

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

ENABLING THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 Cabinet is asked to note the progress being made with the voluntary and community sector
- 1.2 Cabinet is asked to sign up to the charter that has been developed with the sector.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The ambition for North Lincolnshire to be the Best place to live work visit and invest is a shared ambition a cross a number of partners not lest the voluntary and community sector (VCS). There are over 800 VCS organisations across the area, ranging from small localised uniform groups such as scouts and guides through to larger regional and national groups such as Alzheimer's society and Barnardos.
- 2.2 The Council is committed to working closely with the VCS to achieve better outcomes and consider the sector is pivotal to enabling;
 - Communities to be better connected
 - Enable strong communities to build neighbourhoods where people are proud to live, get on well together are safe and support each other
 - Enable people to experience improved wellbeing and prosperity
- 2.3 This developing an enabling relationship with the sector has collaboratively developed a local charter to put the relationship on a clear and transparent footing.

The charter aims to

- Provided a platform for voluntary and community organisations to build relationships with each other, the council and partners
- Ensure the sector is represented when service delivery decisions are made
- Develop a stronger, more equal relationship between the council and the voluntary sector
- Enable voluntary and community sector organisations to come together to
 - share information, experiences and good practice
 - work collaboratively to find solutions to challenges facing the sector
 - start to identify where / how they might join together to seek funding opportunities

2.4 Members of the Forum are committed to follow the principles of the North Lincolnshire VCS Partnership Charter.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Option 1 Cabinet agree to the Council signing the Partnership Charter

3.1 The collaboratively developed North Lincolnshire VCS Partnership Charter, see Appendix 1, sets out the shared values and principles that the voluntary and community sector and the council agree to adhere to while working together to achieve our shared outcomes for the people of North Lincolnshire to be safe, well, prosperous and connected.

Option 2 Continue to work with the sector to deliver better outcomes

3.2 Members of the VCS Forum have signed up the Charter.

3.3 The sector have shared the Charter with the Place Partnership. Partners are currently taking it to their respective boards for agreement to sign-up

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 The organisations have come together as the Voluntary and Community Sector Forum. This is a stakeholder reference group established to facilitate collaborative working between the sector and the council by enabling an exchange of information and views to deliver our shared outcomes. To date the forum has delivered a number of improvements such as;

- Facilitated Sector representatives invited to key partnership meetings

- Supported a Volunteer Showcase event in with 42 organisations participating.
 - Networking opportunities found to be of most value to organisations.
 - Feedback from workshop sessions have informed the development of the forum and the charter.
- Facilitated the first of three smaller localised Volunteer Showcase events for 19/20 in June.

Showcase Event June 2019. The event for organisations delivering in the Brigg, Barton and surrounding area provided an opportunity for networking, sharing of experiences and good practice and celebration of the difference volunteers make to our communities.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 None

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 None

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 The North Lincolnshire VCS Partnership Charter and Showcase Events have been developed collaboratively with representatives from the voluntary and community sector forum.

8.2 These events have been used to seek the wider sector view on the charter and views have been incorporated to the final document attached.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Cabinet is asked to note the progress being made with the voluntary and community sector

9.2 Cabinet is asked to sign up to the charter that has been developed with the sector

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Date: 03 July 2019

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – none

North Lincolnshire VCS Charter



This Charter has been developed collaboratively between the voluntary and community sector and the members of the place partnership. It is intended to be as inclusive as possible and will be kept under constant monitoring and review to measure outcomes, impact and reflect the developing relationship across the sectors.

Whilst this Charter is not a “legal” binding document it will be published as will progress reports demonstrating the support and commitment of all partners.

The partnership ambition for North Lincolnshire is to be the #Best Place to live • work • visit • invest. Collaborative working between all organisations across the Place is key to achieving this ambition and will ensure we deliver our shared outcomes which are for the people of North Lincolnshire to be safe well prosperous and connected.

Charter Values

The signatory partners will adhere to the following values that will underpin the way we behave towards each other:

Equality, Respect, Integrity, Objectivity, Transparency, Accountability, Honesty, Consistency

By signing up to this charter we agree to the following principles

Charter Principles

- subscribe to the belief that by working together we can achieve better outcomes for people
- value the contributions of each organisation and embrace the value of volunteering
- recognise that relationships go wider than commissioning, contracts and grant aid processes
- accept the different environments and legal parameters that the VCS and partner organisations work under and recognise the added value these differences bring
- recognise and value the diversity and strengths of the VCS and partner agencies value everyone’s contribution
- agree to full and meaningful engagement and involve each other in decision making on matters that affect communities

- work together to ensure that hard to reach communities and groups receive the same level and quality of support
- commit to sharing intelligence and information where appropriate in order to ensure effective action is taken to respond to challenges
- commit to encouraging ambition, positivity and promoting the shared ambitions for the area
- working together at the earliest opportunity in the planning and development of future services in order to be as creative and innovative as possible in our joint response to local need and reducing resources
- We will work as a network of community leaders who make things happen and galvanise collaboration between the partners on areas of shared interest

Critical Success Factors

- There will be a whole North Lincolnshire place approach, based on shared priorities; driven by the context of people and place and not individual organisation’s needs or priorities
- There will be a culture of genuine co-operation and collaboration; delivering the shared ambition and outcomes to the people and places of North Lincolnshire
- Information and intelligence is shared where appropriate in order to ensure effective action is taken to respond to opportunities
- The different needs, aspirations and drivers of the communities are recognised and balanced
- There will be involvement and collaboration at the widest possible level through establishing networking opportunities, including online forums and other mechanisms for ensuring that the citizen voice is heard
- All voices and opinions and perspectives are valued equally
- Full and meaningful engagement is obvious through a collective partnership board recognising and respecting the contribution made by all parties in decision making on matters that affect communities