

<b>Report of:</b>	Adam Allen – Director of Culture, Communities and Communication Councillor Mieka Smiles – Executive Member for Culture & Communities
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive – 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
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<b>Subject:</b>	Service Response – Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel – Working relationships with the Voluntary and Community Sector
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**Summary**

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
The Executive approves the action plan in Appendix A which has resulted from the report

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent? <sup>1</sup>
Decision	Non key	The report is not confidential	Non urgent

Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan		
Business Imperatives	Physical Regeneration	Social Regeneration
		To improve the current working relationships between the Council, the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and, by extension, the Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency

<b>Ward(s) affected</b>
The work impacts on all wards.

**What is the purpose of this report?**

To provide the service response and action plan to the Scrutiny report on the working relationships with voluntary and community sector

<sup>1</sup> Remove for non-Executive reports

## **Why does this report require a Member decision?**

Members need to approve the service response and action plan written in response to the Scrutiny report

## **Report Background**

The aim of the Scrutiny investigation was to enable members to understand how the relationships between the Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector was improving and what further progress could be made in future months.

The Scrutiny review made one over-arching recommendation, which was:

“That the Council and MVDA continue to work to existing plans to ensure that future working relationships between the Council and MVDA will continue to be strengthened.”

The Council and MVDA are continuing with the existing plans as per the recommendation.

It should also be noted by Executive that the current agreement between MVDA and the Council comes to an end in March 2020 and a new agreement and new joint objectives are being developed. This work will result in a new draft action plan being produced by the end of this calendar year for consultation with Elected Members.

In response to the Scrutiny review and the subsequent report, the future action plan will specifically consider how the Council and MVDA can work together to be more pro-active rather than re-active and how those services that don't have a commissioning relationship with MVDA can become more engaged.

The Scrutiny review also identified nine key considerations that will need to be factored into any future review of the agreement. These are:

- Improving knowledge and communication
- Understanding the sector's contribution
- Encouraging proactive engagement in business as usual
- Demonstrating impact
- Developing business models
- Increasing formal delivery role
- Connecting the VCS and Council
- Identify potential future funding aspirations
- Managing the strategic relationship

The full scrutiny response in the form of an action plan is attached in Appendix B. The recommendation is set out in the table in Appendix B. This includes the response from the service.

## **What decision(s) are being asked for?**

The Executive approves the Action Plan in Appendix A which has resulted from the report

### **Why is this being recommended?**

The Action Plan will improve the current working relationships between the Council, the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and, by extension, the Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency as well as providing timely updates to the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

### **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

No other decisions were recommended

### **Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

It is anticipated the Action Plan will improve the current working relationships between the Council, the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and, by extension, the Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency

### ***Legal***

None identified

### ***Financial***

None identified

### ***Policy Framework***

The proposed Action Plan has no impact on the Councils Policy Framework

### ***Equality and Diversity***

No protected groups will be affected by the decision

### **Risk**

No risks identified

### **Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

Reports will be provided after 6 months to provide further information on the improvements made in the relationship between Middlesbrough Council and the Voluntary Sector, and by extension, Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Action Plan – Response form Service

Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Report - Working relationships with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

## Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Middlesbrough Council	Executive report – Strengthening the relationship with the VCS	March 2017
Middlesbrough Council	Minutes of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel Meetings	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2018, 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2019, 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Contact:** Martin Harvey

**Email:** martin\_harvey@middlesbrough.gov.uk