

 15th October 2008		Agenda Item No.
Title:	The Development of the Third Sector Development	
For further information about this report please contact	Bernadette Allen	
Service Area	Community Partnership Team	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Not considered at previous meeting	
Background Papers	None	

Contrary to the policy framework:	Yes/No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	Yes/No
Key Decision?	Yes/No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes/No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	24/09/08	Chris Elliott
Chief Executive	24/09/08	Chris Elliott
CMT	24/09/08	Mary Hawkins and Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	24/09/08	Mary Hawkins
Legal	24/09/08	Simon Best
Finance	24/09/08	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	24/09/08	
Consultation Undertaken		
Please insert details of any consultation undertaken with regard to this report.		
Initial consultation was undertaken with the Local Area Agreement - Stronger Communities Partnership Group.		
Final Decision?		Yes/No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the developments in the local Third Sector and introduces the draft Third Sector Strategy

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That members note and comment on the draft Strategy (see Appendix 1).
- 2.2 That Members agree to the Council's involvement in developing a joined-up public sector approach to supporting the voluntary and community sector, and development of volunteering.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In 2006 the County Council developed and adopted a five year Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy, which Warwick District Council signed up to. While much has been achieved through this strategy, local and national developments provide opportunities to build on this work to develop a single strategy through which Warwickshire's public sector can work together in support of a thriving and diverse voluntary and community sector.
- 3.2 In response to these developments, it proposed that the Council develop a joint 'Third Sector Strategy' with public sector partners through the Stronger Communities Partnership, which reports to the Public Service Board.
- 3.3 One key area of work within the Third Sector Strategy will be around the simplifying funding arrangements. More specifically, the county, district and borough councils in Warwickshire and partners are moving towards jointly commissioning key voluntary services which have previously been supported through 'core funding' arrangements.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered as the focus of the proposal is around the development of a joined up approach by public sector partners, to developing a thriving Third Sector in Warwickshire.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 The work will be undertaken within the existing budgetary allocation in the Community Partnership Team, more specifically through the Community Development budget.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 This development links into the Local Area Agreement - Stronger Communities Partnership Group.
- 6.2 The development of the strategy and related action plan will contribute to the delivery of the Districts Sustainable Community Strategy.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The Government's ChangeUp Strategy aims to ensure that high quality, consistent and sustainable support services are available for voluntary and community groups across the county by 2014.
- 7.2 In Warwickshire, support services for the voluntary and community groups have tended to be generously funded by the local public sector (in comparison with other local authority areas), and the total value of this is over £750,000 per annum.
- 7.3 There is a recognition within both the voluntary and public sectors that we do not currently achieve 'best value' for this investment, because:
- support services for voluntary organisations are fragmented through a variety of organisations, many of which also provide other types of services (e.g. direct services for individuals and/or support services for other types of organisation)
 - support services are supported through a variety of funding streams.
- 7.4 In response to this, Coventry and Warwickshire's voluntary and community sector support services have formed the Coventry and Warwickshire Infrastructure Consortium (CWIC), with the aim of ensuring better co-ordinated and more sustainable support to voluntary and community groups.
- 7.5 Four of CWIC's member organisations (Nuneaton and Bedworth CVS, Warwick District CVS, Rugby Borough CVS and Rugby Borough Volunteer Centre) have now dissolved and their functions and assets transferred to a new organisation Warwickshire Community And Voluntary Action (WCAVA). Warwickshire CAVA aspires to be a single umbrella body for Warwickshire's Voluntary and Community Sector.
- 7.6 Through the Stronger Communities Partnership Group, discussions have taken place around the idea of commissioning a single voluntary and community sector support service for Warwickshire through an open and competitive process.
- 7.7 The next steps following further discussions with partners, to present a further report to the Council's Executive Committee in December regarding:
- the approval of the Third Sector Strategy
 - the detailed proposals for commissioning support services for voluntary and community organisations.

Bernadette Allen
Community Partnership Team