



Community Leadership Committee

22 November 2017

Title	Review of the Community Participation Strategy
Report of	Councillor Longstaff, Chair of Community Leadership Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	No
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Summary

On 25 June 2014 the Community Leadership Committee agreed aims, objectives and proposals for development of the Community Participation Strategy and on 11 March 2015, it agreed a detailed implementation plan.

This vision of the Community Participation Strategy is to:

- Increase the level of community activity across the borough;
- Build stronger partnerships between the community and the Council;
- Coordinate and improve the support the Council gives to communities; and
- Help the Council take more account of community activity and preferences when making decisions about how to deliver against the Borough's priorities.

This is in order to realise the following outcomes:

- Residents and community groups will be more independent and resilient; able to deliver more, and to take on more responsibility for their local areas;
- Services will offer more choice, and be better matched to local need;
- The Council and the community will work together to make sure community capacity is supported and used to its full potential;
- People become more active, involved and engaged in their communities by unlocking the substantial capacity of both the council and local business' workforce and direct it to where it is most needed in the borough.

The implementation plan agreed by the Committee consists of six work streams. This is the third progress update to the Community Leadership Committee. This report provides an update of the Council's progress on the implementation of the Community Participation Strategy.

Recommendations

1. That Members note progress made and developments relating to the Community Participation Strategy
2. That Members feedback on options for the next phase of the strategy

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Barnet's Corporate Plan has a vision to build resilient and cohesive communities, which take on more responsibility for their local area and are involved in the design and delivery of local services.
- 1.2 This is not about the council shifting responsibility. It is about recognising that our diverse communities' and community groups' local knowledge, skills and networks enable them to play an important role in recognising local need and innovating to meet that need, working in partnership with the Council.
- 1.3 Indeed, voluntary, community and faith groups play a critical and valuable role in furthering of Community Leadership Committee priorities for safer communities, strong and active communities and emergency preparedness by:
 - Helping manage demand and relieve pressure on services;
 - Identifying, accessing and engaging hard to reach groups;
 - Providing more varied services;
 - Highlighting emerging issues and helping to plan future service provision according to emergent need.
- 1.4. In recognition of the strategic importance and value of a sustainable, resilient and collaborative civil society and socially responsible, empowered residents, a Community Participation Strategy was introduced in 2015 to support and coordinate community participation and engagement across council business.
- 1.5. At the same time as the introduction of the Community Participation Strategy, a VCS Charter was developed in partnership with the voluntary community sector (VCS) which provided a series of principles as a guide for how we want to work together.

1.6. By the end of 2017, the work programme outlined in the Community Participation Strategy will have been delivered.

1.7. This report provides an overview of the implementation of the Community Participation Strategy to date and suggests areas to focus from 2018 onwards.

2. Evaluation of the Community Participation Strategy

2.1. Overview

The vision of the Community Participation Strategy is outlined in the summary of this report.

The strategy is underpinned by six work streams, outlined below, and a work plan that is intended to support with the delivery of these work streams across the Council:

- 1. Improving our information about local communities**
- 2. Making more use of current community capacity**
- 3. Using our purchasing power**
- 4. Exploring the benefits of working locally**
- 5. Building relationships between the VCS and the Council**
- 6. Using our resources and assets**

An evaluation of the work plan and associated work streams is provided below:

Work stream 1: Improving our information about local communities		
Objective: Ensure that the right information is available about the services provided by VCS groups so that people are able to access the support they need, whether they do this directly or are signposted by the Council or another provider.		
Work plan deliverable	Objectives	Evaluation
Barnet Community Directory	<p>An online searchable directory of local community services to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help resident's access up-to-date information about support for their specific needs, improving their access to services and reducing the need for them to contact the Council directly; • Support collaboration and partnership working in the VCS, including smaller and less formal groups and sign post residents to their services; • Inform commissioning decisions based on the services that are available within the voluntary, community and faith sector. 	<p>The Barnet Community Directory launched in March 2017. 219 organisations have registered.</p> <p>VCS organisations are now required to sign up to the Directory after receiving a corporate grant or participating in the Council's rent subsidy approach, the Community Benefit Assessment Tool (CBAT). An outreach and engagement plan, led by Groundwork London with support from Re's Section 106 outreach workers, and the Prevention and Wellbeing Team's new Local Area Coordinators, is ongoing.</p> <p>A six month review in September 2017 led to Groundwork London introducing a new quality assurance process to improve the quality of the data. User experience research also informed a series of upgrade requests which have been shared with the designers as part of the Directory's second phase of development.</p> <p>Officers are involved in a wider review of directories being led by Capita.</p>
VCS forums (Communities Together Network, Family Services Practitioners Forum, Adult Prevention and Wellbeing Team's VCS Forum, Multi Faith Forum)	<p>An opportunity for the VCS and the wider partnership (council, health, police, education, businesses) to represent the needs of their service users, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network with other similar organisations; • Receive information on upcoming funding opportunities, emerging service needs, new data that can be used to support funding applications etc.; • Participate or deliver training and continuing 	<p>Community Participation and Engagement Network conducted a mapping exercise of various forums to help officers share information on the different VCS forums and avoid duplication, encouraging officers to sign post VCS contacts to the different forums.</p> <p>The Communities Together Network is the overall strategic forum for a borough-wide network of local partners, voluntary, charity, community and faith organisations and businesses</p>

	<p>professional development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise their profile. 	<p>who come together to discuss issues that are important to local residents. It works at both a reactive and proactive level.</p> <p>On a reactive level, the CTN coordinates a community response to events that affect community relations.</p> <p>On a proactive level, the CTN meets four times a year for the VCS to share intelligence on emergent needs of the communities that they represent and identify a partnership response. Regular newsletters to the CTN help keep members plugged in to upcoming events, training, workshops and funding opportunities to promote collaborative, partnership working across the borough.</p>
Consortia and lead provider arrangements	Facilitate effective partnership approaches to responding at a local level to local need, identifying duplication and gaps in service provision and launching partnership funding bids.	<p>Grahame Park Strategy Group's Theory of Change pilot led by the Colindale Communities Trust and the Wellbeing Hub led by CommUNITY Barnet with Chinese Mental Health are two neighbourhood level service development models that officers will monitor closely to see if approach can be applied elsewhere in the borough to coordinate local offer.</p> <p>West Hendon, Stronegrove and Dollis Valley housing regeneration schemes all have a locally constituted partnership bodies and deliver a local strategy with the voluntary sector which also contribute to coordinating the local offer, promoting partnership working and identifying any gaps in local provision.</p>
Community Participation and Engagement Network	Officer-led forum for Council staff who engage with the community, to share information, opportunities and challenges. Includes officer representation from across Council delivery units and commissioning group who work in partnership to further Community Participation Strategy objectives.	Taking place on a bi-monthly basis since March 2017, the network's membership has been growing. It is anticipated that the network will play a greater, coordinating role in the next phase of the Community Participation Strategy.

Work stream 2: Making more use of current community capacity		
Objective: Encourage local people to become more active, involved and engaged in their communities by unlocking the substantial capacity of both the Council and local business' workforce and direct it to where it is most needed in the borough.		
Work Plan Deliverable	Objectives	Evaluation
Voluntary Sector Development Partner contract: Empowering local communities - Volunteer brokerage service	Groundwork London's Volunteering Barnet service is commissioned by LBB through the Voluntary Sector Development Partner contract to act as the registered volunteering service for the borough. The objectives of the contract are to empower local people to become more active, involved and engaged, including through volunteering, in order to build their personal skills and capacity and that of the organisations for which they volunteer. Through the volunteer brokerage service the aim is to drive up the proportion of residents who volunteer regularly.	<p>Proportion of residents who say that they volunteer regularly increased from 23% (Spring 2016) to 30% (Spring 2017). This is above the England average of 22%¹.</p> <p>The borough's registered volunteering centre, Volunteering Barnet continue to meet their targets including an increase in number of volunteers by 250 per year and increasing the number of opportunities offered by the service each year.</p> <p>Effective partnership working between Volunteering Barnet and the voluntary, community sector has led to a coordinated volunteering offer in the borough e.g. collaborations with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BOOST Burnt Oak and Arts Depot Finchley to deliver frequent volunteer drop ins; ○ Volunteering Matters to deliver regular volunteer socials; ○ Barnet Homes to develop their employee supported volunteering offer of delivering pro bono training to the voluntary sector; ○ JVN to deliver joint training events; ○ Colindale Communities Trust delivering a volunteers fair in Grahame Park attracting 70 attendees; ○ Barnet communications team providing copy for the regular volunteering opportunities section. ○ Volunteer involving organisations in Barnet through their volunteer recruitment fairs and volunteer manager forums, intended to share

¹ [Community Life Survey](#), Department for Culture Media and Sport, 2017

		<p>best practice on volunteer management.</p> <p>Volunteering Barnet's placement rate is 31% compared to the national average rate for volunteer centres of just 14%².</p> <p>Volunteer surveys are conducted quarterly to obtain feedback from volunteers who have registered with Volunteering Barnet in the previous quarter, and identify any users who would like extra help to find a volunteer placement. 61% of respondents say that they are either Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the service.</p>
Voluntary Sector Development Partner contract: Support for and representation of the voluntary community sector	CommUNITY Barnet are commissioned by the Council as part of the Voluntary Sector Development Partner contract to provide organisational support and represent voluntary and community groups, charities and faith groups across the borough.	<p>CommUNITY Barnet deliver training and organisational support to voluntary, community and faith groups in Barnet to build capacity in charity governance, funding opportunities and organisational development.</p> <p>Through the CCG funded Wellbeing Hub, CommUNITY Barnet have been supporting the coordination of a neighbourhood level model that facilitates partnership approaches to respond at a local level to local need.</p> <p>Through the Adults Services funded Healthwatch Barnet contract, CommUNITY Barnet have been gathering patient-led feedback to improve healthcare provision in the borough.</p>
Crowdfunding	<p>Crowdfunding aims to empower the community to work in partnership with the Council to make a change. If a Barnet-based resident, community group or social enterprise has a great idea on how to bring people together, breathe new life into a public space, promote health and wellbeing, community cohesion or just make their local area a better place to be, the idea can quickly become a reality, in partnership with the community, through crowdfunding. This is a core part of the Council's goal of building more involved</p>	<p>Since it was launched in July 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crowdfunding has generated £218,973 of pledges from the community, with £14,180 of this being pledged by the council; • 19 community projects have been pitched since the launch and 6 of these projects have already reached their fundraising target, 5 of which did not require any financial contribution from the Council to reach their crowdfunding target;

² [UK Civil Society Almanac 2016](#) Volunteer Infrastructure NEVO

	and resilient communities – recognising that residents, business owners and communities want to be more involved in what happens in their local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A partnership with Middlesex University will partner crowdfunding projects with students looking to provide pro bono support including social media, fundraising, project management consultancy; • A members briefing was provided to councillors in September 2017, providing an overview of crowdfunding, as well as corporate grants and CIL funding as part of a wider conversation to help them raise awareness in their communities of funding available to support and facilitate community participation.
Employee Supported Volunteering	<p>Council employees are able to take up to two days a year to volunteer in the local community. The policy looks to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlock the substantial capacity of the Council's workforce for community benefit; allowing us to lead by example; • Promote stronger relationships between the Council and the local community; • Promote the Council's reputation as an employer, enhancing Barnet as a great place to work and helping us to attract and recruit the best employees; • Promote staff's health and wellbeing and opportunities for personal development. 	<p>The Employee Supported Volunteering policy was introduced in March 2016. Since then the policy has been promoted though</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An internal communications campaign during Volunteers' Week (1-7 June 2017); • A new intranet page on staff volunteering; • A Dementia Friends training session. <p>Officers plan to attend team meetings in autumn 2017 to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities open to staff and encourage wider take up. There will be a particular focus on skilled pro bono volunteering to support the VCS and provide professional development opportunities for our staff, taking learning from Barnet Homes's programme of staff-led training to the voluntary community sector.</p>
Volunteering Policy	Harnessing volunteer capacity is core to assets based commissioning and place based commissioning and through the volunteer policy and volunteer management toolkit, the Council seeks to create better support for people who currently volunteer in Council services, to make sure people who are willing to give up their time to for public service are supported in return.	A volunteer policy and volunteer management toolkit has been developed, in partnership with the officer-led Community Participation and Engagement Network and Volunteering Barnet. The aims are to provide general principles and guidance on the effective recruitment, management and use of volunteers in supporting public services. The next phase of the strategy can look at cascading the policy among the staff

		group.
Barnet Community web page	The Barnet Community webpage seeks to provide a one stop shop of information for residents and businesses that would like to get more involved with their community. The webpage also seeks to sign post voluntary, community and faith groups to support available to them in the Council and across the borough.	The Barnet Community webpage has been launched on the Council website which will be followed by an internal communication plan to raise the profile of the new webpage among the staff group for them to share with their community contacts.
Business Responsibility	<p>Business responsibility seeks to support the aims of both the Community Participation Strategy and the Entrepreneurial Barnet strategy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlocking additional community capacity and directing it to where it is most needed in the borough by providing local businesses with information and guidance on how they can use their skills and resources to tackle local challenges; • Ensuring businesses in Barnet can gain the established benefits of Corporate Social Responsibility. 	<p>An approach to business responsibility was developed which resulted in the business responsibility page on the Barnet Council website. The approach is about collecting and sharing good examples of business responsibility.</p> <p>The Barnet-based Ethical Business Network was launched in September 2017 providing accreditation for businesses that support their community and adhere to their ethical business standards for fair employment, community engagement and environmental sustainability.</p>
Barnet Together Communications Campaign	Launched in March 2017 with an interactive quiz, a borough-wide poster and social media campaign, the Barnet Together campaign sought to celebrate the contribution of Barnet's residents to the borough and to outline in simple, honest and practical terms how residents can do their bit for their communities to help themselves and our borough.	The Spring Residents Perceptions Survey reveals that the percentage of Barnet residents who say that they volunteer regularly has increased to 30% (Spring 2017) from 23% (Spring 2016). The positive RPS findings could have been influenced by the borough's targeted volunteering campaign, which was in field during the same period as the survey.
Community Right to Bid	Under the Localism Act, the Community Right to Bid allows eligible bodies to nominate a building or piece of land which they believe provides a service in the community to be listed as an 'asset of community value'. If the Council lists the nominated land, a restriction is placed on the land if the land is registered. If the owner wishes to sell the asset or to	14 sites have been registered as Assets of Community Value in Barnet since the legislation was introduced. The protections afforded by the legislation have been used to support community asset transfer, whereby Daws Lane was registered as an ACV prior to it being transferred to the NW7 Hub.

	<p>lease it for more than 25 years, then the owner is legally obliged to notify the Council (if the asset is not owned by the Council). The Council will then inform the nominating group which signals an interim moratorium period of six weeks where the nominating group or any other eligible community group may register an interest in bidding for the asset. If during the six weeks a local community group expresses an interest in taking on the asset and continuing its community use, then a full moratorium is triggered and the sale is delayed for a six month period. This is designed to give the community group the opportunity to raise funds to try to purchase the asset at market value.</p>	
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Work stream 3: Using our purchasing power		
Objective: As grant funding sources decline, we need to be able to commission services effectively from the local VCS if the sector is to remain sustainable. Increasing the number of VCS organisations from whom we commission services lets us build capacity and sustainability using money we would already be spending and increasing choice available to residents.		
Deliverable	Objectives	Evaluation
VCS Procurement Action Plan	<p>The VCS Procurement action plan sought to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of the benefits of commissioning from the local VCS and awareness of procurement opportunities; • Improve bidding practice of VCS organisations as well as council information on VCS expenditure. 	<p>In April 2016 the Procurement Board agreed an action plan to support our local voluntary and community sector through the procurement process.</p> <p>Since then, the following actions have been taken by procurement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tender process training workshops held at Barnet House in partnership with CommUNITY Barnet who identified providers to attend; - Social value factored into weightings of all tenders; - Early supplier engagement carried out before tenders go up on the procurement portal to support with consortium brokerage; - Ethical Business Network looks to make all our providers including VCS, work towards a business responsibility accreditation, putting smaller businesses on a more even footing with large businesses (see page 12 for more information); - Number of registered charities registered as suppliers with the Council registered in Community Leadership Committee annual report – the benchmark figure for 2016/7 is 216, which will be tracked in future Annual Reports.
VCS Charter	<p>The VCS Charter is comprised of a series of principles developed by the Council and the VCS to bring the VCS into decision making, service delivery and the commissioning cycle.</p>	<p>Feedback has been received from local VCS groups and Council officers that the Charter is not sufficiently visible or integrated into the way the Council works. The Community Participation and Engagement Network will be tasked with mainstreaming the VCS Charter across Council business and commissioning.</p>

Work stream 4: Exploring the benefits of working locally		
Objective: Obtain a better understanding of the options for, and potential benefits of, neighbourhood-level service delivery & place-based commissioning, bringing together a bespoke package of services to meet the needs of each local community.		
Work Plan Deliverable	Objectives	Evaluation
Consortia / lead provider arrangements	Facilitate effective partnership approaches to responding to at a local level, to respond to local need, identifying duplication and gaps in service provision and launching partnership funding bids.	See page 5
Community Assets Strategy: Community Asset Transfer Pilot	<p>The development of community hubs across the borough is a core part of the Council's Community Asset Strategy (CAS). Hubs present opportunities to ensure that the Council's community estate is being used in the most effective way by maximising the time during which assets are being used.</p> <p>The approach supports the aim of the Council's Community Participation Strategy to develop neighbourhood level approaches that empower communities to have a greater role in designing or delivering services, harnessing the expertise of communities to identify the best solutions to local challenges.</p>	<p>In 2014, the Council received a proposal from members of the local community (NW7 Hub) to take possession of a site on Daws Lane for redevelopment to form a new community hub to be managed by members of the community. This pilot Community Asset Transfer led to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Ownership and Management of Assets (COMA) support being offered to the NW7 Hub at project inception. This assisted with developing organisational governance and associated issues with taking on the management of a community asset. • The Community Projects Board established to manage Daws Lane alongside a number of other Community Projects. This structure provides links across a portfolio of similar sized schemes and promotes partnership working and information sharing from key areas of the Council including community participation, project/technical assurance and property services. This model has continued to run and was used as an example of best practice for capital portfolio boards as part of the revised Terms of Reference for Assets and Capital Board.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons learned from the Daws Lane Pilot informed the Council's approach to Community Hubs and the structure of the Community Projects Board which will assist with the monitoring of community projects benefits.
Community Assets Strategy: Community Benefit Assessment Tool (CBAT)	<p>The Council developed a new approach to agreeing rent subsidies and leases with VCS organisations.</p> <p>The Community Benefit Assessment Tool process aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase transparency and consistency in how rent subsidies and leases are agreed. Recognise the valuable contribution VCS organisations make to the borough by awarding rent subsidies in line with the community benefit they deliver. Maximise the benefits from use of public assets for Barnet residents. 	<p>To date, a total of 20 community groups have been put through CBAT process with a further 50 groups still to be assessed. Heads of Terms have been agreed for 9 of the organisations involved, with leases in the process of being completed.</p> <p>Some of the benefit of the process is that it results in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more secure leases for voluntary community groups; more effective and efficient use of community space with empty space identified by the CBAT coach and shared with other organisations that could use it; better information on our communities, the work that they do and the community benefit that they deliver; closer links between community groups and the wider VCS infrastructure in the borough whereby the CBAT coach shares with community groups information on how to get more plugged in with the borough e.g. attending VCS Forums and registering on the Barnet Community Directory. <p>The voluntary sector development partner can provide workshop training and mentorship to assist the community groups through the CBAT process.</p>
Town Centre Strategies	<p>Town Centre Frameworks aim to create the right environment for vibrant and viable town centres in Barnet. The individual Town Centre Frameworks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to enhance the public realm. Improve accessibility for all users. 	<p>Town Centre Strategies are developed through extensive community consultation. Town Teams operate as a local infrastructure group of residents who volunteer to steward the delivery of the local strategy and provide the Council with a formal method of engaging locally. As an example of effective</p>

	<p>•Support the provision of a wide range of shops and services to meet the needs of diverse local populations.</p> <p>All Town Centre Frameworks are subject to community engagement in order to identify the different requirements of each individual centre and the different needs and preferences of those who use them.</p>	<p>mobilisation of community resources through a Town Team, the Chipping Barnet Town Team launched a successful crowdfunding campaign in 2017, securing £30,000 from the Mayor of London, £5000 from Barnet Council, £5000 from Barnet and Southgate College, £11,000 from the Spires shopping centre and over 90 pledges from the local community to bring their Teenage Market to the area to help revitalise their town centre.</p>
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Work stream 5: Building relationships between the VCS & Council		
Objective: Retain a strong relationship between the Council and the VCS, to promote trust and understanding, enable us to identify shared priorities and respond quickly to concerns and issues. VCS organisations are a valuable source of insight about the needs of the groups they represent and can potentially act as strong advocates for the Council, promoting a better relationship with residents and communities		
Deliverable	Objectives	Evaluation
Voluntary Sector Development Partner contract: Support and representation of the voluntary community sector	CommUNITY Barnet are commissioned by the Council as part of the Voluntary Sector Development Partner contract to represent voluntary and community groups, charities and faith groups across the borough.	CommUNITY Barnet have maintained a presence at the borough's main forums, meetings and boards in its VCS representation role.
VCS forums (Communities Together Network, Family Services Practitioners Forum, Adult Prevention and Wellbeing Team's VCS Forum, Multi Faith Forum)	<p>An opportunity for the VCS and the wider partnership (Council, health, police, education, businesses) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network with other similar organisations; • Receive information on upcoming funding opportunities, emerging service needs, new data that can be used to support funding applications etc. • Participate or deliver training and continuing professional development • Raise their profile. 	See page 5.
VCS Charter	The VCS Charter is comprised of a series of principles developed by the Council and the VCS to bring the VCS into decision making, service delivery and the commissioning cycle.	See page 14.

Work stream 6: Use our resources & assets to support communities		
Objective: Coordinate grants and funding to make them easier for communities to access, and use them to shape VCS capacity in areas of need. Make sure the Council's community assets are used to their full potential to support community activity. Deliver a VCS 'portal' giving a single point of access to these and other resources which the Council makes available to voluntary and community groups.		
Deliverable	Objectives	Evaluation
Community Assets Strategy: Community Asset Transfer	<p>The development of community hubs across the borough is a core part of the Council's Community Asset Strategy (CAS). Hubs present opportunities to ensure that the Council's community estate is being used in the most effective way by maximising the time during which assets are being used.</p> <p>The approach supports the aim of the Council's Community Participation Strategy to develop neighbourhood level approaches that empower communities to have a greater role in designing or delivering services, harnessing the expertise of communities to identify the best solutions to local challenges.</p>	See page 16.
Community Assets Strategy: Community Benefit Assessment Tool	<p>Under the Community Asset Strategy, London Borough of Barnet developed a new approach to agreeing rent subsidies and leases with VCS organisations.</p> <p>The Community Benefit Assessment Tool process aimed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase transparency and consistency in how rent subsidies and leases are agreed. • Recognise the valuable contribution VCS organisations make to the borough by awarding rent subsidies in line with the community benefit they deliver. • Maximise the benefits from use of public assets for Barnet residents. 	See page 17.
Corporate grants, Crowdfunding, CIL Funding	Coordinate grants and funding to make them easier for communities to access.	Barnet Community webpage on the Barnet Council website aims to signpost community groups to the funding that is available to them through these streams.
Employee Supported Volunteering	<p>Council employees are able to take up to 2 days a year to volunteer in the local community. The policy looks to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlock the substantial capacity of the council's workforce for community benefit; 	See page 10.

	<p>allowing us to lead by example;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote stronger relationships between the council and the local community; • Promote the council's reputation as an employer, enhancing Barnet as a great place to work and helping us to attract and recruit the best employees; • Promote staff health wellbeing and opportunities for personal development. 	
Barnet Community web page	Barnet Community webpage on the Barnet Council website seeks to provide a one stop shop of information for residents and businesses that would like to get more involved with their community and sign post voluntary, community and faith groups to support available to them in the borough.	See page 11.
Voluntary Sector Development Partner contract: Support and representation of the voluntary community sector	CommUNITY Barnet are commissioned by the Council as part of the Voluntary Sector Development Partner contract to support and represent voluntary and community groups, charities and faith groups across the borough.	See page 9.

Developing the next phase of the strategy

Since it was introduced in 2015, the Community Participation Strategy has delivered a series of tools and projects to support and facilitate effective community participation and engagement across the Council. In the next phase of the Community Participation Strategy, Officers can look to mainstream and coordinate the strategy's six work streams across Council business, through the officer-led Community Participation and Engagement Network. Some areas that officers can look to develop include:

- **A relaunch VCS Charter** which requires a higher profile across the Council and borough and to be held to a standard. Implementation and mainstreaming of the Charter can be coordinated within the Community Participation and Engagement Network.
- **Community outreach to build membership to the Barnet Community Directory.**
- **Taking a strategic, joined up approach to volunteering in public services.**
- **Ongoing community engagement** to build the Council's relationship with the VCS providing the sector with consistent access to decision making, decision makers, networking and training.
- **Procurement of a rescoped Voluntary Sector Development Partner contract** that is shaped in partnership with the local voluntary, community and faith sector, in order to provide targeted support to this key strategic partner.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To update Members of the Community Leadership Committee on the progress of the Community Participation Strategy.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 This Community Participation Strategy contributes to the Corporate Plan's objective to support engaged, cohesive and safe communities by improving engagement, increasing independence and resilience, and strengthening community networks.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 There are no financial implications.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 This report provides an update on a service which has already been commissioned where the benefits were outlined in the business case and previous committee reports.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Council Constitution Article 7, Section 7.5 Responsibility for Functions states the Committee is responsible for civic events. Community safety, emergency planning, registration and nationality service, grants to voluntary sector.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The council has an established approach to risk management. Key corporate risks are assessed regularly and reported to Performance and Contract Management Committee on a quarterly basis.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

6.6.1. The general duty on public bodies is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Volunteering in public services: promoting health and wellbeing, Health and Wellbeing Board, 14 September 2017
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s42142/HWBB%20Volunteering%20and%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing.pdf>

Communities Together Network Annual Report 2016/17, Community Leadership Committee, 6 September 2017
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s41912/Appendix%20One%20Communities%20Together%20Network%20Annual%20Report%20201617.pdf>

Charter for Barnet with the Voluntary Community Sector
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24800/Appendix%20B%20-%20Covenant.pdf>

Community Participation Strategy: Update, 23 November 2016
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s36121/Community%20Participation%20Strategy%20Update.pdf>

Community Participation Implementation Plan, Community Leadership Committee, 11 March 2015
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s21886/Community%20participation%20-%20CLC%20report%20-%20March%202015%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

Developing a Community Participation Strategy for Barnet, Community Leadership Committee, 25 June 2014
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s15686/Community%20Participation%20Strategy.pdf>

Community Participation Strategy - Area Committee Budgets And Wider Community Funding, Community Leadership Committee, 11 September 2014
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