

**Appendix 4 – Item: Croydon’s Relationship with the Voluntary Sector**

Considered by Scrutiny & Overview Committee, 22 April 2024

REC No.	SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	DEPARTMENT AND CABINET MEMBER RESPONDING	ACCEPTED / PARTIALLY ACCEPTED / ALREADY IN PROGRESS / REJECTED (inc. reasons for rejection)	IDENTIFIED OFFICER	ANY FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IF ACCEPTED (i.e. Action Plan)	DATE OF SCRUTINY MEETING TO REPORT BACK
SOC.31.23/24	The Committee recommends that there is a systematic approach to engagement with the community and voluntary sector on the Transformation Plan, throughout its delivery, to ensure that opportunities for partnership working with the sector are identified at an early stage.	Cllr Andy Stranack  ACE	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Already in progress</b></p> <p>This is already factored into the Council’s Transformation Plan and is embedded in the specification of work of our three strategic partners.</p>	Helen Reeves, Head of Strategy & Policy	No additional implications.	Engagement is already underway with our strategic transformation partners. At the time of writing, early meetings have taken place as part of our adult social care programme, and design sessions regarding for our council redesign work are planned across August, as well as wider immersive work.	TBC
SOC.32.23/24	The Committee was encouraged by the confirmation that the Council had been engaging with the community and voluntary sector to develop commissioning opportunities and would recommend that this engagement is expanded to include other co-design opportunities, where appropriate.	Cllr Andy Stranack  ACE	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Already in progress</b></p> <p>As noted, there are a number of positive examples of where this is happening, and we are committed to continuing to work with our VCFS partners in this way. For example, a shared approach to homelessness was explored at the 22<sup>nd</sup> July meeting between VCS CEOs, the Mayor and Health partners.</p>	Helen Reeves, Head of Strategy & Policy	No additional implications.	Already in progress.	TBC

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SOC.33.23/24	While it was recognised that the Council needed to complete due process before making publicly available a list of the assets available for Community Asset Transfer, the Committee would recommend that every effort is taken to ensure that this list is made available to organisations from the community and voluntary sector as soon as possible.	Cllr Andy Stranack  ACE	<b>Already in progress</b>	Helen Reeves, Head of Strategy & Policy	No additional implications.	Already in progress; to be published for October 2024 Cabinet	TBC
SOC.34.23/24	Whilst it may be challenging, the Committee recommends that the executive explore ways to measure how progress made in improving the Council's relationship with the voluntary sector can be recorded and assessed in partnership with those voluntary organisations, including the possibility of targets where appropriate.	Cllr Andy Stranack  ACE	<p><b>Partially accepted</b></p> <p>The Council's relationship with the voluntary sector is multi-faceted and as such it is difficult to pinpoint measures that could adequately capture it.</p> <p>In many areas, a target would not be appropriate or workable; for instance, procurement rules would preclude us from setting a quota on how many contracts are awarded to VCS organisations. Additionally, measures such as quantifying the number of VCS organisations in Croydon does not account for their overall health and may misrepresent the council's role in this.</p> <p>However, we will continue to work with the voluntary sector to agree our shared ambitions for Croydon and the outcomes for our residents that we would like to jointly achieve.</p>	Helen Reeves, Head of Strategy & Policy	No additional implications.	Already in progress.	TBC

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SOC.35.23/24	Although it was acknowledged that the meaningful proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy was already being allocated within communities by the Council, given that other boroughs had schemes that allowed community and voluntary sector organisations to bid for funding from this pot, the Committee would recommend that further work is undertaken to establish whether a similar system would be suitable for Croydon.	Cllr Andy Stranack  ACE	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>Work can be undertaken to establish whether a similar system would be suitable for Croydon.</p>	Steve Dennington, Head of Spatial Planning	No additional implications – the research would not require a budget beyond the existing CIL & S106 Team Resource. This is separate to the possible cost and resource associated within any such system.	This research will form part of the current overall Planning Transformation programme, which includes an action plan for the Council's CIL and S106 Team and function. In the context of the overall action plan the research will conclude by 31/12/24	Accepted – work can be undertaken to establish whether a similar system would be suitable for Croydon.