



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 3RD DECEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC SERVICES – WHAT ROLE CAN THE THIRD SECTOR PLAY?

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council is facing significant reductions in budget and wishes to engage with the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee in considering what the third sector can do in helping the Council shape a response to these financial challenges. The views of the Committee will be considered prior to the final 2015/16 budget proposals being presented to Cabinet in January 2015 and to Full Council in February 2015.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council is facing a cut of 3.4% in the local government provisional settlement 2015/16 and will need to make an estimated saving of £39m over the next three years. The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee is being asked to consider how the third sector can help in shaping a response to these significant financial challenges. The views expressed by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee will be taken into consideration prior to the final 2015/16 budget proposals being presented to Cabinet in January 2015 and to Full Council in February 2015.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The budget setting process encompasses all the resources used by the Council to deliver services and meet priorities.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) is facing significant financial changes and wishes to engage in discussion with the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee on how the third sector can help in safeguarding public services through alternative models of service delivery. The Welsh Government local government financial settlement for 2015/16 sees a 3.4% reduction. Although there was no indicative budget for the following two years, assumptions can be made around the 3.4% reductions continuing, resulting in total budget reductions of £39m over the next three years. It is opportune for the Committee to consider how the third sector can help mitigate against the potential loss of public service provision in helping CCBC setting its budget service proposals to Cabinet in January 2015 and to Council in February 2015.

- 4.2 The Committee is asked for their views on new ways of providing services, as an alternative to making cuts to services through their shared knowledge of the capacity of local communities. Here are some pointers to facilitate this discussion:-
- What knowledge is there of what is currently working well through community led provision and could this be replicated on a larger scale?
 - Could communities run their own libraries, perhaps incorporated into a variety of local services provided through a community/cultural hub?
 - Thoughts around shifting from traditional models of adult social care to support in and by local communities?
 - Could communities play a leading role on environmental improvements in their areas and ensuring community pride in the local environment?
 - Thoughts on feasibility of Social Enterprise, Co-operatives and Mutuels, Community Trust/ Development Trust models of delivery?
 - Any other views on how to approach re shaping public services in the face of cuts in funding?
 - Any further thoughts on how the third sector can help to mitigate the impact of tough decision by the public sector?
- 4.3 CCBC is committed to working with the local communities, the third sector and Compact Partners to explore and develop new models of delivery. It is to be noted that CCBC is setting up a working group of officers to undertake a review of alternative models of service delivery. Joint work is also being undertaken between CCBC and GAVO in building the procurement capacity of the local third sector to take on large scale projects, particularly through collaborative working and consortium bidding by the sector.
- 4.4 CCBC is most receptive to any ideas from the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee on alternative ways of service delivery. Following the committee meeting a write up of the discussion will be produced to feed into budget discussion. Members will be also given to 24th December 2014 to submit any further ideas to Jackie Dix (Policy and Research Manager) for these budget discussions.
- 4.5 In addition Members are advised that the Council is holding a Have Your Say Saving Proposals 2015/16 Consultation until 2nd January 2015. To access the online survey please visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk. Hard copies of the survey are also available, with written responses welcome. For a hard copy please contact the Consultation and Public Engagement Officer on telephone: 01443 864354, at the Communication Unit, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7PG

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Budget decisions at this level affect every resident in the County Borough, regardless of their individual circumstances and backgrounds

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The funding pressures facing the Council are noted in the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There will be significant personnel implications, but these are not the subject matter of this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 consultees are noted at the end of the report. The views of consultees have been incorporated into the drafting of this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 For the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee to discuss at their meeting new ways of providing services, as an alternative to making cuts. The views expressed by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee will be taken back to the Council for consideration prior to the final 2015/16 budget proposals being presented to Cabinet in January 2015 and to Council in February 2015.
- 9.2 Jackie Dix, Policy and Research Manager, will also take any additional comments from Committee Members to be considered by the Council in budget discussions up to 24/12/2014.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 For the views of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee to be able to feed into further budget discussions by the Council prior to the setting of the final 2015/16 budget.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Local Government Act 1998 and 2003.

Author: Jackie Dix, Policy and Research Manager, CCBC
Consultees: Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Colin Jones, Head of Performance and Property Services
Martin Featherstone, Chief Executive, GAVO
Bob Cooke, Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee
Cllr. Carter, Vice Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee
Emily Forbes, Deputy Chief Executive, GAVO
Alison Palmer, Community Planning Co-ordinator, GAVO/CCBC
Howard Rees, Programme Manager, CCBC
Liz Sharma, Consultation and Public Engagement Officer, CCBC
Mandy Sprague, 50+ Positive Action, CCBC
John Elliott, Research Officer, CCBC