

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

PART I - DELEGATED

12. COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT (CED)

1 Summary

- 1.1 The community focussed partnership work that is taking place in response to Covid-19 has developed a good working relationship between the District Council and local voluntary organisations, places of worship and Covid-mutual aid groups.
- 1.2 As part of Three Rivers District Council recovery plan, the Reassurance strand was identified to tackle a number of issues as a result of Covid-19. This includes two areas of work, Community Protection and Community Engagement.
- 1.3 Subsequently, this formed part of the service restoration plan and was identified as a priority 1 area of work. Priorities 1, 2 and 3 were agreed at the Covid-19 sub-committee 21 July 2020, however, resource is required for this strand of work.
- 1.4 Therefore we are now proposing to develop a longer term Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Three Rivers District Council and Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT) to continue to progress this line of work to deliver and support our recovery plans as a priority 1 area.
- 1.5 A long term agreement will strengthen partnership working across the district, identify continuing and emerging needs as well as provide reach to local communities and vulnerable residents during local outbreaks or a second wave of Covid-19 over the next 6 months.

2 Details

- 2.1 The voluntary sector, including charities, community groups and community centres have been significantly impacted by Covid. Many of their fund raising events have been cancelled and charity shops closed over lockdown. Working with a CVS will enable and allow these organisations to continue or start up again to support local communities in this time of need.
- 2.2 The current emergency SLA in place with W3RT, developed to respond to the crisis, ends on 30 September 2020.
- 2.3 W3RT works to strengthen the local voluntary sector and support the local community and residents. Under the proposed new SLA W3RT will be:
 - 2.3.1 Supporting members with funding applications and business planning, registering as a charity, board development, benchmarking, training, fundraising support and emergency interventions for an organisation at risk.
 - 2.3.2 Supporting new and emerging organisations or community groups to quickly become established with the appropriate processes and procedures in place.
 - 2.3.3 To represent and champion the sector in forums and LSP sub-group meetings, helping groups to promote the needs of their clients.

- 2.3.4 To support the council with community engagement, ensuring that groups are informed and the sector is connected in order to encourage the sector as a whole to work in a joint-up way for long term sustainability.
- 2.3.5 Incorporating Three Rivers charities, CIC's and community groups in the existing CVS database by collating information on lead contacts, size and activities. This will be linked to an online directory of services for residents.
- 2.3.6 Circulating information to promote connectivity through regular newsletters, support calls and links into Community Leaders forums and networks.
- 2.3.7 Working with officers and councillors to understand the community needs, identify partners and work in partnership to produce solutions, helping with the delivery of Three Rivers Recovery plan.
- 2.3.8 Continue to support and quality assure Covid-19 Mutual Aid groups by ensuring appropriate DBS and safeguarding procedures are being followed, insurance cover is in place and health and safety training is in place.
- 2.3.9 Identify services that need additional support, i.e. those with governance issues, financial issues.
- 2.3.10 To assess the changing needs of the voluntary sector supporting Three Rivers residents, including:
 - Rickmansworth Foodbank / Mill End Community Trust
 - Watford Foodbank
 - Herts Mind Network
 - Watford and Three Rivers Homestart
 - Watford Mencap
 - Covid-19 mutual aid/support groups

2.4 Outcomes will include:

- 2.4.1 Improved understanding of the local voluntary sector
- 2.4.2 More sustainable and effective voluntary sector services
- 2.4.3 Stronger link between charities, wellbeing services and existing partnership structures
- 2.4.4 The council will be more informed of voluntary sector activities, impact and value
- 2.4.5 The community will benefit from accountable, effective and sustainable voluntary services.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that £20,000 is allocated to fund community and voluntary sector infrastructure support in Three Rivers through Watford and Three Rivers Trust for 6 months to deliver the work outlined above to strengthen the voluntary sector within Three Rivers.

- 3.2 The funding will ensure community and voluntary sector support is available in Three Rivers for the next 6 months with a view to extend subject to agreement and review.
- 3.3 The development of Three Rivers District Council's partnerships with Watford and Three Rivers Trust will build on the success of the emergency response to Covid-19 into the recovery phase and more focus on ensuring the community and voluntary sector is supported in turn supporting residents during recession, local outbreaks of Covid or a second wave.
- 3.4 Without supporting the community and voluntary sector infrastructure community groups may struggle to set back up, or for new groups to emerge, less funding will also be drawn in without the infrastructure support and therefore less support available for residents through the voluntary sector.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The additional £20,000 payable to W3RT was reported to Policy and Resources on 20 July 2020 as part of the Budget Monitoring – Impact of Covid 19 report and is included in the recommendations from Policy and Resources to Council.
- 4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to achieving the Community Strategy and community based covid-19 recovery plans following the community strategy and corporate framework impact assessments.
- 4.3 The purpose of this proposed policy is to develop a long term SLA with W3RT by 30/09/2020. At the end of the initial 6 months W3RT will provide a report outline how the criteria of the SLA has been met.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The financial implications of this work will cost £20,000 for 6 months, from 1 October 2020 – 31 March 2021, an annual budget breakdown is provided below.

5.2 Budget Breakdown (Annually)

CVS Lead gross salary	29,000ta	Basic Salary
Employers NI etc	3120	On Costs
Supervision and management	4880	Management/CVS Lead support
Laptop, mobile, software etc	2200	Basic Administration
Training/expenses	800	Travel and professional development
Total	40,000	

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 None arising.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 Relevance Test

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact?	No
Did the relevance test conclude a full impact assessment was required?	No

7.2 Impact Assessment

What actions were identified to address any detrimental impact or unmet need?

8 Staffing Implications

8.1 None arising.

9 Environmental Implications

9.1 None arising.

10 Community Safety Implications

10.1 Maintaining working relationships with local community groups and places of worship will support the broader community safety priorities. Improved public consultation and dissemination of safety messages.

11 Public Health implications

11.1 The development of the SLA with Watford and Three Rivers Trust will support our Covid-109 recovery plans and broader public health outcomes and community strategy, and corporate framework objectives.

12 Customer Services Centre Implications

12.1 None arising.

13 Communications and Website Implications

13.1 Website and public communications will be made accordingly subject to agreement.

14 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

14.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Community Partnerships service plan(s). Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Breakdown in contact with community groups	Difficulty engaging on issues such as, Covid guidance, community safety, community support coordination. We would be unaware of issues experienced by their communities and what the emerging needs in different wards may be.	Maintain contact through regular meetings. Information obtained / concerns raised through meetings should be shared by W3RT at partnership meetings.	Transfer	6
Breakdown in contact with places of worship	Difficulty engaging on issues such as, Covid guidance, community safety, community support coordination. We would be unaware of issues being faced by their communities, such as health and social care needs, criminality etc. Lack of engagement with those community groups	Maintain contact through regular meetings. Information obtained / concerns raised through meetings should be shared by W3RT at partnership meetings.	Transfer	6

Breakdown of voluntary sector due to lack of support offered to those agencies struggling due to the financial and workforce impact of Covid.	Breakdown of services provided to residents by voluntary sector. Vulnerable residents left without support. Inequalities in health, social care, resilience. Not achieving the community strategy.	Ensure contact is maintained with local voluntary sector. Database maintained to ensure efficiency when signposting vulnerable residents.	Transfer	9
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Very Likely ----- Likelihood ----- ▼ Remote	Low 4	High 8	Very High 12	Very High 16
	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8
	Low 1	Low 2	Low 3	Low 4
Impact Low -----► Unacceptable				

Impact Score

4 (Catastrophic)

3 (Critical)

2 (Significant)

1 (Marginal)

Likelihood Score

4 (Very Likely (≥80%))

3 (Likely (21-79%))

2 (Unlikely (6-20%))

1 (Remote (≤5%))

- In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore

operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

15 Recommendation

- 15.1 Committee agree to develop a Service Level Agreement and partnership with Watford and Three Rivers Trust to offer the community and voluntary sector infrastructure support across Three Rivers, and
- 15.2 To undertake a review and assessment for subsequent longer term funding as appropriate.

Report prepared by: Rebecca Young, Acting Head of Community Partnerships
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Data Quality

Data sources: Community Strategy Impact Assessment

Data checked by: Gordon Glenn

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	
3	High	x

Background Papers

Service Restoration Priority Ratings Document

Service Restoration Resources Document

<https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/meeting/covid-19-response-sub-committee-3-september-2020>

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

None