which would be subject to consideration in their own right.

### **Financial Implications**

No direct implications; the Advisory Group may make recommendations to Cabinet, which would be subject to consideration in their own right.

### **Other Resource or Risk Implications**

Officer resource will be required to establish and support the Advisory Group, as set out in the proposed Terms of Reference. The specific requirements will be considered as the group is established, however no direct resource allocations are proposed at this time.

### **Section 151 Officer's Comments**

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

### **Monitoring Officer's Comments**

The Cabinet Procedure Rules provide as follows:-

#### Rule 21 - Advisory Groups

(a) Advisory Groups are informal bodies that may be created by Cabinet. They are purely consultative and not decision-making. They will be chaired by a member of Cabinet, and may be co-chaired between cabinet members, or a cabinet member and a member of the group and there is no restriction on size although the group must be limited to what is manageable and effective for their purpose. They may be time limited or of longer standing, again depending on their purpose.

(b) The participants in the Group will be by invitation of the Chair and can be made up from any or all of the following:

- Other members of Cabinet
- Others from outside the Council

- Other members of Council not on Cabinet
- Council officers

(c) Terms of Reference: Their Terms of Reference are to facilitate meaningful engagement and discussion with communities and stakeholders, with each group reflecting on focus areas role in:

- Responding to the climate emergency;
- Contributing to community wealth-building;
- Taking an approach of asset-based community development; and
- Strengthening community engagement.

Further terms of reference may be agreed upon by each Advisory Group, within the terms of the broad topic area, and observing the focus areas above.

(d) Specific outcomes from their meetings may generate requests for pieces of work to be undertaken by Officers or partner bodies, or Overview and Scrutiny committee to set up a Task Group to undertake a specific piece of work, or a specific report to Cabinet, Committees of Cabinet, individual Cabinet members, or other Committees of Council recommending action for determination.

<b>Contact Officer</b>	Kieran Keane, Chief Executive
------------------------	-------------------------------

<b>Tel</b>	01524 582501
------------	--------------

<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:chiefexecutive@lancaster.gov.uk">chiefexecutive@lancaster.gov.uk</a>
--------------	--

<b>Links to Background Papers</b>	
-----------------------------------	--