

PART A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting: 19 September 2012
Report of: Committee and Scrutiny Officer
Title: Voluntary and Community Sector Commissioning Framework Task Group – Final Report

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 Reason for lateness

This report could not be published with the agenda on 11 September as the Task Group's final meeting was on 5 September 2012. It was then necessary to prepare the Task Group's final conclusions and recommendations and collate the final report.

1.2 This report asks Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the conclusions and recommendations set out in the final report from the Voluntary and Community Sector Commissioning Framework Task Group, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, prior to its submission to Cabinet in October.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews the Voluntary and Community Sector Commissioning Framework Task Group's conclusions and recommendations.

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Report approved by: Carol Chen, Head of Legal and Property Services

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

3.1 The review of the draft Voluntary and Community Sector Commissioning Framework was agreed as an outcome of the called in Cabinet decision in December 2011 regarding the 'Review of the 3-year grant funding programme to achieve savings.

3.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the called in decision at its meeting on 22 December 2011. It was agreed that scrutiny would be involved in the development of the new Commissioning Framework.

- 3.3 At Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 7 March 2012 it was agreed that a Task Group would be established to review the draft Commissioning Framework prior to the commencement of the public consultation which was due to start in June 2012.
- 3.4 The Task Group held its first meeting on 24 May 2012, when it was agreed that the Task Group would continue reviewing the draft Commissioning Framework after the public consultation had started. Full details of the review and the Task Group's meetings are contained in the final report attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.5 Officers from Community Services will be presenting their final version of the Commissioning Framework to Cabinet at its meeting on 8 October. The report will incorporate the Task Group's conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet to consider.
- 3.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the Task Group's conclusions prior to it being forwarded to Cabinet.
- 4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**
- 4.1 **Financial**
- 4.1.1 The Head of Strategic Finance reports that the Council will need to identify reductions to its budgets in order to compensate for Government grant losses. The recommendations from the Task Group need to be considered in this context and to avoid entering into any long term commitments.
- 4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)
- 4.2.1 The Council relies on various legal powers to provide funds to the voluntary sector. Any decisions taken by Cabinet regarding the new Commissioning Framework will need to have regard to the Council's equality duties.
- 4.3 **Potential Risks**
- 4.3.1 None identified.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Final report of the Voluntary and Community Sector
Commissioning Framework Task Group

Background Papers

Report and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 22 December 2011
and 7 March 2012

File Reference

None