

VOLUNTARY SECTOR JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 16th October, 2023.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor R.M. Birch (Chair); Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby (Vice-Chair); Councillors G. Bruce, I. Buckley, A.M. Collins, C. Iannucci, J.M. Norman and N. Wood

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: R. Connor (Glamorgan Voluntary Services), L. Newton (Cardiff and Vale Action for Mental Health), P. Warren (Glamorgan Voluntary Services) and Councillor C. Hawkins (Town and Community Councillor Representative);

Also present: Councillors W.A. Hennessy, E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health) and M.R. Wilson (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services)

439 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing.”

440 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY VICE-CHAIR FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR –

AGREED – T H A T L. Newton be appointed as Honorary Vice-Chair from the representatives of the Voluntary Sector for the Municipal year.

441 MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 25th July, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

442 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 - Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board Annual Report 2022-23 – Reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 19th July, 2023.

The nature of the interest was that the Councillor is a trustee of Coastlands Church which is one of the partners in Food Vale.

443 VALE OF GLAMORGAN PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23 (REF) –

The reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee was presented by the Operational Manager for Corporate Strategy and Insight and provided an overview of the fifth year of progress in developing the Wellbeing Objectives and actions set by the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board (PSB) and its Wellbeing Plan 2018 – 2023.

Following the presentation, in response to a query from Councillor Lloyd-Selby, the Operational Manager advised that research was being undertaken with existing food projects across the Vale to understand their challenges - for instance around increasing demand. They further advised that work was underway to explore the potential for developing a project in the rural Vale, with research into how this could work being undertaken. Councillor Lloyd-Selby added that they were keen to support this work where possible.

The Chair highlighted a recent climate change event they had attended and the importance of young peoples' participation in the development of services.

With no further comments or queries, Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the reference and report on the work of the Public Services Board be accepted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the content of the report and discussions at the meeting.

444 WORKING WITH THE THIRD SECTOR – A PERSPECTIVE FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL FUNDING TEAM –

The item was presented by the Team Leader for Community Development, External Grants and Funding, and apprised Committee of the work of the Creative Communities Team and how it supported and worked with the Voluntary Sector.

Following the presentation, in response from a query from Councillor Bruce, the Team Leader advised that stakeholders other than Town or Community Councils could approach the team for support, and although helpful, a Town or Community Council did not need to be involved for support to be provided.

The Officer added that partnering with Glamorgan Voluntary Services and the enquiries generated by grant schemes, for instance, assisted the team in raising awareness of the services offered to voluntary groups.

With no further comments or queries, Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the Officer be thanked for the informative presentation and that the presentation slides be circulated to all members of the Committee.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the presentation and discussions at the meeting.

445 REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT –

The item was presented by the Operational Manager for Corporate Strategy and Insight, and Glamorgan Voluntary Services' Chief Executive Officer and Operational Manager. The presentation advised Committee of the work to refresh the Compact between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Glamorgan Voluntary Services.

Following the presentation, in response to Committee's comments, questions and suggestions, the officers advised the following:

- GVS held annual membership reviews, asking all organisations to provide their current information
- GVS publications such as Vista Magazine were available to all members
- The online link to the questionnaire on the Compact was provided to Members during the meeting.

Councillor Wilson subsequently suggested that member groups could assist with updating their online information.

Community Councillor Hawkins, Town and Community Council representative, asked whether there had been progress in achieving a culture change around officer's attitudes towards the voluntary sector as highlighted in an Audit Wales report. In response, the Operational Manager for Corporate Strategy and Insight advised that progress had been made in terms of the good relationships with the voluntary sector, and on discussions around re-energising cross-sector working. The Operational Manager added that timescales would be clearer to Committee once Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet had considered a report on 'Strengthening Our Communities and Work to Tackle Poverty and the Current Cost of Living Crisis', in the coming weeks.

GVS' Chief Executive Officer subsequently advised that changing the purpose of the Compact was a challenging task. Challenges for the Local Authority included considering the impact of their decision on the Third Sector - for example, how some resources invested within the Council may sit better within the Third Sector itself.

The Chief Executive Officer added that they hoped the refreshed Compact would offer more opportunity for the Third Sector to challenge the Local Authority without fear of comeback, particularly given that resources came into the Third Sector via

the Local Authority. The Chief Executive Officer further advised that the Third Sector had worked extremely well with the Local Authority to date, and the Compact provided the opportunity to build on that for the next five to ten years.

The Operational Manager for Corporate Strategy and Insight subsequently advised that a new Compact needed to be meaningful, useful and dynamic in the way in which it articulated the relationship between both partners. Similarly, L. Newton (representative of Cardiff and Vale Action for Mental Health) advised that the Compact was a useful tool, and valuable to have as a mechanism for improvement.

The Chair subsequently suggested that Committee revisited the Compact each year, to establish the level of progress made, and how both sides had performed against key themes and objectives.

The Chief Executive Officer for GVS subsequently advised that an action plan with action points for both partners was a possible mechanism for future evaluation of the Compact.

The Operational Manager for Corporate Strategy and Insight, in response to a question from GVS' Chief Executive Officer, advised that part of the challenge was the need to reflect on the variety of experiences of working with the Third Sector found across the Council's departments. They further advised that this would form part of the Authority's wider work on how it linked with other sectors in general.

With no further comments or queries, Committee subsequently

AGREED –

- (1) T H A T the Officers be thanked for the engaging presentation and that the presentation slides be circulated to all members of the Committee.
- (2) T H A T Committee receives an update on progress made regarding the review of the Voluntary Sector Compact in 12 months' time.

Reason for decision

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the presentation and discussions at the meeting.