

Report to:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Relevant Officer:	Paul Greenwood, Chairman Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Council for Voluntary Services
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
Date of Meeting:	21 st October 2015

BLACKPOOL, WYRE AND FYLDE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To inform the Board of the objectives, purpose and value of a Third Sector Infrastructure Organisation (Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Council for Voluntary Service) and to request that fund holders consider funding to enable the Council for Voluntary Services to continue the work it has been undertaking for the last 81 years.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 That the constituent organisations represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board consider jointly funding the Blackpool element of Blackpool Wyre and Fylde Council for Voluntary Services in the sum of £150,000 per year to enable it to continue to function. This support is requested for three years (2016-2019).

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Council for Voluntary Services is a vital link between the Public Sector and the Third Sector.
- 3.2 It is necessary to undertake development work across the Third Sector.
- 3.3 Council for Voluntary Services enables good communication to take place within the sector and between the sector and other sectors.
- 3.4 Co-ordination of work within the sector to focus on strategic objectives is key to maximising the value of the Third Sector in difficult financial times.
- 3.5 The objectives and purposes of the majority of Third Sector organisations match

those of the Council and other Public Sector bodies.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

The Council currently commissions services from Council for Voluntary Services

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Not to offer funding. The Council for Voluntary Services would then cease to operate in Blackpool.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are

- Tackle child poverty, raise aspirations and improve educational achievement
- Safeguard and protect the most vulnerable
- Expand and promote our tourism, arts, heritage and cultural offer
- Improve health and well-being especially for the most disadvantaged
- Attract sustainable investment and create quality jobs
- Encourage responsible entrepreneurship for the benefit of our communities
- Improve housing standards and the environment we live in by using housing investment to create stable communities
- Create safer communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce

4.2 Council for Voluntary Services supports member organisations who contribute to all of these priorities.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Blackpool Wyre and Fylde Council for Voluntary Services has been in existence for 81 years. It seeks to co-ordinate and develop the work undertaken by the many organisations which make up the sector in Blackpool.

5.2 Funding a Third Sector infrastructure organisation is notoriously difficult. Over time many plans have been adopted to achieve the objectives of the organisation but

many have proved unsuccessful as they involve either very tightly written contracts which detail particular pieces of work or they stray from the core objectives of the Council for Voluntary Services. To gain maximum value from the organisation there needs to be an element of core funding which enables the organisation to exist and to have staff available to undertake not only the administrative tasks to keep the organisation functioning but also have the time to properly engage in the core activities.

5.3 The Aims of the Council for Voluntary Services are as follows:

1. To be an organization that is a flagship for best practice in the voluntary and community sector.
2. To be a high quality organization that attracts retains and values staff, volunteers and board members.
3. To be open and accountable to our stakeholders, and to communicate effectively with and between them.

5.4 The Core Functions of the Council for Voluntary Services are as follows:

1. Development. To support sustainable development in the voluntary and community sector.
2. Support. To provide the support which will underpin the functioning and develop the capacity of local voluntary and community groups.
3. Liaison. To develop and maintain links across the voluntary, community, statutory and private sectors and promote the ability for all sectors to engage in networking with each other.
4. Representation. To enable the diverse views of the local voluntary and community sector to be represented to local statutory bodies and others and, where appropriate, to be a conduit for this representation.

5.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.6 **List of Appendices:**

None

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 None

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The Council currently commissions Council for Voluntary Services to deliver its services, but this funding is only available on a rolling 12 month basis – in order to recruit and run the organisation effectively, a 3 year commitment, at £150,000 per year – split across Health and Wellbeing Board partners is sought.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The risk of a number of third sector organisations failing is difficult to quantify, but would have a significant impact on the Borough and the Council.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The Council is committed to supporting the third sector to grow and develop, to take over responsibility for delivering services that the council will no longer be able to deliver.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None