

ASSEMBLY

30 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

Title: Community Cohesion Scrutiny Review	For Decision
<p>Summary: The Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee (SSCSC) has completed its in-depth review of how the Council can support the Voluntary and Community Sector in building community cohesion. The Select Committee's report is attached as Appendix A.</p> <p>The SSCSC met between July 2010 and January 2011 to gather evidence through reports, presentations and community consultation. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Part C, Section H, paragraph 8, the final report setting out the SSCSC's findings and recommendations was agreed at its meeting on 19 January 2011 and was submitted to Cabinet on 15 March 2011 for information and comments. The Cabinet asked a number of questions of clarification, and then generally welcomed the report, placing on record the Cabinet's appreciation of the work of the Select Committee. A note of the items of clarification appears at Appendix B.</p> <p>In relation to the recommendations adopted by Assembly, the SSCSC will then ask service providers to respond with detailed comments, including impacts, risk and timescales, and provide an implementation action plan.</p> <p>At six monthly intervals a report from the service providers setting out the progress of the implementation plan will be presented to the SSCSC for monitoring purposes until all recommendations have been addressed to its satisfaction.</p> <p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Recommendation</p> <p>The Assembly is recommended to adopt the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee's recommendations as set out in the report.</p>	
<p>Reason</p> <p>To assist the Council to achieve its Community Priority 'Fair and Respectful'.</p>	
<p>Comments of the Chief Financial Officer</p> <p>It is envisaged that recommendations adopted within this report can be contained within existing council wide budgets and resources.</p>	
<p>Comments of the Legal Partner</p> <p>There are no specific legal implications arising from this report</p>	
<p>Risk Management</p> <p>This review helps to inform and support the mitigation already planned and in place in respect of Corporate Risk 24.</p>	

Customer Impact

The review considers possible ways to assist voluntary and community organisations in building community cohesion.

The report particularly considers issues relating to faith groups, and young people, and the recommendations have been informed by consultation with relevant organisations. However, most of the recommendations have been framed in such a way that it is intended that they will have positive benefits for all groups in the community, rather than singling out any particular groups.

Recommendation eight, in particular, was proposed by the Committee taking into consideration the potential needs of disabled people to ensure they are not disadvantaged.

The Committee will be asked that progress against the recommendations be reported back in six months where particular consideration will be given to ensure that a range of different equality groups have benefited.

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