

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 13 August 2007

REPORT ON: Service Level Agreement with Dundee Voluntary Action

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 350-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek agreement to enter into a Service Level Agreement with Dundee Voluntary Action (DVA).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 remit to the Director of Leisure and Communities to agree to the terms of a Service Level Agreement between Dundee City Council and Dundee Voluntary Action from 1 April 2007 until 31 March 31 2010 for the provision of facilitation, communication, representation and development services to enable local voluntary sector organisations to engage effectively with Dundee City Council.
- 2.2 approve annual payment of £41,448 to Dundee Voluntary Action upon satisfactory provision of the Service Specification.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Agreement will involve annual payment of an agreed sum which will be met from the Department's Third Party Payments budget for 2007-2008.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sustainability

Adopting this Agreement will improve the Council's ability to engage effectively with the voluntary sector and to involve these organisations in working together to achieve the Community Plan's underpinning principles of sustainability, social inclusion and active citizenship.

4.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

None required

4.3 Anti-Poverty

Adopting this Agreement will contribute to the following key policy objectives for tackling poverty and social exclusion:

- delivering services which meet the needs of groups or people who are likely to be poor or excluded
- developing participation in society
- Empowerment through participation in decision-making and collective action.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Agreement will set out specific requirements that DVA shall provide the services specified in a manner which complies with statutory requirements on Equality and Human Rights, promotes equality and monitors provision of its services to socially excluded groups.
- 5.2 The EQIA Screening has shown no evidence of adverse impact on Equalities groups, and the SLA performance will be monitored regularly against the Equality and Diversity Performance Indicators to ensure that the needs of these groups are taken into account in delivery of its service specifications.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 As a result of a review of departmental roles and responsibilities, it has been agreed that Lead Department responsibility for the Council's liaison with DVA should transfer from the Social Work Department to the Leisure and Communities Department.
- 6.2 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 a current membership organisation whose primary aim is to promote the interests and serve the needs of the voluntary sector in Dundee
- 6.3 The SLA will fully reflect the role of the DVA as 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.
- 6.4 The service specification will require:
- representation of the voluntary sector on strategic planning and partnership bodies.
 - development and implementation of the Dundee Compact.
 - development and support of voluntary sector Forums.
 - leading and supporting the development of the Social Economy Partnership and Forum.
 - participation in the development of local community learning and development initiatives and representation on the Community Learning and Development Partnership.
- 6.5 Adoption of a new SLA will allow for a more direct link between the community planning, community learning and development and community engagement functions of the council and the key values and objectives of DVA.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistance Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its contents. The Chief Executive, DVA, has been involved in the development of the SLA.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
6 JUNE 2007