

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 11(c)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

28 MAY 2013

<p>ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL - PROGRESS REPORT</p>
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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the updated position.

BACKGROUND

3. Since the last report to OSB, the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel has met on one occasion on 9 May 2013.
4. At that meeting the panel agreed its terms of reference for its current review on the topic of the Council's relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) as follows;
 - a) To examine the transparency of grant funding arrangements to the VCS and the extent to which the managing and monitoring of funds awarded ensures accountability.
 - b) To consider how the Council can work more effectively with the VCS, as the Council moves from grants to commissioned services.
 - c) To examine the core role of the MVDA in supporting the town's VCS.
 - d) To consider whether the VCS is adequately represented on the town's primary partnerships including the Children's Trust, the Health and Well-Being Board and the Safer Middlesbrough Partnership.
5. It was also agreed that in line with the suggestion put forward at the last Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) meeting that as part of the review evidence will be sought from neighbouring Voluntary Development Agencies (VDA's) on the support their organisations provide to their local VCS.

6. Evidence was also received, as part of the panel's review on this topic, in relation to the Council's Small Grants Fund and details of last year's recipients were provided.
7. At the panel's request representatives from two VCS organisations, who are both in receipt of core grant funding from the Council, were also in attendance at the meeting, namely Harbour and Community Ventures Limited (CVL). A number of issues were discussed with both organisations including how effectively the Council is working with the VCS at present and whether as a VCS organisation they feel adequately represented on the town's primary partnerships.

RECOMMENDATION

8. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report and the updated position.

COUNCILLOR T HARVEY

CHAIR OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

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