

Meeting:	Performance and Finance scrutiny sub-committee
Date:	16 th November 2009
Subject:	Scrutiny Review of Voluntary Sector - Six Month Update
Responsible Officer:	Brendon Hills, Corporate Director Community and Environment
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Jean Lammiman – Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1: Update on actions to address recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny committee

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out an update on progress against the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report 'Delivering a Strengthened Voluntary Sector'.

Recommendations:

The Sub-Committee is requested to note the very positive progress on the recommendations of the 'Delivering a strengthened voluntary sector' report.

Reason: (For recommendation)

The Council has made good progress on actions to deliver against the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny committee report thereby supporting the delivery of a strengthened voluntary sector.

Section 2 – Report

Background

1. The Overview and Scrutiny committee undertook a review called 'Delivering a strengthened voluntary sector' during 2008. The final report made 22 recommendations, 21 of which were accepted by Cabinet in March 2009. This report provides an update on progress against these 21 recommendations.
2. Delivery of actions against these recommendations supports the council priority of 'Build Stronger Communities'.

Current situation

3. The table attached at Appendix 1 provides an update on actions that have been taken to address the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny committee.
4. Significant progress has been made against many of the recommendations. Appendix 1 shows that 12 of the recommendations are rated as green with only one with a current status of red. This progress has been achieved within a relatively short timescale as the recommendations were only adopted in March 2009, demonstrating the priority that these recommendations have been given within the council.
5. The recommendations cut across a number of service Directorates. The positive progress against all recommendations demonstrates that these are being actively pursued by the relevant service areas. The delivery of many of these actions has been undertaken through close partnership working and engagement of the voluntary sector in Harrow.

Financial Implications

6. Most of the progress on addressing the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny has not incurred any additional costs to the council except for recommendation 1. Funding for this action was identified through a growth item in the Medium Term Budget Strategy for 2009-10.

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No
Separate risk register in place? No

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not required for this report.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Kashmir Takhar, Interim Head of Service – Community Development, Tel: 020 8420 9331

Background Papers:

Appendix 1: Update on actions to address recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny committee

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	N/A
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES