



ROCHDALE
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
COUNCIL

ITEM NO. CC107

Subject: *Review support for the Community and Voluntary Sector Service*

Cabinet Member: Councillor Jean Hornby

1. RECOMMENDATIONS / DECISION REQUESTED

- 1.1. It is recommended that the existing contract with Rochdale Council for Voluntary Services is terminated on 31 March 2013.
- 1.2. It is recommended that members approve the proposed budget saving of £135k for voluntary and community sector infrastructure support (this represents a 50% saving on the current budget).

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The current contract for voluntary and community sector infrastructure support is due to end. This gives the Council the opportunity to reconsider the support it wishes to provide the sector, as well as making a significant financial saving.

3. ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1. **To cease commissioning infrastructure support for the community and voluntary sector entirely** – this is a valid option and would generate a total saving of £270k per annum for the council. However, the vision of the Council's blueprints is to encourage greater involvement of the third sector in service-delivery and increased levels of volunteering. It is likely that the council may still wish to commission some support for the sector to help with this agenda.
- 3.2. **To re-commission infrastructure support for the community and voluntary sector at current budget level** – This option is not recommended as elements of the previous specification are no longer relevant so any new contract is likely to have fewer requirements, and expected to be at a lower cost.

4. BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

- 4.1. In 2009, the Council tendered a three-year contract to provide support for the borough's voluntary and community sector. Rochdale Council for Voluntary Services (RCVS) was the successful bidder. The contract with RCVS was due to end in March 2012 and infrastructure support re-commissioned by the Council. However, as the council was in the process of developing its 'blueprints' and vision for 2014/15 it was decided to extend the current contract with CVS whilst future requirements were determined.
- 4.2. Several elements of the original tender specification are no longer necessary as they are now delivered in a different way or have been superseded (e.g. support for social enterprises; voluntary and community network for the Local Strategic Partnership). The development of the council's blueprints has meant that some elements of the previous specification are now more important but could be commissioned and/or delivered in a different way e.g. support for volunteering. As a result, the current level of infrastructure support for the community and voluntary sector is no longer required.
- 4.3. There is now an opportunity to review the nature and level of support the Council wishes to provide to the third sector. At the same time, and given the council's financial position, it is possible to make a saving of £135k. This will mean that some budget is retained in order to commission any new support. If it is felt that the council does not need to commission any new support, following the review, then a further saving can be made.

5. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN / REQUIRED

- 5.1. Consultation will be required with Rochdale CVS as well as the organization being given notice to terminate the contract in March 2013.
- 5.2. Consultation with the wider voluntary and community sector will also be necessary, in line with the voluntary sector compact. The Council's Voluntary Sector Partnership will be consulted along with the community centres network. In addition it is intended to arrange some workshop sessions with the sector during the consultation period to help identify future support needs and to consult on this proposal.
- 5.3. Consultation will also be undertaken through the corporate community consultation process and this method will be promoted to a range of organizations and groups that may want to express their views.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Theme: Savings from within budgets

6.2. Proposal Title: *Infrastructure support for the voluntary and community sector*

6.3. Breakdown of Savings from the Service

Service Name: Customers and Communities

Area of Service: Community Safety (Cohesion)

Cost Centre affected:

Is this a cost or additional saving: additional saving

	Savings 2013/14 £000		Savings 2014/15 £000		Total Savings £000	
	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off
Employees						
Other Costs	135				135	
Income lost (Show as minus)						
Net Savings	135				135	
Additional Income Generated (show as a positive figure)						
Total Savings	135				135	
Implementation Costs						
Total Savings less Implementation Costs	135				135	

The saving proposed represents a 74% reduction in the budget for voluntary and community sector infrastructure support.

6.4 Financial Impact on another service? No direct impact

6.5 Details of the Financial Impact on another service

Not applicable

6.6 Voluntary Sector Financial Impact

The immediate impact of this proposal would be a reduction in funding of £135k to the borough's voluntary and community sector. This will have a direct impact on the Rochdale CVS. It will also have an indirect impact on the wider sector as the infrastructure commission includes support for business planning and helping organizations source grants/other funding. However, other sources of external funding

are available to the borough's community and voluntary sector, such as Big Lottery. In addition to the formal and informal support provided to the third sector by local organisations there is also a wealth of information and advice available from national organisations and online.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1. The proposals within this report do not have any staffing implications for the council.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There is a risk that by terminating the infrastructure support contract that the borough's voluntary and community sector will no longer have access to sector-specific information, advice and guidance. This could mean that the development of local organisations is adversely affected. However, CVS does have access to other funding sources so should continue and other organisations can provide these services in a different way (e.g. online rather than face-to-face).

10. ASSET IMPLICATIONS

10.1

10.2

11. JOINT WORKING

11.1 Rochdale CVS has a history of working with the Council and through the Local Public Services Board to help deliver on the borough's priorities. The termination of the infrastructure support could affect the extent to which it can continue to do this.

12. EQUALITIES IMPACTS

12.1 Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment

This proposal has no staffing implications and therefore there are no workforce equality issues arising from this report.

12.2 Equality/Community Impact Assessments

A community impact assessment needs to be completed.

13. VOLUNTARY SECTOR IMPACTS

13.1 The impact on the voluntary sector is outlined in section 6.6 above.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Infrastructure Support Tender Specification (2009)	Floor 4, Municipal Offices