

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)

Date of meeting: 24 February 2022

Report author: Head of Leisure & Environmental Services

Title: Review of the Voluntary Sector Strategy (October 2020) and Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT) Overview and Scrutiny Committee and recommendations

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The report provides an update on the progress and implementation of the Voluntary and Community Strategy and OSC Task Group review of the Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT).
- 1.2 The council adopted the Voluntary and Community Strategy on 9 November 2020 which contained 24 recommendations (Appendix 1).
- 1.3 The Voluntary and Community Strategy (VC Strategy) linked the 'Watford Together' Council Plan. In particular, the aim to: 'Work even more closely with the Voluntary and Community Sector, to build a resilient community where people support each other'
- 1.4 The VC Strategy also supports the 'Community' work stream of the Council's 'Road to Renewal' plan, which sets out how the council will focus on moving forward from Covid-19 pandemic. The strategy has 4 themes:
1. Post-Covid Recovery and Renewal
 2. Engaging Volunteers
 3. Diversifying Funding
 4. Information Sharing
- 1.5 The VC Strategy also reflects the findings of the Member-led Watford and Three Rivers Trust Task Group which presented its final report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 October 2020 which contained eight recommendations as detailed in Appendix 2.
- 1.6 Progress against the recommendations is monitored via the regular liaison meetings between W3RT and WBC officers. The progress against the specific recommendations has been structured to reflect:
- What has already happened to date
 - Still to do/future next 12 months
 - Any constraints
- 1.7 On the RAG rating for the VC Strategy. There were 24 recommendations from the Voluntary Sector Strategy of which 15 are now closed and 9 on an Amber rating all showing actions to date. No recommendations are in the red zone and good progress has been made in each area.
- 1.8 On the RAG rating for the OSC review of W3RT two recommendations are Green and six are Amber. No recommendations are in the red zone and good progress has been made in each area.

1.9 Whist both progress reports have some Amber RAG ratings this is due to the fact that these recommendations are in progress and not yet completed.

2.0 **Risks**

2.1

| Nature of risk | Consequence | Suggested Control Measures | Response (treat, tolerate, terminate or transfer) | Risk Rating (combination of severity and likelihood) |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| VC Strategy and the OSC W3RT report and the 32 recommendations are not delivered | The wellbeing of vulnerable residents will be detrimentally affected by a less resourced, less informed and less coordinated Voluntary and Community Sector | Detailed delivery plan developed in response to strategy and OSC report | Treat | 2 x 2 = 4 |
| Only some aspects of the Strategy are delivered | Preventative support offered by many Voluntary and Community organisations will be less than satisfactory and may cause potential long term health or social problems | Regular and annual review of progress against the recommendations and action plan | Treat | 2 x 2 = 4 |

3.0 **Recommendations**

- To review the progress against the 32 recommendations from the Voluntary and Community Strategy and OSC Review of W3RT and make any recommendations to the Cabinet.

Further information:

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Report approved by: Alan Gough Group Head of Community & Environmental Services

4 Implications

4.1 Financial (Extract from November 2020 Cabinet report)

4.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications for the Council arising from adopting the Voluntary and Community Strategy.

4.2 Legal Issues (Extract from November 2020 Cabinet report)

4.2.1 The Interim Head of Legal comments that there are no legal implications

4.3 Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection (Extract from November 2020 Cabinet report)

4.3.1 As this was a new policy in November 2020, an equalities impact analysis was undertaken. The main conclusions of that analysis is that the strategy will actively aim to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, or any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people. Appendix 3 of the 9 November 2020 Cabinet report details the full EIA.

4.4 Staffing

4.4.1 There are no changes to staffing arrangements identified in this report.

4.5 Accommodation

4.5.1 There are no changes identified in this report relating to WBC office/town hall accommodation.

4.6 Community Safety/Crime and Disorder

4.6.1 There are no Community Safety/Crime and Disorder issues identified in this report.

4.7 Sustainability

4.7.1 There are no Sustainability issues identified in this report.

Appendices

1. Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy – update on the recommendations
2. OSC Task Group review of W3RT – update on the recommendations

Background Papers

- Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy – October 2020