

Report of the Director

PRESENTATION BY NENE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To introduce the presentation by Nene Valley Community Action (NVCA)
- 1.2 The presentation relates to the work NVCA carries out in support of the council's priorities.

2 Executive summary

None

3 Appendices

Appendix: None

4 Proposed action:

- 4.1 The committee is invited to RESOLVE to note the presentation, and;**
- 4.2 The committee is invited to discuss issues relating to the work of NVCA and identify any matters it RECOMMENDS be reported to relevant policy committees for their attention.**

5 Background

This presentation forms part of the general programme for the Partnerships and Performance Committee, reviewing the work of partners.

6 Discussion

- 6.1 The committee receives presentations from organisations who are either funded by the council, or who play an important part in the life of the borough.
- 6.2 Each presentation gives members an opportunity to learn more about the organisation and its impact on the borough. After the presentation there is a chance to ask questions of the presenter.
- 6.3 If any items of significance arise, members may wish to request a further report from a relevant officer or make a recommendation for action by a policy committee.
- 6.4 As part of the current voluntary sector funding arrangements, the council gives support for 'the provision of information, advice and business support services to voluntary and community organisations in the Borough of Wellingborough'. The council has a contract with NVCA to fulfil this brief.
- 6.5 The contract has a value of £20,000 per annum and runs until 31 March 2020.

- 6.6 The contract specification is based upon the following requirements:
- To promote & provide a range of easily accessible business support resources for local voluntary and community groups for immediate download and on request eg policies, briefing papers, funding alerts.
 - To offer access to information, advice and support around funding opportunities and funding bids, individual or collaborative.
 - To offer training and support sessions to local voluntary and community groups such as capacity building, fundraising etc, directly or indirectly.
 - To provide a volunteer brokerage scheme, giving access to and positively promoting resources outlining volunteering opportunities, the benefits of volunteering and working with volunteers, and give advice and guidance on good volunteer management
 - To promote the role and potential of the local voluntary and community sector within wider partnerships and to the statutory and business sector
 - Maintain a public presence within the borough

7 Legal powers

The Local Authorities (Alternative Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2001 empower the council to establish one or more overview and scrutiny committees. Whilst the council no longer has a designated overview and scrutiny committee, the Partnerships and Performance Committee has been given the role of reviewing and monitoring the performance of council services and services provided on behalf of the council by external bodies. A local authority may invite persons other than members or officers of the authority to attend meetings of such a committee.

8 Financial and value for money implications

There are financial implications as a grant is provided to this organisation by the Borough Council of Wellingborough. This is for multiple purposes including indirect support for the reduction in numbers of homeless and for tenancy sustainment that we are strategically trying to reduce. The service is also aimed to support people back into work and in return have a positive impact on the reduction of benefit claims.

9 Risk analysis

The service is funded on the proviso of outputs to support challenges such as homeless case reductions. The service must demonstrate how it benefits the Borough Council of Wellingborough in the way it utilizes the grant funding. There is a risk of the council failing to recognise the benefits and relies on robust contract management, monitoring and challenge.

10 Implications for resources, stronger and safer communities, and equalities

NVCA services have an indirect but positive impact on our resources, they support the council's priorities and are expected to deliver a fair and equal service to our residents.

- 11 Author and contact officer**
Gill Chapman, Principal Community Support Manager.
- 12 Consultees**
Senior Management Team
- 13 Background papers**
Grant funding papers for NVCA.