

## REVIEW OF SUPPORT TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Report By: Director of Policy and Community

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To consider the outcome of the review of support to the Voluntary Sector.

### Financial Implications

2. These would depend on the extent to which reductions in this area are required by the Budget Panel.

### Background

3. When the Council was established in 1998 the Voluntary Sector grant regimes of the outgoing authorities were brought together and some work was undertaken to try to achieve consistency in application and approach. In broad terms there is direct support in excess of £500,000 made available to the Voluntary Sector through a combination of "one off" grants and service level agreements. The Council has protected this sum and uprated it for inflation.
4. Over the period since 1998 there has been a move towards longer term funding arrangements with a number of organisations being designated as "strategic". These fall across the work of the Council and into a number of categories e.g. Arts, Youth, General Support agencies. In making this move the sums channelled through SLAs now total approximately £360,000 and "one off" grants £165,000.
5. The review of support to the Voluntary Sector was most recently considered by the Strategic Monitoring Committee at its meeting on 9th February, 2004. It built on earlier work commenced in the Social and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee because the majority of grants are distributed through the Policy and Community Directorate.
6. The scope of the review is set out in Appendix 1 and the full review report is attached as Appendix 2.

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the recommendations as set out in the Executive Summary of the review of Council support to the community and voluntary sector be approved and forwarded to Cabinet for consideration and also made available to the Budget Panel.**

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Jane Jones, Director of Policy and Community on 01432 260037