

Resources Department  
Town Hall, Islington, N1 2UD

Report of: Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance  
Meeting of: Executive  
Date: 23 May 2024  
Ward(s): All  
Decision No. I028485

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## Subject: Executive Committee Arrangements

### 1. Synopsis

- 1.1. The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee was established as a committee of the Executive in March 2011, primarily to make decisions on the allocation of the newly established 'Islington Community Fund'.
- 1.2. The Islington Community Fund no longer exists in its original form and the majority of funding to the voluntary and community sector is now distributed via a four year grants programme. This change has reduced the business considered by the committee. In the last twelve months the committee has met 6 times, at three of these meetings there was only one agenda item. The average number of items over this period was two per meeting and one meeting was cancelled due to lack of business.
- 1.3. The Council recognises how important the voluntary and community sector is and has made a commitment in the [Islington Together 2030 Plan](#) to continue to '*work with and support local voluntary and community groups and organisations*'. Rather than leave this important area of work under a committee with declining business, it is proposed that the committee is disbanded and this work is carried forward in future by the Executive.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To agree to disband the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee
- 2.2. To agree to prioritise voluntary and community sector business, and related items, on future Executive agendas.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee has existed for over 12 years and in that time, the relationship between the Council and the sector and the arrangements for supporting the sector have changed considerably.
- 3.2. The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee no longer has sufficient business to give the sector's work the profile it deserves or to justify the resources required to support the committee. The business undertaken by the committee over the last 12 months could be added to the Executive agenda without causing difficulty.
- 3.3. The Executive agenda is divided under headings reflecting the Council's priorities. To ensure that work currently being undertaken by the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee has a strong presence in the Executive agenda, it is proposed that a new heading is created titled 'Voluntary and Community Sector' and that this is one of the first sections of the agenda following the Budget.
- 3.4. The Executive meets more frequently than the current Voluntary and Community Sector Committee so there will be greater flexibility in relation to when decisions can be made. Colleagues who are currently submitting reports to the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee will be supported during the transition to Executive arrangements.

## 4. Implications

### 4.1. Financial Implications

- 4.1.1. There are no financial implications arising from the proposal to disband the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee. The budget work for Committee Services will remain the same and the staff time that would have supported these meetings will be reallocated to support other meetings.

### 4.2. Legal Implications

- 4.2.1. The council has power to provide grants to voluntary and community sector organisations under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

4.2.2. The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee is a Committee of the Executive and has delegated authority, in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution:

*"1. To oversee the Council's engagement with the Islington community and voluntary sector and to ensure value for money and fairness in the allocation of council resources to the sector.*

*2. To be responsible for the allocation off the Islington Community Fund including:*

*a. allocating the VCS Partnership Grants Programme;*

*b. allocating the Advice Fund;*

*c. allocating the Local Initiatives Fund having regard to the recommendations of the relevant ward members/relevant ward partnership or neighbourhood group and on the basis that the funding will be allocated equally among the 16 wards making up the Council's area.*

*3. To receive updates on the allocation of funding by the Islington Community Chest Panel.*

*4. To review and, if necessary, withdraw funding to organisations where there is a potential breach of conditions of grant aid and/or service level agreement.*

*5. To consider the management, use and disposal of council owned buildings occupied by voluntary and community sector organisations and to agree the disposal or leasing of council owned properties to voluntary sector and community bodies including, where relevant, the rent to be set save that decisions referred to in Part 3 4.4(j) may be taken by officers with the relevant delegated authority.*

*6. To approve the annual budget proposed for the London Councils Grants Committee.*

*7. To make an annual report to the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee on its activities."*

4.2.3. The Executive or the Leader may discharge these functions under paragraph 2 of Part 3 of the Constitution:

*"2. Executive Functions*

*2.1 All functions of the Authority which are not the responsibility of any other part of the Authority, whether by law or, where the law provides a choice, under the Constitution (see Appendix 2), are the responsibility of the Executive.*

- 2.2 *The Leader may exercise those functions or may delegate those functions to the Executive, a Committee of the Executive or a joint committee, another local authority, an individual member of the Executive or officers. The exercise of executive functions may be further delegated where the law permits in accordance with Part 4 paragraph 55.4.*
- 2.3 *The allocation of executive functions shall be included in the terms of reference set out in Part 5 and the delegations to officers in Part 3 section 8.*
- 2.4 *If the Leader makes any changes to the allocation of functions and delegations they shall as soon as practicable either:*

- (i) report the change to the Council or:*  
*(ii) notify the Proper Officer of the change*

*And no change shall be effective until either (i) or (ii) has been complied with. The Proper Officer shall as soon as practicable report any change notified to them to the Council.”*

- 4.2.4. In addition, the Terms of Reference for the Executive in Part 5 of the Constitution stipulate that the Executive is responsible for the discharge of all functions of the authority which are not included in Appendix 2(i) or designated as non-Executive functions in Appendix 2(ii).

#### 4.3. **Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

- 4.3.1. There are no Environmental Implications arising from this report.

#### 4.4. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 4.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

- 4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report, because screening for the requirement to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment did not identify any impacts on individuals or groups with protected characteristics.

## 5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. It is recommended that the Executive disbands the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee and prioritises agenda items relating to the voluntary and community sector on future Executive agendas, to ensure that an appropriate level of priority is given to the work of the Voluntary and Community Sector.

**Appendices:** None

**Background papers:** None

**Final report clearance:**

Authorised by:

**Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance**

Date: 9 May 2024

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