5TH SEPTEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE EAST VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR (VCS) AREA NETWORK VCS PROGRESS REPORT

1.   Purpose of the Report

1.1   The report provides an update with regard to the East Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network.

2.   Background

2.1   To develop the capacity and influence of the VCS across the City, Area Networks have been established and delegates represent each Area Network at Area Committee taking forward issues on behalf of the whole VCS in the area, reporting on area priority delivery by the VCS, and reporting back, providing a two-way flow of communication.

2.2   East Area VCS Network delegates will present a report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

3.   East Area VCS Network Progress Report

3.1   The East Area VCS Network has met twice since the last Area Committee in June 2013.

- VCS Organisation who expressed an interest in supporting the Area Committee to deliver actions have been holding working group meetings on specific priorities / projects, to support the Area Committee / Boards in their work plans. This has involved:-
  i)   Supporting the better than basic signage project for the coastal path,
  ii)   Improving the visual appearance of the shopping centres across the East area, and
  iii)   Supporting the development of the on-line directory for adult social care, 50+ age group.
- VCS Area Networks have been consulted on the review of the library service to provide opportunities to inform new proposals for potential locations for book collections, reservations and outreach programmes and future use of community assets.
- The Network has been invited to contribute to discussions with regards to the City Council's VCS Relationship Transition Project. The project will consider how best the council can work with the sector to achieve joint objectives and priorities going forward.

4.   Recommendation

4.1   Members are requested:-
              (a) To note the contents of the report and consider the opportunities and issues raised by the East Area VCS Network.

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