

REVIEW D: THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN HILLINGDON

Committee name	Corporate Services, Commerce and Communities Policy Overview Committee
Officer reporting	Kevin Byrne, Head of Health Integration and Voluntary Sector Partnerships
Papers with report	None.

HEADLINES

This item will focus on the second witness session regarding the Committee's next review into the Voluntary Sector's response to the Covid-19 Pandemic in Hillingdon.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee note the evidence heard at the witness session.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

At the October 2020 meeting, Members agreed the scoping report for the next Committee review on the Voluntary Sector's Response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Hillingdon.

The review will hear from key witnesses on the response and consider how the voluntary sector and Council worked together to help residents; in particular the Borough's most vulnerable residents, during the pandemic.

At this meeting, the Committee will hear evidence from two external bodies who played important roles in response to the pandemic

- Diane Faichney, Foodbank Chair and Manager and Centre Director of Bell Farm Christian Centre; and
- Tunde Balogun, Senior Pastor Kingsborough Family Church – representing Hillingdon Foodbank

Council officers who played an important role in the Council's response will also be present to answer relevant questions.

Terms of Reference

The following Terms of Reference were noted for this review, subject to any changes agreed by the Committee:

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.*

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

Policy Overview Committees directly engage residents in shaping policy and recommendations from the Committees seek to improve the way the Council provides services to residents.

Financial Implications

None at this stage.

Legal Implications

None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.