

Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Pro forma

Under section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000, Overview and Scrutiny Committees must require the Cabinet or local authority to respond to a report or recommendations made thereto by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Such a response must be provided within two months from the date on which it is requested¹ and, if the report or recommendations in questions were published, the response also must be so.

This template provides a structure which respondents are encouraged to use. However, respondents are welcome to depart from the suggested structure provided the same information is included in a response. The usual way to publish a response is to include it in the agenda of a meeting of the body to which the report or recommendations were addressed.

Issue: VCS Strategy

Lead Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Mark Lygo, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Equalities

Date response requested:² 19 July 2022 (Scrutiny is happy for a response to be made on 20 September 2022)

Response to report

Response to recommendations:

Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale (unless rejected)
That the Council undertakes specific additional consultation with smaller voluntary sector groups to ensure its proposals support their needs also.	Accepted	The Council will continue to regularly engage and consult over the next five years with the local VCS. As a part of this, we will reach out to groups that the Committee felt were less represented in the previous engagement and consultation stages.

¹ Date of the meeting at which report/recommendations were received

² Date of the meeting at which report/recommendations were received⁹

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<p>That the Council uses the forthcoming work by the consultation and engagement team to seek informed views on children and young people on the draft voluntary sector strategy.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The Council will seek to engage the views of children and young people on the voluntary and community sector strategy, as part of the consultation and engagement team's workstream.</p>
<p>That the Council assures itself that the draft strategy does not deprioritise the needs of younger people over older people.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The Council has sought to ensure that the wording in the strategy is reflective to cover all service areas equally. The strategy is designed to be a document that impacts all service areas' relationships with the VCS, to achieve a cohesive Council-wide approach. An internal working group including representatives from Children's Services, Adult Social Care, Public Health and Cultural Services fed into the development of the strategy and will continue to meet regularly over the next five years to proactively review the framework and enable services to deliver tangible outcomes.</p>
<p>That the Council investigates the reasons behind the difference in spending on commissioned services for adults and young people and investigates whether the difference in approach means opportunities for better services or value for money are being missed.</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>This recommendation is noted, but specific funding from contracts and grants is outside the scope of the strategy. However, work is already underway outside of the strategy to consider council spending across the voluntary and community sector.</p>
<p>That the Council amends its draft strategy to prevent the impression being given that the needs of children and young people are of lesser priority than older people.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The wording of the strategy has been reviewed to ensure that inclusive language is used and to remove any inadvertent perceived prioritisation of service areas or demographic groups.</p>