

DELGATED DECISION REPORT



CABINET MEMBER DECISION

28TH NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT TITLE	Strengthening commissioning opportunities for Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprises in Wirral
REPORT OF	COUNCILLOR JANETTE WILLIAMSON, PORTFOLIO AREA: Finance and Resources

REPORT SUMMARY

This proposed Project is to support the creation of more commissioning opportunities with Voluntary Community Social Enterprises (VCSE) organisations with Wirral Council.

- 1.1. Project Purpose; Tri-party partnership project; Wirral Council, Lloyds Bank Foundation and Capacity – the Public Services Lab all working in partnership, will identify compliant procurement routes, service models and support, which would enable Wirral Council to identify commissioning opportunities for smaller and more local VCSE organisations.
- 1.2. This is not a key decision. It does affect all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Cabinet Member note the report and authorise the Assistant Director of Commercial Management to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix 1).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

Local and VCSE organisations often have more meaningful relationships with communities which can provide(s) the best opportunity to deliver improved, effective, public services. Wirral Council wants to ensure as many of these organisations have a fair opportunity to secure public sector contracts.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None. This is a unique partnership opportunity with funding and resource contribution from the two organisations partnering with Wirral Council.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The key objectives of this project are:

- To develop models which will identify compliant procurement routes, service models and support which would enable Wirral Council to commission more small and local VCSE organisations.
- To produce a learning/evaluation report detailing the lessons learnt from this project which can be adopted by other authorities and public-sector commissioners across the UK.
- To produce a framework for other local authorities and public-sector commissioners to adopt and a feasibility report into the development of alternative and commissioning and procurement process.
- The objectives fit well within the strategic programme of community wealth building and Wirral Together.

Each of the partnership organisations will deliver the following actions as part of the project:

Roles of the 3 organisations within this project;

Wirral Council:

- Provide access to upcoming contracting opportunities to understand barriers for small and local organisations and identify suitable solutions.
- Provide feedback on any recommendations produced by partners from the perspective of a Public-Sector Commissioner.
- Provide funding support over next 18 months towards the delivery of the project objectives.

Lloyds Bank Foundation: an independent charitable trust funded by Lloyds Banking Group

- Provide advice on funding situations across England which could be incorporated into a framework for other public-sector commissioners to adopt.
- Provide funding support over next 18 months towards project delivery and outcomes.

Capacity – The Public Services Lab: a joint venture organisation with the aim of supporting the commissioning and procurement of VCSE organisations.

- Provide staffing resource member who will lead on the project undertaking all consultation and development work between partner organisations and co-produce the final report and framework working with Wirral Council.

4.0 PROPOSED PROJECT APPROACH

The project will have 4 stages: The duration of the project is 18 to 24 months.

Stage 1

Desk-based research on circa 1,400 VCSEs in the context of Wirral, Capacity and Wirral Council Procurement team will identify opportunities for the local VCSE organisations to deliver support activities to local residents, the VCSE's will have the potential to deliver commissioned services for Wirral Council.

Stage 2

Each organisation will be asked to complete an online organisational health check tool: Diagnostics by Capacity. Capacity will work with procurement team at Wirral Council to understand the key issues that provide commissioning a VCSE organisation a pathway to opportunity in Wirral.

Stage 3

The health check tool measures organisations against the following criteria:

- Governance • Finances and sustainability • Operations and Resources • Development Enterprise support plans.

Stage 4

Capacity and Wirral Council will present a final report, which presents best practice in engagement and development between VCSE and Public Sector in Wirral.

Wirral Council and Capacity will host an event to launch the findings of the report and supporting framework

It is anticipated that this report to be promoted across the Liverpool City Region and nationally across commissioning and procurement teams, to support the wider replication of the key learning from this work.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This is a partnership with finance and resources contributions from the two partner organisations. The Council have identified a budget to support this initiative, total contribution from Council is £30k. Lloyds Bank Foundation Trust to provide £65k and Capacity – The Public Services Lab to provide project management resource for the duration of the project and delivery of the project outcomes.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No legal implications

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

Staffing for this project will be provided by one of the partner organisations. No impact on ICT or assets.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Project may not deliver the outcomes set out to achieve. To mitigate this there will be robust project management in place with key actions, milestones and project meetings to ensure the project meets its objectives.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

This report has been subject to an internal consultation process with officers with commissioning and procurement responsibilities, within the Council.

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of this project is to seek to address or provide support to areas of inequality for a range of local VCSE groups.

Equality Impact assessment completed and will be reviewed at key milestones in the project.

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Background Papers;

1. Project Memorandum of Understanding
2. Project Methodology

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date