

Progress of Scrutiny Review Recommendations

Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Title of the review: **The Council's Engagement with the Voluntary Sector**

Initial response to Overview received: **7 October 2013**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor K Fox**

Chair of the review group: **Councillor P Allan**

Officer supporting the review: **Helen Lee**

Guidance

Monitoring of the progress of recommendations to scrutiny reviews is requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approximately six months after the initial response.

The Committee requests further information regarding the recommendations that were **accepted** or **partially accepted**. The update section should be completed identifying progress or new developments that have taken place.

If you need any further assistance in completing this response please contact the Officer that supported the review

Recommendation

Service Level Agreements should be replaced by contract arrangements for specified services increasing transparency of what the funding is used for and what it achieves.

When designing the contract it should:

- identify a set of objectives and what actions are required
- define what outcomes/outputs the contract should deliver
- establish targets that are SMART, specific, achievable, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely
- include a formalised set of monitoring arrangements to ensure the objectives and targets are met

- ensure value for money
- be phased in to avoid destabilising the finances of the recipient organisations.

Recommendation Accepted

Initial response to Overview

I agree that, where there are SLA's in place, then performance management arrangements should be robust and should be implicit within all agreements.. As Scrutiny is aware the existing SLAs with the voluntary sector organisations have been in place for several years and do not have effective, explicit or measurable targets in place. Over the past year the managers within the Council who now have responsibility for monitoring SLA's have been in discussions with the voluntary sector to make current SLA's more outcome focused and these are being managed more closely. However future SLA's should have measurable targets which can be monitored.

Update on progress of recommendation

The Service Level agreement with CAB has been renewed on a contract basis and is being performance managed in line with contract requirements.

Funding for CVS and RCAN is under review, should grant funding continue then new contracts will replace previous service level agreements and have clear objectives which will be performance managed.

Recommendation

Define the purpose and role of Members who are appointed as representatives on outside bodies. (Referred to Elections and Members' Services)

Recommendation Accepted

Initial response to Overview

The Elections and Members Services Team is presently undertaking a review of current outside body representation. Details have been requested both from Elected Members and outside bodies of expectations, roles and issues of conflict of interest arising, with a view to producing a protocol to be adopted in time for re – nominations at next year's annual council.

Update on progress of recommendation

A cross party reference group met prior to the end of the municipal year and agreed a draft set of criteria and protocol for representation on Outside Bodies. The group then applied the criteria to the current Outside Bodies list and proposed the removal of a number of organisations as a result. This was approved by Group Leaders and Senior Officers, and those groups were not appointed to at the Annual meeting on 7th May. The protocol and guidance to Members regarding representation on Outside

Bodies will be finalised over this year.