

**21 April 2015****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF POLICY, PLANNING &  
CORPORATE SERVICES****IMPLEMENTING THE WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES FRAMEWORK****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update members of the Community Safety Committee on the work of the Community and Voluntary Sector Team.

**Information and Advice**

2. The priorities of the team have been identified as working in partnership with the voluntary and community sector to improve preventative and core services that help 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.
3. A key strategic priority for the Council is to ensure that 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 working in partnership with local communities, voluntary groups and volunteers to provide services.
4. Work being undertaken by the team seeks to support 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 contribution made to improving public services and well-being in Nottinghamshire by communities and the voluntary sector is recognised and supported through both an extensive grant aid programme and direct hands-on support from Community Officers.
5. Over recent years economic circumstances have drastically changed how organisations are funded with the result that only well organised third sector groups can thrive and provide a valuable contribution to the local community. Only by being robustly established and equipped to respond to new challenges can the wealth of voluntary sector organisations across the County maximise the positive impact that they have on local communities.

## **WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES**

6. The work of the Community and Voluntary Sector Team underpins the Council's commitment to building on its reputation of working in partnership with the community and voluntary sector to help build local capacity. The range of activities which officers are involved in seek to help to drive programmes with communities to deliver local solutions and move towards providing services in a different way.
7. 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.
8. This work includes a focus on moving 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, examples include; The Haven in Stapleford, Newstead Welfare, Pleasley Landmark in Mansfield, The Centre for Sports and Learning in Manton and The Crossing in Worksop.
9. Building confident and stronger communities is especially important within the current climate and the Team have been working with different communities to help support local activities which bring individuals together to celebrate the uniqueness of localities, for example, Manor Park Play Area celebration, Porchester Forum Festival, Friends of Bellamy Fun Day and Ashfield Gala.
10. Through the Community & Voluntary Sector Team, 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. Appendix 1 to this report highlights how this will be taken forward.

## **COMMUNITY COHESION**

11. The County Council has a duty to promote community cohesion across Nottinghamshire and is committed to supporting communities through working in partnership with the Voluntary Sector and other stakeholders to facilitate and enable different groups of people to get on well together. A key contributor to community cohesion is integration, which is what must happen to enable new residents and existing residents to adjust to one another to promote equal participation in wider society.
12. Through the delivery of all its services the Council's role in fostering integration is an important element of a cohesive community which is a priority. To help support this priority, £7,000 has been ring-fenced from the Community Safety initiatives budget to support activities across Nottinghamshire. The Community & Voluntary Sector Team have worked with communities to develop projects and activities which encourage residents to take a positive stance towards ensuring that integration occurs within their own communities.
13. The activities and projects being supported promote integrated and cohesive communities to enable people from different backgrounds to have similar life opportunities, to know and understand their rights and responsibilities alongside trusting one another and trusting local institutions to act fairly. Activities and projects have aimed to promote: A shared future vision

and sense of belonging; a focus on what new and existing communities have in common, alongside a recognition of the value of diversity and the promotion of strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds.

14. These activities and projects are:

Activity/project	Area
Eastern European / British intergeneration celebration.	Manton
A programme of sessions, linking with Mind the Gap which enables parents to read with children in primary schools about different backgrounds and getting to know about and understand different cultures.	Newark & Sherwood
Promoting integration - in the three Connecting Communities sites, supporting resident-led work to address the issues identified through the current 'Listening' events taking place in each area.	Ashfield Gedling
Gypsy and Traveller event - to celebrate Gypsy, Roma Traveller History Month through a variety of events during June 2015. The aim is to raise awareness of the local population and also current issues, including a joint partnership event taking place at Southwell Minster hosted by Southwell Diocese.	Countywide
<p>Photo Booth Project - This project will bring together students from Alderman White School and young adults who have Learning Disabilities with members of the Age UK Men in Sheds project to build a Photo Booth. The plan is to build the photo booth which will be launched at the Broxtowe Community Celebration event in June 2015. The photo booth will be used to interview people who attend the event to get their thoughts and to evaluate the event.</p> <p>The project will be overseen by a Youth Tutor from the County Youth Arts Team who will support them with the design, interview techniques and IT skills needed. It is anticipated that groups will be able to use the Booth at lots of different events and in different contexts - both as evaluation and consultation tool.</p>	Broxtowe and Countywide
Promoting cohesion through joint work with inter—faith communities to run an event to invite people in their places of worship to demonstrate peaceful intent across faiths.	Broxtowe

Activity/project	Area
<p>Promoting inclusive and cohesive communities Super Kitchen Social Eating Space model to various community groups across Broxtowe as a way of bringing people together in local communities and across the Borough.</p> <p>Super Kitchens are social spaces where surplus food is shared and eaten 'like a family'. The benefits of these social eating events include increased feelings of inclusion and well-being, development of informal support networks, modelling table manners and the more obvious delivery of a high-quality hot meal to those who may be struggling to nourish themselves through lack of education or ability. Super Kitchens are affiliated to Fare Share and the meals are cooked using surplus food which would otherwise go to waste and ultimately into landfill.</p>	Broxtowe Workshop
Mansfield myth busting and intergenerational celebration of diversity with Eastern European and British families.	Mansfield

15. Further work is being developed to promote community cohesion as outlined in Appendix 1 to this report.

### Other Options Considered

16. The report sets out how the Council priorities are being addressed.

### Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. To inform Members of Community Safety Committee / Grant Aid Sub Committee of work undertaken to support and the community and voluntary sector in Nottinghamshire

### Statutory and Policy Implications

18. 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

19. To note the work undertaken by the Community and Voluntary Sector Team including projects to support community cohesion.

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#### **Constitutional Comments (SLB 01/04/2015)**

This report is for noting only.

#### **Financial Comments (SES 01/04/15)**

The financial implications are set out in the 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'

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Working with Communities Delivery Plan 2015 – 2016**

**Provision of a package of support for community organisations with the aim of increasing the capacity of community groups and organisations at all levels and stages to effect change and contribute to the sustainability of their communities.**

ACTIVITY	KEY ACTIONS	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	NCC RESOURCES
<b>Promoting sustainability by Providing effective community support</b>	<p>To provide bespoke support to up to 200 community groups and organisations across the county.</p> <p>The nature of this support will vary depending on the particular needs or circumstances of the participating groups but may include; advice, guidance and signposting, access to tools and resources, training delivery, mentoring and practical support, and networking.</p>	<p>Groups which are operating in areas of disadvantage or that are facing high levels of exclusion or disadvantage, and/or have a commitment to tackling disadvantage or inequalities have access to support and advice.</p> <p>Groups who are going through a period of transition or change within their organisation are motivated to work with others and share their own experiences and learning are engaged and supported.</p>	Community and Voluntary Sector Team
<b>Capacity building in communities</b>	<p>Support to programmes and/or projects which equip people with the skills, knowledge and expertise needed to help them contribute to their changing communities.</p>	<p>Skills, knowledge and confidence are developed through learning and training opportunities.</p> <p>Networking and participation in different support forums, best-practice visits and exchanges.</p> <p>Developing organisational structures, systems and mechanisms for managing projects, staff, buildings, etc.</p>	Community and Voluntary Sector Team

**Provide support to build organisational capacity to help ensure that voluntary and community sector organisations (Voluntary And Community Groups) are sustainable and can respond effectively and efficiently to local needs, in the context of diminishing resources**

ACTIVITY	ACTION	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	NCC RESOURCES
<b>To help identify and develop new income streams that are sustainable as an increased proportion of funding comes from short term projects and contracts.</b>	<p>Facilitate Voluntary And Community Groups to horizon scan and maintain an ongoing awareness of the context and environment in which they operate.</p> <p>This includes a continued understanding of and responsiveness to the needs of local residents, service users and carers, which is evidence based.</p> <p>Enable Voluntary And Community Groups to analyse the current market and future commissioning intentions within the Council and wider economy, and ensure that Voluntary And Community Groups are equipped to position themselves to take on existing and new opportunities as appropriate, as well as respond to challenges.</p> <p>Facilitate the development of alternative delivery models (partnerships, joint ventures, consortia, digital delivery).</p>	<p>Voluntary And Community Groups are enabled to demonstrate their social, economic and environmental value/impact and respond to performance frameworks when services are commissioned.</p> <p>Voluntary And Community Groups are enabled to put effective governance structures in place to run their organisations effectively, and advice provided on where to improve these practices.</p> <p>Voluntary And Community Groups are enabled to access different income streams and leverage funding from a range of sources to ensure their financial viability including ensuring that effective planning and financial management systems and processes are in place.</p> <p>Organisational capacity, capability and skills are increased.</p>	Community and Voluntary Sector Team
<b>Identify and understand the future needs of voluntary and community sector</b>	<p>Enable Voluntary And Community Groups to work together with the public sector to develop a long-term vision for the VCS, while recognising that funding and maximising opportunities are often short-term in nature.</p> <p>Sustain Voluntary And Community Groups capacity and capability to be innovative, including designing new approaches and being able to take prototypes to a larger scale of impact when they have been successful.</p> <p>Completion of the State of the Sector report in the Autumn.</p>	Capacity and capability is sustained and is innovative, including designing new approaches.	Community and Voluntary Sector Team

## Management and co-ordination of corporate grant aid programme and the promotion of volunteering

ACTIVITY	ACTION	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	NCC RESOURCES
<b>Effective support to grant aided groups</b>	<p>Commitment to 3 year agreements encouraging stability and longer term confidence</p> <p>Develop outcome focussed grant aid agreements which ensure that NCC funding contributes to service provision in the community which meets NCC's strategic priorities</p> <p>Liaison with funded groups thematically to share best practice, networking opportunities and minimise duplication</p>	<p>Effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place</p> <p>Grant aid investment is aligned with the Council's strategic priorities</p> <p>Funded groups are well informed and share their successes enabling grant aid to be targeted most effectively</p> <p>Consortia and alliances are supported within the VCS</p>	Community and Voluntary Sector Team
<b>Work with local infrastructure to support them to work collaboratively as convenors and brokers which link local communities to resources, information and support</b>	<p>Support the development of a redesigned infrastructure</p> <p>Review and refresh the role and remit of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group</p> <p>Development of a joint approach to engagement with the sector</p>	<p>Consortia and alliances are supported within the VCS infrastructure</p> <p>Local Infrastructure contributes to and supports community capacity building</p> <p>A strong effective relationship is maintained which helps facilitate and model new ways of working to effect change</p>	Community and Voluntary Sector Team
<b>Promoting volunteering</b>	<p>Work with grant aided groups to develop and maintain local sustainable volunteering opportunities</p>	<p>Skills, interests and expertise is matched with need</p> <p>Volunteers are supported and recognised for their time and effort</p>	Community and Voluntary Sector Team



## Promote community cohesion and community development

ACTIVITY	ACTION	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	NCC RESOURCES
<b>Undertake community development work to impact on local communities</b>	Identify key hot spots and possible interventions to prevent hate crime from happening in the first place: monitor current situations, manage any spike of hate crime and community tensions.	Increased levels of reporting of incidents. Reduced levels of victimisation. Increased victim satisfaction.	Community and Voluntary Sector Team
<b>Investigate social media in relation to hate crime and on-line victimisation</b>	Establish joint working with National Holocaust Centre, Nottingham universities and other bodies to understand cyber-crime and impacts on hate crime.	Increased levels of reporting of incidents. Reduced levels of victimisation. Increased victim satisfaction.	Community and Voluntary Sector Team