



AGENDA ITEM:

SUMMARY

Report for:	Finance and Resources Overview & Scrutiny
Date of meeting:	4th June 2013
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Voluntary Sector Strategic Partner Organisation Arrangements and Consortium Development
Contact:	Andrew Williams, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership Author/Responsible Officer: David Gill – Group Manager (Partnerships, Policy and Communications)
Purpose of report:	To report on the DBC relationship with the voluntary sector Strategic Partner organisations and the development of a voluntary sector consortium
Recommendations	That Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note the contents of the report b) Re-affirm the Committee's commitment to supporting voluntary organisations to deliver social welfare activities in Dacorum c) Comment on the progress and developments outlined in the report
Corporate objectives:	Dacorum Delivers - Working with voluntary sector partners contributes to improved processes across the Council Building Community Capacity – voluntary sector organisations build community capacity through their work developing and supporting the well-being of local people
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> There is budgetary provision of £680,160 in 2013/14
'Value For Money Implications'	<u>Value for Money</u> Partnering with voluntary sector organisations allows the Council to enable a range of provision and 'quality of life' services to be delivered across the Borough at a minimal cost to the Council. Partnering with voluntary sector organisations

	provides significant social value
Risk Implications	There are no significant risks relating to this report.
Equalities Implications	There are no significant equality issues relating to this report
Health And Safety Implications	There are no Health and Safety Implications contained in this report
Consultees:	None
Background papers:	Cabinet April 2013 – “Implications of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012”
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	CSP – Civil Society Partnership

BACKGROUND

1. Voluntary sector organisations have played a significant role in local communities for many years and have always been very important to Dacorum Borough Council. The Council has an enviable record of financial and other support to the sector which has resulted in a thriving voluntary sector supporting local well-being.

2. The Strategic Partner programme was introduced in 2011 to provide more strategic and operational direction to our funded partners. Whilst not wishing to interfere with the day to day operations of the organisations it was recognised that the Council’s funding needed to contribute more directly to the Council’s corporate objectives. The existing Strategic Partner criteria are:
 - Partners must contribute to the council's objectives
 - Partners must demonstrate delivery against agreed outcomes;
 - Partners should have robust governance, evidence that the organisation is effective and be committed to deliver value for money.

Further criteria includes:

 - Supporting the development of small organisations in the borough;
 - Contributing to a positive reputation of the borough
 - Exploring the best use of property;
 - Setting standards for the welfare of volunteers
 - Membership of the Civil Society Partnership and working with others;
 - Sharing training
 - Working to develop the role of mutual organisations, social enterprises, etc

3. The Strategic Partner Programme was a major change from earlier grant aid schemes because it allowed the Council to be much more directive without crossing procurement boundaries. These arrangements reduce the need for specific performance indicators to be set. The Council’s existing Strategic Partners are listed at Annex A

4. Strategic Partner funding has been frozen at levels agreed in 2008/9. The Council has been very clear with organisations that there will be no additional funding given to the sector and any additional needs must be met from within the available budget. The Council is also considering other Council support given to some of the strategic partners:
 - The provision of Council property at peppercorn rents
 - National Non Domestic Rate Relief (NNDR)

THE CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP

5. The Civil Society Partnership (CSP) is an association made up of all the Council's Strategic Partner organisations that deliver social welfare services. The CSP acts in the best interests of the voluntary sector and works to keep the member organisations up to date with government policy, funding arrangements, local needs and developments in the sector.
6. Dacorum Borough Council is also a member of the Civil Society Partnership and this allows us to have meaningful strategic and operational conversations with our Strategic Partners.

THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR CONSORTIUM ("DACORTIUM")

7. One of the key issues facing the voluntary sector has been how to make the sector more sustainable. In an era of reducing funding and restricted financial opportunities the sector must find other funding sources to ensure its long term viability. The voluntary sector have worked together to form a consortium, which they have called "Dacortium". Dacortium has funding and trading arms which gives the potential to generate additional funds for the member organisations. Council officers have encouraged the development of the consortium as a method of developing financial sustainability. The Council is not a member of the consortium.
8. Dacortium will enable the voluntary sector to:
 - Take a greater role in service delivery in Dacorum
 - Develop potential for voluntary sector organisations to trade
 - Reduce reliance on their core grant from the Council
9. Dacortium's mission is to harness the power of collaboration to strengthen community based not-for-profit organisations by maximising sustainable funding opportunities, sharing resources and expertise and adding value to frontline service delivery. The consortium will provide financial support for the member organisations and has two main aims:
 - To bid for work that supports their objectives. Such work could be from Dacorum Borough Council but also others within the public sector, such as the newly formed Clinical Commissioning Groups, other local authorities, the police, etc.
 - To make applications to major funding streams on behalf of a wide range of organisations that can then use their combined expertise to deliver larger programmes of activity than they could as lone organisations

10. Dacortium is wholly owned and operated by the member organisations who will share the risks and rewards between them.
11. This Council's relationship with Dacortium will be on a contractual basis. The Council will not be a member of Dacortium although it may trade with the organisation through procurement or commissioning activities.

SOCIAL VALUE

12. At its meeting in April 2013, Cabinet approved changes to the procurement regulations to consider Social Value in the procurement of services. A result of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, it came into force on 31st January 2013. The Act introduced a statutory requirement for public authorities to have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with 'public services contracts' within the meaning of the Public Contracts Regulations.
13. Cabinet approved the Policy Statement on Social Value which says "the Council wants to use the opportunity the Act presents through procurement, and other related activities, to enable communities to become more resilient and reduce demand on public services. The Council aims to provide the delivery of services which are innovative, provide employment and business opportunities for its residents, make its communities stronger and more effective and keep its residents safe."
14. This Social Value Policy Statement is a major opportunity for voluntary organisations (and 'Dacortium') to play a major role in delivering public services in the future. By working more closely with private sector suppliers the voluntary sector has an opportunity to provide significant social value outcomes for Dacorum as partners in procurement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. Members are requested to note the content of the report and re-affirm the commitment to the voluntary sector. Members are specifically requested to comment on the direction of travel taken in developing financial sustainability for the sector.

Annex A

Strategic Partner Organisations Grants 2013/14

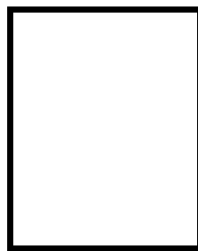
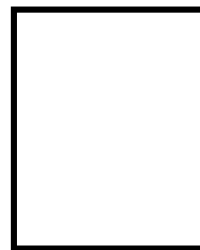
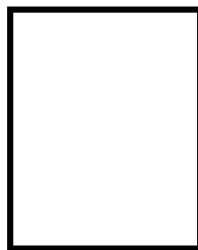
Organisation	£
Dacorum Citizens Advice Bureau	171,890
Community Action Dacorum	100,780
Dacorum Volunteer Centre	55,960
The Centre in the Park (HH Day Centre for the Elderly)	34,200
Relate	48,610
Age UK	40,950
Druglink	63,330

Urban Access	10,600
Herts Mediation Service	33,730
DENS (including Dacorum Rent Aid)	20,500
Dacorum Women's Aid	9,500
Shopmobility	42,000

Annex B



POLICY STATEMENT ON
SOCIAL VALUE



Dacorum Borough Council is required to consider how economic, social and environmental well-being may be improved by services that are to be procured, and how procurement may secure those improvements under the provisions of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

The Council wants to use the opportunity the Act presents through procurement, and other related activities, to enable communities to become more resilient and reduce demand on public services. The Council aims to provide the delivery of services which are innovative, provide employment and business opportunities for its residents, make its communities stronger and more effective and keep its residents safe.

The Council will adopt the “Dacorum Social Value Approach” that defines social value and identifies social value priorities that are specific to Dacorum.

The Council’s definition of social value is:

“Working in partnership to enable the communities of Dacorum to thrive and prosper through creating strong and well-connected public, private and social sectors that enable communities to be more resilient.”

The eleven key Social Value priorities from the Dacorum Social Value Approach are:

- Maintaining low crime rates
- Minimising waste and optimizing recycling rates
- Reducing CO₂ emissions
- Encouraging community involvement and self help
- Looking after the interests of the vulnerable and deprived
- Encouraging Corporate Social Responsibility
- Providing opportunities for development of Social Enterprises
- Promoting local economic growth
- Promoting skills, training and apprenticeships
- Promoting tourism
- Promoting equalities, health and well-being

These will support the Council’s vision and key priorities of:

- A Safe and Clean Environment
- Building Community Capacity
- Affordable Housing
- Regeneration and Economy
- Working in Partnership

The Council will, where relevant, seek to achieve these key Social Value outcomes through a range of activities.

In procurement activities the Council can use any of its social value priorities that are proportionate and relevant to the specification for the service required. Where appropriate the Council can ask bidders to detail and demonstrate the social value priorities that they can deliver when providing the service.

