

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Item A4	Page 1 of 4
Report Originator	Martin Hammond	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	16 th February 2016	
Title	VOLUNTARY SECTOR - REVIEW OF SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS – TASK AND FINISH GROUP		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree the arrangements for, and timetable of, a review of voluntary sector funding, for the period 2017-21.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council has funded a range of voluntary sector organisations through service level agreements (SLAs), in order to secure certain services and support for residents and businesses in the Borough, recognising that other organisations are better placed to provide these than the Council. In order to provide certainty and to reduce the burden on sometimes modestly resourced organisations, the Service Level Agreements have been for a period of four years, an approach which has been very much welcomed by the sector.
- 2.2 The Council spends £295,000 on funding voluntary sector organisations under Service Level Agreements, and this figure has been retained at this level for 8 years, as part of the Council's overall budget strategy; the funding has been protected from reductions experienced by all other parts of the Council's operations.
- 2.3 The current four year funding period ends in March 2017. It is proposed that the Council adopts the approach which has served it well previously, which is to carry out a review of the effectiveness of the current SLAs and to look at future needs, via a member level task and finish group. This would carry out the review during 2016, with a view to making recommendations via this committee, to the Executive by the end of the calendar year. This would provide time to embed final decisions in the following year's budget and give adequate notice of any changes in funding to the voluntary bodies concerned.
- 2.4 A timetable is attached showing how that review might be conducted (**Appendix A**) and a draft set of terms of reference are attached at **Appendix B**.
- 2.5 It is suggested that five members be appointed to the Task and Finish Group (in proportion 4:1). Given the constitutional rule that there should be only two task and finish groups extant at any one time, it will be important for the Task and

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Finish Group on Local Pollinator Strategy to conclude by the end of this financial year, to enable the new Task and Finish Group to start promptly.

3. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Task and Finish Group will consider the policy objectives that are best served by voluntary sector funding agreements, in the light of evidence and changing circumstances locally.

4. **CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT**

- 4.1 This will be for the Task and Finish Group to consider.

5. **FINANCE and HR RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The recommendations of the review will be a factor in budget setting for 2017/18.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council has a duty to properly consider the impacts of its decisions on third party organisations, to ensure equality impact assessments are carried out and to make informed decisions about funding allocations.

7. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to

- a) Establish a Task and Finish Group from 1st March, to conduct a review of the voluntary sector service level agreements, in line with the attached timetable and terms of reference.
- b) Seek recommendations and a conclusion of business for the Local Pollinators Strategy Task and Finish Group by the end of March 2016.

Background Papers:

None

Previous Reports/Minutes:

Last Task and Finish Group meeting in 2012.

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Appendix A

Voluntary Sector SLA Funding Timeline 2017-2021



*Please note dates may be subject to slight changes

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Appendix B

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR TASK AND FINISH GROUP 2017 – 2021 SLAS

Members: To be named

Supported by:

Deputy Chief Executive
Head of Public Services
Community Partnerships Manager
(others as appropriate)

Aims

To identify ways that the Voluntary Sector can be supported and encouraged during times of pressure on public sector funding

Objectives

To ensure that the Voluntary Sector in the Borough of Kettering is able to provide a sustainable service to those most in need.

- Understand the present situation with regard to NCC and KBC funding agreements
- Identify other sources of support / funding available to the voluntary sector now and in the future
- Establish and capture what is known about current needs within the borough – both of the sector and their customers
- Investigate how other areas support the voluntary sector
- Develop options for sustainable service delivery for future years

Completion date (as per timetable attached)

The current Kettering Borough Council Service Level Agreements (SLAs) run for 4 years (01/04/2013 – 31/03/2017)

New SLAs will run from 01/04/2017 and any work to influence them will need to be completed before July 2016.

* For the purpose of this scrutiny, the Voluntary Sector is defined as constituted voluntary bodies providing a range of advisory and practical support services to local people;