

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet

DECISION NO:

For publication

Key decision: Yes

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

To adopt the Civil Society Strategy and agree to fund the infrastructure offer set out in the strategy framework. This is an annual budget contribution of £700K over the 3 years of the strategy 2021-2024.

Decision:

As Cabinet we agree to adopt the Civil Society Strategy and commit to funding an infrastructure offer against the strategy framework over the life of the strategy 2021-2024. The relevant Cabinet Member(s) will take the decision on expenditure in line with delegations.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Civil Society strategy will replace KCC's existing VCS policy and set out the future relationship with civil society and the 'social sector', voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE), as a core part of that.

The strategy was previously consulted on between February and April 2020, however due to Covid the development of the strategy was paused. We have now revised the draft to reflect the events of the last year and ensure that it will still meet the challenges going forward.

The strategy sets out the objectives and intentions for KCC's future offer of infrastructure support to the VCSE. The funding agreed for this is £2.1m over the 3 years of the strategy; and will be allocated against the objectives and framework set out in Chapter 3 of the strategy. These are formulated around 4 themes, engagement, business support, volunteering and support to community-based projects and organisations.

The strategy also revises and reinforces the grant framework for the council, which was developed in 2015 and has been updated based on feedback from the past 6 years of operation. This is intended to create consistency and clarity in the way we award grants to the VCSE across the Council.

The strategy replaces the Kent Partners Compact, which was last revised in 2012 and sets out the principles of how we will engage and work with the VCSE in the future.

This is a supporting strategy to the Interim Strategic Plan and longer term, to the new Strategic Statement for the Council.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Discussed and agreed by P&R Cabinet Committee 9th November.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

N/A

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

Date: