

## Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

**Date: 10 March 2015**

Wards: All

### **Subject:**

Lead officer: Simon Williams, Director of Communities and Housing

Lead member: Councillor Edith Macauley, Cabinet member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission discusses and comments on the report and the updates on actions to implement the recommendations of the Scrutiny Task Group's Review of Volunteering in Merton.
- B. That the Commission provides advice and guidance on any other issues that would help improve volunteering in Merton.

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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Commission with updates on actions to implement the scrutiny task group's fifteen recommendations.

## **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission has agreed the recommendations detailed in appendix A following a task group investigating this subject and tasked relevant Council officers and their strategic partner, Merton Voluntary Service Council (MVSC), with the responsibility to implement the recommendations and report progress to elected members.
- 2.2. Appendix A outline the progress and issues to date.
- 2.3. It is suggested that a review of the Action Plan for the Volunteer Strategy 2015/16 would build on the reported successes and provide strategic direction for the next three years. This will build on the existing strategy and will incorporate the agreed actions arising from the recommendations of the Commission

## **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. A review of the Action Plan for the Volunteer Strategy 2015-16. Given the financial challenges faced by the Council and the reduction in the provision of non-statutory services by the local authority, volunteering is a key strategy available to the Council to help boost community involvement in the delivery of public services.

- 3.2. No review of the Action Plan for the Volunteer Strategy 2015/16. This would result in not fully benefiting from the many initiatives detailed in the documents accompanying this report. It would also limit the Council, MVSC and other partners' ability to explore opportunities to be derived from 3.1 above.

#### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. It is proposed that consultation on the review of the Action Plan for of the Volunteer Strategy 2015/16 be undertaken with the Council's strategic, community and business partners through the Merton Partnership and its other multi agency bodies.

#### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. It is suggested that the review of the Action Plan for the strategy take place during 2015. Existing work will continue while this takes place.

#### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. MVSC's Chief Executive and Head of Volunteering will work closely with the Director of Communities and Housing, LBM, to develop and implement the review of the Action Plan for the Volunteer Strategy. It is expected that it can be done within the existing resources between the council and MVSC.

#### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. Promotion of volunteering will assist the council in delivering statutory functions to a higher standard, and also supports the council's overall wellbeing duties.

#### **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. Volunteering is an important aspect of community cohesion

#### **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None specific.

#### **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. None specific

#### **11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- Appendix A. Recommendations of the scrutiny commission and actions against these recommendations

#### **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

#### **VOLUNTEER STRATEGY 2012-14**