

**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC  
PROTECTION****AN OPERATING FRAMEWORK FOR WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update members of the Community Safety Committee on the Community and Voluntary Sector Team's revised approach to community working set out in the attached Operating Framework for Working with Communities.

**Information and Advice**

2. At its meeting on 2 July 2014, Policy Committee approved the attached Operating Framework for Working with Communities and agreed that future reports on the implementation of the framework will be brought to the Community Safety Committee for consideration and approval.
3. As part of its budget approvals for 2014 – 15, the Council restructured the team responsible for working with the community and voluntary sector. The team is now made up of 4 Community Officers each with a focus on a priority area, such as social enterprise development, a Grant Aid Officer, Business Support and the Team Manager.
4. As part of this refocusing, the future work priorities of the team were identified as working in partnership with the voluntary and community sector to improve preventative and core services that strengthen the local community; to streamline the corporate grant aid process and to promote localism by working with communities to increase community involvement in the way services are shaped and delivered.
5. The Council is committed to building on its reputation of working in partnership with the community and voluntary sector to help build local capacity. The ambition is to drive a series of local programmes with communities to deliver services in a different way which will support their transformation.
6. A key strategic priority for the Council is to ensure Nottinghamshire has strong communities that are safe and thriving. The reality of the challenges faced means that the council of the future will be different in the way it is shaped, organised and how services are delivered. The Council is committed to moving with the times and working in partnership with local communities, voluntary groups and volunteers to provide services.

7. The Operating Framework for Working with Communities sets out how the Council intends to transform the way it engages with communities. This framework illustrates a way to develop and strengthen engagement with communities, moving towards a changed landscape of local services with new and innovative models being implemented. The framework will focus on:
- Working with communities to move towards more cooperative models of service delivery, promoting community ownership by, for example, supporting the development of social enterprises and supporting community groups to develop sustainable models for future working like The Tin Hat Centre in Selston, Pleasley Landmark in Mansfield, The Centre for Sports and Learning in Manton and The Crossing in Worksop.
  - Having a consistent approach to partnership working – an agreed set of shared standards for working with communities ensuring for example that the community and voluntary sector are engaged at all levels with the priorities for community safety.
  - Ensuring co-ordinated and targeted engagement – rationalising the community engagement undertaken, reducing duplication and maximising efficiencies, this will empower communities for example by establishing a WW1 Community Commemoration Fund.
  - Developing alternative service models – encouraging creativity and innovation in how services are delivered, focusing on outcomes and supporting the community and voluntary sector to move towards greater sustainability rather than being reliant on grant aid.
  - Better services – listening and responding to the local community, meaning that services meet their needs effectively and efficiently – this will be underpinned by the approach to community safety and cohesion.

### **Development of the Working with Communities Framework**

8. The Council has several important roles to play in supporting communities to:
- build a strong sense of community, capacity and pride through collaborative partnerships
  - engage in the planning and delivery of services
  - generate and sustain their own capacity to respond to the challenges which Nottinghamshire faces.
9. Through the Community and Voluntary Sector Team, building on past activities the Council will work across the sector to engage them in the planning and delivery of services by helping to build capacity and confidence to drive improvements in quality of life, influence decisions which affect them and consider their role in the delivery of services. The appendix to this report contains the Framework.
10. Success will be measured by consistently checking against the delivery plan and reporting outcomes to Community Safety Committee / Grant Aid Sub Committee.

### **Other Options Considered**

11. None - Policy Committee has approved this approach.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

12.To enable Community Safety Committee / Grant Aid Sub Committee to develop a more detailed delivery plan for taking this Working with Communities Framework forward.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13.This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

14.To support the Working with Communities Framework as an approach to supporting local communities and to invite a more detailed report to this Committee on the implementation of the framework.

**PAUL McKAY**

**Service Director, Promoting Independence and Public Protection**

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## **Constitutional Comments (SLB 9/7/14)**

Community Safety Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

## **Financial Comments (SEM 24/06/2014)**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 'None'.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- 'All'.

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