

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts & Communities Committee - 1 July 2009

REPORT ON: Service Level Agreement with Dundee Voluntary Action - Year 2 Financial Support

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 307-2009

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for a grant award to Dundee Voluntary Action as part of a three year Service Level Agreement.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve payment of £41,448 to Dundee Voluntary Action following the satisfactory assessment of the Service Specification contained in Schedule 1 of the Agreement during 2009-2010.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost will be met from the Leisure and Communities Department's 2009-2010 Revenue Budget.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Following a review of departmental roles and responsibilities, it was agreed in August 2007 that Lead Department responsibility for the Council's liaison with DVA should transfer from the Social Work Department to the Leisure and Communities Department (Ref Committee Report No 350-2007).
- 4.2 This decision was made to take account of the changing role of DVA, which began life in 1953 as Dundee Council of Social Service and has since evolved into an organisation whose primary aim is to promote the interests and serve the needs of the voluntary sector in Dundee.

5.0 MAIN TEXT

- 5.1 The new Service Level Agreement adopted in August 2007 fully reflects the role of DVA as a Community Planning Partner. The Agreement sets out how DVA will undertake to provide facilitation, communication, and representation and development services to enable local voluntary sector organisations to engage effectively with Dundee City Council and the Dundee Partnership.

- 5.2 The service specification requires DVA to deliver the following:

Service Specification 1 - Representation of the voluntary sector on strategic planning and partnership bodies. This year has seen DVA continue to maintain representation at top levels of the Dundee Partnership in 5 out of 6 of the strategic themes. The planned survey of the voluntary sector locally on Council for Voluntary Service effectiveness has not taken place due to staff shortages. This will now form part of the overall consultation on Scottish Government plans to create local Third Sector Interfaces.

Service Specification 2 - Development and implementation of the Dundee Compact.

The Compact has been endorsed by the City Council. The functions of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group are to be merged within the remit of the compact Partnership, chaired by DVA. The Compact Partnership will take the lead in progressing discussions on development of the Third Sector Interface.

Service Specification 3 - Development and support of voluntary sector Forums. Overall, DVA has successfully supported a wide range of forums which relate directly to strategic themes of the Community Plan. A number of changes are recommended to improve representation and participation in these forums e.g. that voluntary sector input to the CHP should be addressed through integration of the Compact for health with the Dundee Compact. DVA has also redeveloped its website to improve access to information on Partnership themes.

Service Specification 4 - Leading and supporting the development of the Social Economy Partnership and Forum. The Social Economy Partnership has not met regularly this year, but it has made progress in a number of key areas identified in the action plan e.g. creating links to Tayside Social Enterprise Network, organising a number of training events and a study visit for local social entrepreneurs. Priorities for the coming year include linking the SEP to development of the Third Sector Interface and exploring potential to set up a multi-agency group on procurement of service contracts.

Service Specification 5 - Participation in the development of local community learning and development initiatives and representation on the Community Learning and Development Partnership. DVA has collaborated successfully with VCD on joint training and publicity. A new staff member has been recruited to work on delivery of the Community Capacity Building programme and the work of the Crackin' Youth Work Forum has been linked to the establishment of the Dundee Youth Work Partnership.

- 5.3 Regular assessment meetings between Dundee City Council and DVA have taken place and these have ensured effective delivery of the service specification during 2008-2009.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 The following background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report:

Dundee Voluntary Action Service Level Agreement.

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
15 June 2009