

COMMITTEE REVIEW - VOLUNTARY SECTOR RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Committee name	Corporate Services, Commerce & Communities Policy Overview Committee
Officer reporting	Liz Penny, Democratic Services Officer
Papers with report	Draft Review Report – Voluntary Sector Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The Committee has been undertaking a review into the Voluntary Sector's Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Following agreement on the review's recommendations to Cabinet, a draft report has been prepared by officers for the Committee's consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Corporate Services, Commerce & Communities Policy Overview Committee:

- 1) Agrees the final report and recommendations in principle and endorses its submission to Cabinet for due consideration;
- 2) Delegates any minor drafting changes required prior to the report's submission to the Cabinet to the Democratic Services Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Lead as required.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The agreed Terms of Reference for the review are set out below:

Terms of Reference

1. To consider how the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Hillingdon was able to respond to needs of residents during the Covid-19 lockdown period.
2. To hear how the pandemic impacted on the VCS sector and its ability to deliver services, raise funds, and recruit volunteers.
3. To review how the Hillingdon Community Hub worked with the VCS to meet emergency needs.
4. To make any recommendations that would increase resilience of VCS to respond to any future lockdown or restrictions.

Review update

At the meeting on 17 September 2020, Members agreed that the Committee's next major review topic would be 'The Voluntary Sector's Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic'. Following this agreement, Members conducted a detailed review into the chosen topic.

This information has now been set out within a draft final report, alongside the recommendations that were discussed at the meeting on 4 March 2021. This draft final report will be circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting on 6 April 2021, and it is requested that the Committee consider the draft final report for endorsement to Cabinet.

Should any minor drafting changes to the report be suggested by the Committee at the meeting or otherwise prior to submission to Cabinet, the Committee is asked to delegate authority for this. This would be to enable minor textual changes only and not to the main body of the report or its recommendations.

Implications on related Council policies

The role of the Policy Overview Committees is to make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

Policy Overview Committees directly engage residents and external partners in the work they do. These recommendations aim to recognise the excellent work carried out by the Voluntary and Community Sector throughout the pandemic and recommend ways in which awareness of the services on offer to residents may be increased to ensure they are able to access the support they need.

Financial Implications

The Committee's review recommendations are not expected to lead to any significant financial implications and are primarily aimed at supporting best practice within existing resources. However, a full financial review of the recommendations will be undertaken as part of the standard reporting process to Cabinet.

Legal Implications

None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Voluntary Sector Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic Scoping Report
Previous Committee papers on the review published on the Council's website