

Part A

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: Monday, 9 November 2020

Report author: Senior Democratic Services Officer

Title: Watford and Three Rivers Trust Task Group final report

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides Cabinet with the final report and recommendations of the Watford and Three Rivers Trust Task Group. The full report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The report was approved by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 22 October. An extract of Overview and Scrutiny Committee's minutes is attached as Appendix 2
- 1.3 Cabinet is asked to consider the task group's recommendations for approval.

2.0 Risks

- 2.1 No direct risks to the council have been identified as a result of the task group's recommendations.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 that Cabinet approves the task group's recommendations:

- 1) W3RT should take steps to improve understanding of its activities in the local community.
- 2) There is a need for W3RT to build more and better partnership working across the local community.
- 3) W3RT and the wider local voluntary sector would benefit from a dedicated fundraiser at Watford and Three Rivers Trust.
- 4) The Community Fund should be established as a lasting pillar of support for Watford's voluntary sector.

- 5) W3RT needs to clarify its long-term strategy for recruiting and sustaining local volunteering activities
- 6) W3RT should ensure that connections with local partners and statutory bodies are maintained in order to maximise the number of volunteers locally.
- 7) W3RT and the business community should strengthen their links.
- 8) W3RT and WBC should maintain a strong and collaborative working relationship.

Further information:

Ishbel Morren

ishbel.morren@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Managing Director

4.0 Detailed proposal

- 4.1 At its meeting on 23 July 2020, Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a scrutiny proposal to form a task group to review Watford Borough Council's relationship with Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT), with a particular focus on the partnership working during the pandemic.
- 4.2 At that meeting, the membership of the task group was agreed. The following councillors were appointed:

Councillor Glen Saffery Chair, Councillor for Woodside Ward
Councillor Dawn Allen-Williamson, Councillor for Callowland Ward
Councillor Jagtar Singh Dhindsa, Councillor for Vicarage Ward
Councillor Amanda Grimston Councillor for Meriden Ward
Councillor Jennifer Pattinson Councillor for Meriden Ward
- 4.3 The task group had an initial meeting to review and agree the terms of reference, work programme and key witnesses.
- 4.4 A number of witness sessions were held with representatives of W3RT, officers and other key local stakeholders. The views of the local voluntary sector were captured in a survey.
- 4.5 The task group has been working in tandem with the council's Voluntary Sector Specialist, who has also been undertaking a review of the council's voluntary sector relationships.

5.0 **Implications**

5.1 **Financial**

5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications in this report.

5.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

5.3 **Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection**

5.3.1 There are no specific implications in this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Watford and Three Rivers Trust Task Group report

Appendix 2 – Extract of minutes from Overview and Scrutiny Committee 22 October 2020

Background papers

There are no specific background papers for this report. All background information used during the task group's work is referenced in the final report.