

Report for: Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 29th November 2021

Title: Joint working with and support for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)

Report authorised by: Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director for Commissioning and Geoffrey Ocen, Chief Executive – Bridge Renewal Trust

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1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested a paper providing an update on how the Council works with the Voluntary and Community Sector for its 29th November meeting.

1.2 Key points raised by Committee members were:

- How the Council works with the local voluntary/community sector, is strengthening their capacity and working with them to attract external investment in the borough;
- How the Council is involving and supporting voluntary organisations to bid for services.

2. Recommendations

2.1 For the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to note the slides prepared to update the Committee on the Council's joint working with and support for the Voluntary and Community Sector.

3. Background information

3.1 The Council has commissioned the Bridge Renewal Trust to deliver a Voluntary Sector Strategic Partner service since 2016. The contract has provision for extension if required up to the end of 2022. The main aim of the Strategic Partner service (Community Impact Haringey) is to work alongside the Council to ensure the local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) is stronger, able to attract more external funding and best placed to support communities and meet the needs of all residents. The service provides support to the local voluntary sector, including capacity building support, volunteering development, support with funding bids and with building partnerships, providing communications to the sector and delivering events and networking opportunities.

3.2 The Council's Voluntary Sector Support team was created in summer 2020. Since then, the team has worked jointly with Bridge Renewal Trust colleagues to:

- Grow the voluntary and community sector support that's available, responding to the needs of the sector and providing additional capacity building support, volunteering development, resources and guidance
- Develop partnership working between voluntary organisations and Council teams – strengthening links between voluntary sector organisations, and between sector organisations and statutory services

3.3 The presentation to the Committee presents some highlights of the Strategic Partner and the joint team's work over the past year, including with:

- Funding and direct support
- Workshops and training
- Events and meetings
- Networks and relationships
- Resources.

3.4 The presentation to the Committee also presents examples of the Council's joint work with the Voluntary and Community Sector to attract external investment and to involve and support voluntary organisations to bid for services.

4. Use of Appendices

4.1 Presentation slides: **Overview & Scrutiny Committee:** Joint working with and support for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).