



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTION

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a response from Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) to question proposed from Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report presents the CCBC response to a question received from the Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee on Council budgets and consultation with the Voluntary Sector.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Compact Partners are signed up to the Compact Agreement entitled *Delivering Together 2013-2017 Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector in the County Borough of Caerphilly*. The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee brings together the Voluntary Sector with the Compact Partners in providing a means of working together recognising the complementary and distinct role the Voluntary Sector plays in meeting the needs of local communities.
- 3.2 The Compact Agreement is delivered and monitored through an annual Compact Action Plan, which provides a detailed programme of work for shared activities. The Compact Agreement and Compact Action Plan align with the five outcome priorities of *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017*, which are: Prosperous Caerphilly, Safer Caerphilly, Learning Caerphilly, Healthier Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Voluntary Sector Representatives have held discussions around the Council's scrutiny process, the consultees list on reports to Scrutiny and Cabinet, and the issue of Voluntary Sector input at that level to lend expertise to the discussions.
- 4.2 In the above context the Voluntary Sector Representatives have proposed the following question to CCBC:

Given the recent overnight closure of Kids Company and the impact on both service beneficiaries and employees; and recognising our collective responsibility to deliver the best outcomes for the people of Caerphilly in an increasingly resource constrained environment;

how can the third sector be engaged in meaningful discussion and influence the decision making process reference the allocation of resources across the borough? The question is brought into sharper focus with the likely late delivery of the comprehensive spending review and therefore the impact on budget decisions for 16/17 at a devolved level.

4.3 Written Response from Nicole Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services)

The Authority intends presenting draft savings proposals for 2016/17 to Cabinet on the 14th October 2015. These proposals will go out to full consultation. There will be ample opportunity for the Voluntary Sector to comment on these savings. These comments will be included in any report prior to Council making a decision near the end of February 2016.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Equalities are fully embedded into the shared values and principles of the Compact Agreement. Promoting equalities and compliance with the equality legislation are shared activities areas in the annual Compact Action Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None directly arising.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None directly arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Not applicable as report is a response to question submitted to CCBC from the Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To note the Council's response to question submitted from the Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Report is for information only.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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