

<u>MEETING</u>
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE
<u>DATE AND TIME</u>
WEDNESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER, 2018
AT 7.00 PM
<u>VENUE</u>
HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BG

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION STRATEGY. BARNET TOGETHER: ACTION PLAN 2018	3 - 26

Tracy Scollin Tracy.Scollin@barnet.gov.uk

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- 1.1 Barnet Council is committed to working in partnership with the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) to build resilient communities. Resilient communities are where people work together to achieve the outcomes they want, empowering each other to galvanise community strengths, making best use of local knowledge and instilling a sense of shared ownership and collective responsibility for their area.
- 1.2 VCFS organisations help to bring funding into the borough to deliver valued services, promote education, support cohesion and help improve and protect the environment. This is achieved through grants, fundraising, sale of goods and services, corporate sponsorship and donations.
- 1.3 In the context of reducing budgets and growing demand pressures, the traditional role of the local authority as service deliverer is changing. The financial challenges and changing demographics, including an ageing population, are putting unprecedented demand on council services and there are tough decisions to make in terms of what continues to be funded and how services are delivered. The role of the local authority is shifting towards that of an action enabler, that will see a different relationship with communities, where people take more responsibility for themselves and the borough.
- 1.4 Barnet Council recognises its community leadership role in implementing this *Barnet Together: Action Plan* whilst acknowledging and respecting the independence of the sector, and the fact that many groups operate autonomously from the council and its partners.

1. Corporate context

- 2.1 Barnet's draft Corporate Plan - *Barnet 2024* - has a vision to create successful places, achieve great outcomes, deliver quality services and develop resilient communities.
- 2.2 A key outcome is to build strong and safe communities where people get on well. The VCFS is a huge asset in Barnet and has a key role to play in achieving the outcome. Our focus will be on building on the strengths of the community and what they can do to help themselves and each other.
- 2.3 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 borough. A review of the

Community Participation Strategy was presented to the Community Leadership Committee on 22 November 2017¹.

- 2.4 The Community Participation Strategy supports delivery of a number of cross-cutting strategies for the council. For example, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Community Asset Strategy, Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Entrepreneurial Barnet all rely on resilient communities that take responsibility for their local area, providing opportunities for residents to design services with us, and where appropriate take on more responsibility. A good example of this is the transfer of 80 Daws Lane to the NW7 Hub. Barnet Council completed an Asset Transfer of a derelict building to the NW7 Hub who are fundraising to demolish the existing building and create a purpose-built facility encompassing a cafe overlooking the park, a retail space, function suite and rooms for hire. The Mill Hill Library in Hartley Ave will also be relocated to Daws Lane.
- 2.5 Another example is the Adults Prevention and Wellbeing (P&W) Strategy which is seeking to use volunteering opportunities to reduce social isolation and to encourage independence, both leading to a longer and healthier life. In Barnet, social isolation is especially prevalent in older people who live alone. Adults P&W will develop targeted initiatives, building on current good practice and working with VCFS, to encourage greater social contact. Adults P&W will engage volunteers through befriending schemes (particularly as a respite offer for carers) and promote ways for people to get involved locally such as in the borough's parks and green spaces and libraries.
- 2.6 The 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;
 - co-ordinate and improve the support the council gives to communities; and
 - help the council take more account of community activity when making decisions about how to deliver against the borough's priorities.
- 2.7 This is to realise the following outcomes:
- residents and community groups will be more independent and resilient, able to deliver more, and can 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 will become more active, involved and engaged in their communities by unlocking the capacity of both the council and local business' workforces, directing it to where it is most needed in the borough.

¹<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s43559/Review%20of%20the%20Community%20Participation%20Strategy.pdf>

2.8 The original Community Participation Strategy included the following six workstreams:

- improving our information about local communities;
- making more use of current community capacity;
- using our purchasing power;
- exploring the benefits of working locally;
- building relationships between the voluntary and community sector; and
- using our resources and assets sector and the council.

2.9 This Action Plan focuses on a two-year delivery plan. The workstreams have been updated for this Action Plan based on progress achieved to date and feedback from officers and VCFS representatives. The revised workstreams are:

- making more use of current community capacity;
- improving and sharing information about local communities;
- creating Social Value in Barnet;
- building and maintaining strong relationships in the borough;
- using our resources and assets to support communities; and
- working collaboratively with strategic partners and the private sector.

2. What is the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS)?

3.1 For the purpose of this Action Plan, the VCFS can be defined as:

Not for profit independent, voluntary and community groups or organisations formed by local people, or those with a local interest, to improve the quality of life for themselves and/or others in Barnet.

These include a range of registered charities; voluntary organisations; community groups; faith groups; community interest companies, mutuals and co-operatives; social enterprises; and citizen-led organisations.

3.2 The VCFS in Barnet is diverse in terms of size, activity, demography and its differing roles. Barnet Council recognises that the VCFS is:

- **a strategic partner:** contributing to shaping local priorities and the development of plans to meet those priorities
- **a service deliverer:** improving services' outcomes through responding to local and diverse needs
- **an enabler of community voice and representation:** by encouraging and supporting local service users and residents – especially those that are vulnerable and marginalised – to get involved in decision making
- **a key contributor to cohesion and equalities:** by building social capital and strong community networks
- **a facilitator, co-ordinator and enabler of social action.**

- 3.3 The following are two examples of the type of community groups that operate in Barnet.

Community Souls
Community Souls is a social enterprise which was founded by Rickardo Stewart from the Grange Estate. The cleaning company tackles unemployment within the community by training and supporting those dependent on benefits or low incomes and offering them paid work as well as supporting their personal and professional development. All profit generated is reinvested into Community Souls to support staff and youth projects. Community Souls has been trading for four years and has become a socially conscious business employing 19 people to date. His cleaning company supports other organisations in Barnet such as Inclusion Barnet, Stonegrove Community Trust, Colindale Community Trust, and The Pavilion by providing affordable cleaning. It also provides the company with an opportunity to contribute to their Social Value Act obligations.
Friern Barnet Royal British Legion
The building was established in 1907 and the club was formed in 1921 for members of the armed forces and their families. Today, it still supports the armed forces, but has opened its doors to everyone. As Barnet's elderly population grows, social isolation will become an increasing problem so, as a result, the club set up Combat Loneliness and worked alongside local community groups such as the Felix Project to provide lunch and social activities three times a week. This is an example of an organisation that has adapted and changed to meet the needs of the residents in the area. They have worked with other local community groups to further reach out into the community and help those at risk to become more independent.

3. Understanding the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) in Barnet

- 4.1 We know that a thriving VCFS can help us to deliver better services to residents, as well as contributing to a cohesive and active community. They are a strategic partner in the delivery of our vision for the borough. By understanding the challenges and opportunities in the VCFS, we can support the sector to be sustainable. To do this we looked at available data on: funding; Charity Commission registrations; and volunteering.
- 4.2 The secondary data available for this analysis is limited, and we recommend that a survey to improve our understanding is carried out with our strategic partners.

Funding

- 4.3 Locally² and nationally³ commissioned research identifies that the sector is facing a series of financial and operational challenges. Grant funding from national and local government has traditionally been a significant source of income for the charity sector but a 2016 report by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations found that small and medium-sized charities' income from Government contracts *decreased* by up to 37% between 2008/09 and 2012/13 while Government contracts to the largest charities *increased* by 34% in the same time⁴.
- 4.4 To gain a better understanding of how Barnet charities compare with other boroughs in their ability to compete for grant funding, we looked at two key regional funders. This does not provide the whole story, but provides a glimpse of how the VCFS in Barnet is performing.
- 4.5 The John Lyon's Charity funds nine of London's boroughs. Barnet was the highest recipient in 2016. This can be explained by the set-up of the Young Barnet Foundation⁵ in the borough. City Bridge Trust funds all of London's boroughs⁶. The graph below shows Barnet as the 24th least deprived London borough receiving 2.5% of a total funding pot of £3,563,035 through 113 successful applications.

² [State of the Sector, The Voluntary, Community Sector in Barnet](#) and the Young Foundation's Barnet Community Mapping, Pilot Project Report

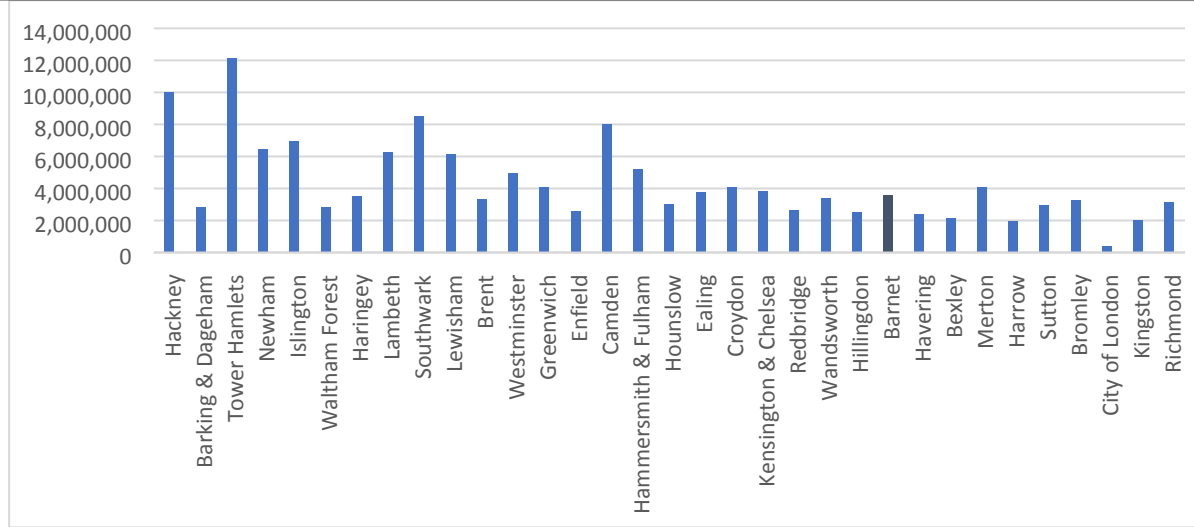
³ [Stronger Charities for a Stronger Society](#) by Lords Select Committee for Charities, [Commissioning in Crisis: How current commissioning and procurement processes threaten the survival of small charities](#) by the Lloyd's Band Foundation and London Council's [The Way Ahead: Civil Society at the Heart of London](#)

⁴ Navigating Change: An analysis of financial trends for small and medium-sized charities, NCVO, 2016

⁵ The Young People's Foundation (YPF) model is the response of John Lyon's Charity to the current pressures on the children and young people's sector and especially the issues faced by the voluntary sector in outer London.

⁶ The Trust currently awards around £20m per year to charitable causes in London. The majority of these grants are made under our Bridging Divides scheme, which has three programmes: [Connecting the Capital](#); [Positive Transitions](#); and [Advice and Support](#).

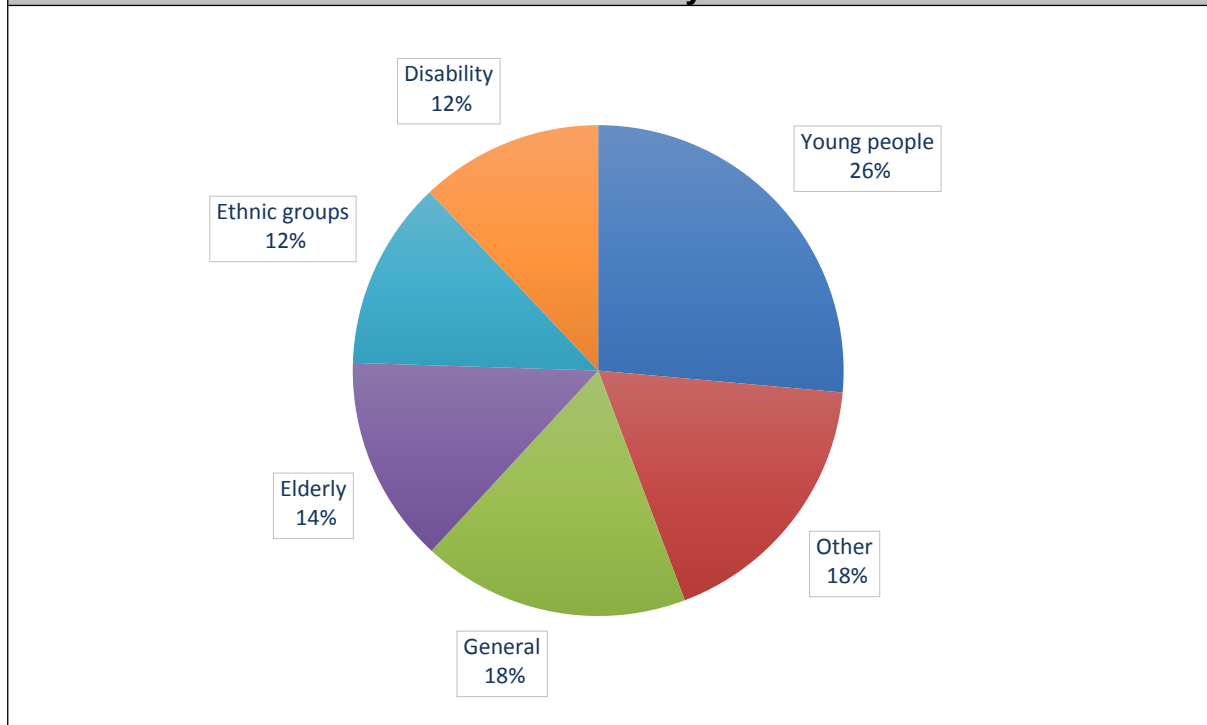
Table One: City Bridge Trust 2016 grant allocation by most to least deprived borough



4.6 Based on this limited analysis, the data suggests that although Barnet VCFS may not be attracting the highest levels of funding that the sector is successful in attracting funding.

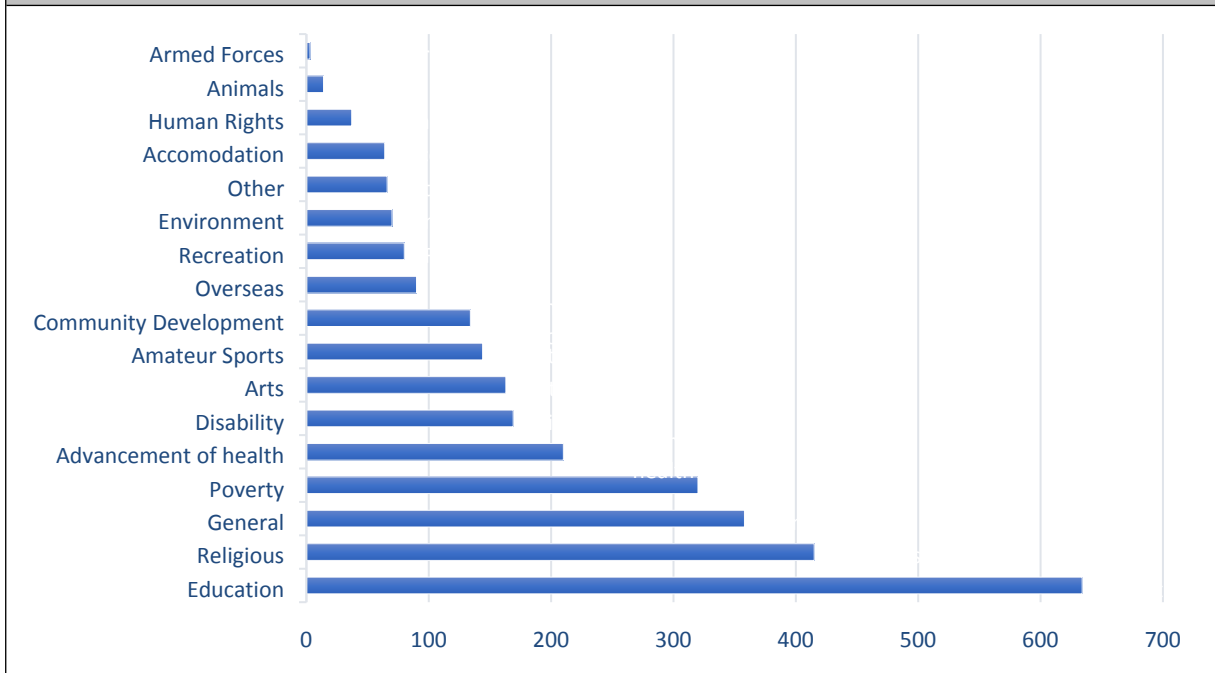
Charity Commission Registrations

Table Two: Barnet Charity Beneficiaries



Source: Charities Commission website data, September 2018

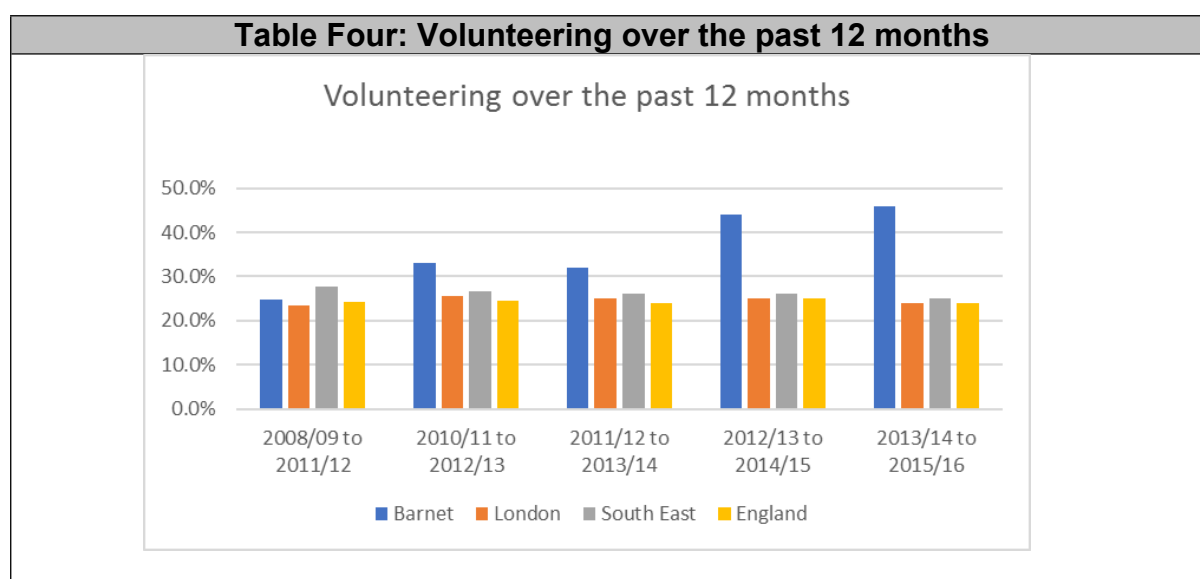
Table Three: 2018 Charitable Activities



Source: Charities Commission website data, September 2018

4.7 Data from the Charities Commission website (September 2018) reports that there are 1,064 registered charities in Barnet. The registration data illustrates that the majority of charities registered in the borough provide educational activities to young people. As Scout groups and Schools and Parents Associations, are registered charities, this is no surprise. It is interesting to note that the second and third highest beneficiaries are in the 'Other' and 'General' categories, whilst the second and third category for activities are 'Religious' and 'Other'. Although the Charity Commission data provides us with a high-level snapshot of the sector, it does not provide granular detail on the number, type and activities.

Volunteering



Source: Department of Culture, Media and Sport⁷

- 4.8 The table above illustrates that Barnet has a higher than average level of volunteering. Volunteers make a unique and valuable contribution to the people and communities in Barnet and the levels of volunteering have been increasing over the years. Barnet Council recognises that volunteering is not only an essential resource in helping people achieve their own objectives, but also helps promote active citizenship and social inclusion.
- 4.9 Our own data from the Barnet Residents' Perception Survey from Spring 2017 supports this narrative. The percentage of residents who said that they have given unpaid help to any groups in the last 12 months has increased from 36% to 42%. Just over half of residents (53%) said that they do not volunteer, while one in 20 (5%) give unpaid help as an individual. Finchley and Golders Green residents are more likely to volunteer (56%) than Chipping Barnet or Hendon residents (both 40%).

4. How we developed the updated *Barnet Together: Action Plan* for the Community Participation Strategy

- 5.1 Consultation was carried out in 2015 to inform the Community Participation Strategy. In order to update the 2018 *Barnet Together: Action Plan*, engagement activities were carried out in August and September 2018 with council officers, the VCFS, business representatives and local and regional funders.
- 5.2 A draft of the Action Plan was then presented internally to officers via the Participation and Engagement Network and externally to the Communities Together Network, which is made up of VCFS and business groups.

⁷ <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/volunteering-work-among-adults-borough>

Date	Details
22 August	Internal workshop
23 August	External workshop with VCFS and business representatives
12 September	Chair of Community Leadership and Libraries Committee
13 September	Funders workshop
20 September	Participation Engagement Network
2 October	Communities Together Network

- 5.3 A full list of those who were engaged to develop the Action Plan can be found in Appendix One.
- 5.4 Workshops were designed to reflect the Government’s Civil Society Strategy⁸, on the principle that the five foundations of social value – People, Places, Social Sector, Private Sector and Public Sector - working together can help communities to thrive as the ‘the whole is greater than the sum of its parts’.
- 5.5 The workshops were broken down into issues and actions under the five main headings from the Civil Society Strategy with questions asking: What are we doing well or not; What could we do better; What more could we do; What do we want to achieve; What can be changed/not changed; Who needs to be involved?
- 5.6 The feedback from the engagement activities indicates that the VCFS in Barnet is fragmented, but there is a strong desire to work differently and in partnership with each other as well as with the council. The local VCFS and small businesses want to work together to support local issues and residents. It was also felt that there is a strategic need for better support and mechanisms to enable partnership working between the council and the VCFS.

5. *Barnet Together: Action Plan 2018*

- 6.1 The purpose of this action plan is to facilitate implementation of the Community Participation Strategy over the next two years. The content has been developed jointly by council officers and representatives of the local VCFS.
- 6.2 In the context of declining council resources and VCFS funding, it is important to share effort, expertise, influence and resources. This Action Plan continues to build on the work carried out as part of the initial Community Participation work plan, and continues to rebalance the council’s relationship with the VCFS, moving towards a model that focuses on a partnership approach.

8

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/732765/Civil_Society_Strategy_-_building_a_future_that_works_for_everyone.pdf

- 6.3 Progress on implementing the Action Plan will be reviewed annually by the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee.
- 6.4 Our Action Plan is ambitious and needs to be delivered within available resources. Therefore, the Action Plan has been prioritised to support implementation and gives indicative timescales. This will be kept under review.

6. Workstream One: Making more use of current community capacity

- 7.1 Voluntary, community and faith groups are not the only forms of community capacity in the borough – both individuals and businesses have a vital role to play. We know that 30% of Barnet residents report that they volunteer at least once a week or once a month – roughly the same as the UK average – and a further 13% volunteer less frequently (Residents’ Perception Survey, Spring 2017). Whilst the aim of the 2015 Community Participation Strategy was to ensure that this percentage stays above the regional average, we have seen the proportion of residents volunteering increase over the years.
- 7.2 In addition to residents volunteering, businesses have told us that they are keen to contribute and want to know how they can make the biggest difference; staff surveys tell us that council staff want to volunteer; and the council wants to have better mechanisms to systematically support residents to play a greater role.

What:

- we will maximise the impact of Barnet Council’s Employee Supported Volunteering Scheme (1.1 and 1.2 below)
- we will pilot a ‘Partnership Framework’ which sets out the responsibilities of council officers and volunteers who wish to work with the council, for example as a ‘Friends of Parks’ group (1.3 below)
- we will make sure that those volunteering directly for the council are managed well and that managers are supported (1.4 below)
- we will promote volunteering across the borough (1.5 below).

How:

Item No.	Action	When	Lead	Measurement	Outcome	Priority
1.1	Work with the VCFS to increase the number and breadth of volunteering opportunities for residents and council employees via the Employee Volunteering Scheme	Ongoing	Volunteering Barnet	Number of volunteering opportunities	Unlocks the substantial capacity of residents and the local workforce and uses it, efficiently, for local community benefit	1
1.2	Work with the VCFS Development Partner to develop a skill sharing programme for the Employee Volunteering Scheme, which will deliver pro-bono workshops for the VCFS in identified areas of need, such	Year 1	Volunteering Barnet	Number of workshops provided Number of volunteers Number of organisations supported	Unlocks the substantial capacity of the council’s workforce and uses it, efficiently, for local community benefit Allows us to lead by example, to promote similar schemes to, and share learning with,	1

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	as social media management				other local employers	
1.3	Develop and pilot a framework which outlines the offer for community groups that are able to take on more responsibility, for example Friends of Parks groups. This framework will reflect the roles and responsibilities for both the council and community groups and will reflect a scalable offer based on groups of different sizes and maturity	Year 2	LBB	Production of a pilot framework	Standardised support frameworks to support staff Community groups are better supported to take on greater responsibilities	1
1.4	Identify and provide good volunteering management practices to all those who manage volunteers within the council. Scope options for a Volunteering Policy to recruit and retain volunteers	Year 1, with scoping paper in Year 2	LBB / Volunteering Barnet	A list of all services which involve volunteers Volunteer management training offered to those identified	Better experience and increased retention of residents who volunteer their time	2
1.5	The council will use its own communication channels to promote volunteering opportunities with the council and in the VCFS sector. This will include increased presence on website and use of Barnet First	Ongoing	LBB	Increased take up of volunteering opportunities in the borough	Increase awareness and take-up of volunteering opportunities in the borough	1

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7. Workstream Two: Improved information on the VCFS in Barnet

- 8.1 We need to make sure the right information is available about the services provided by voluntary, community and faith groups for people to access the support they need, whether they do this directly or are signposted by the council or another provider via social prescribing⁹. This benefits residents, who will have more access to appropriate support; community providers, who gain increased demand for their services, enabling them to grow and develop their capacity; and the council, which is able to use the information to help plan for more demand in the future and avoid duplication.
- 8.2 We also need to support the sector to grow and develop its capacity through access to information. This includes information on what support the VCFS in Barnet needs in order to better align infrastructure support to these needs, which will in turn lead to a stronger sector that can attract more funding into the borough and work alongside council services.

What:

- we will increase the number of VCFS organisations signed up to the [Barnet Community Directory](#)¹⁰ (2.1 and 2.2 below)
- we will increase our knowledge and understanding of the needs of the sector (2.3 below).

How:

Item No.	Action	When	Who	Measurement	Outcome	Priority
2.1	A new, targeted approach to reach harder to reach groups to increase sign up to the Barnet Community Directory	Ongoing	Volunteering Barnet	Number of organisations signed up	Better Golden Record of VCFS organisations in the borough which can be used by the sector, the council and partners to better support residents	1
2.2	Work with Public Health to scope and secure finances to open up and share data from the Directory via an open	Year 1	LBB	API interface	Increased use of the data within the Barnet Community Directory to support better signposting of services across different	1

⁹ Social prescribing is a means of enabling GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical, community services.

¹⁰ The Barnet Community Directory is an online resource that was developed as part of the initial Community Participation Strategy workplan and enables local charities and community groups to upload information on who they are and what they do.

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	API ¹¹ . This will allow partners to 'pull' data from the Directory without the need to manually download and upload files				areas of the borough	
2.3	A joint survey with strategic partners to identify the challenges and opportunities of the sector	Year 1	LBB Volunteering Barnet, Inclusion Barnet, Young Barnet Foundation and Barnet Homes	Research report	Better support for the sector which will lead to a stronger, more resilient VCFS in Barnet	1

¹¹ API stands for Application Programming Interface. It is the *interface* that allows software *applications* to communicate with one another. For example, if another department or partner bought a programme it could automatically pull the data from the Barnet Community Directory.

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8. Workstream Three: Creating Social Value in Barnet

- 9.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires all public bodies in England and Wales to consider how the services they commission and procure might improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area. Barnet Council has guidelines in place, however there is an opportunity to review these and improve these to maximise impact.
- 9.2 The council recognises the important role it can play in enabling sustainable development through its procurement activity. In 2017/2018 we spent approximately £330 million via procurement. Through reviewing our approach to Social Value, there is an opportunity to further integrate economic, environmental and social sustainability into our procurement processes. This would support commissioners to consider how to maximise Social Value to support delivery of priority outcomes and reduce pressures in other areas. For example, a framework could include the following types of priorities and suggested activities:

Priority	What could suppliers deliver (examples only)
More local people in work	Recruitment of local community Recruitment of apprentices Work experience for local community
An effective and resilient VCFS	Contribute x number of hours of business planning support / financial advice / legal advice / HR advice to community and voluntary organisations through an Employer-Supported Volunteering scheme Work with community and voluntary organisations to create x number of new volunteering opportunities in Barnet

What:

- we will explore the best way to achieve and track Social Value in Barnet through the council's purchasing power (3.1 below).

How:

Item No.	Action	When	Who	Measurement	Outcome	Priority
3.1	Set up a Working Group to review current practice and scope a Social Value Policy for Barnet	Year 1	LBB	Production of scoping report and subsequent implementation of policy Delivery of additional Social Value	Increased benefit from the Social Value Act for the borough	1

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9. Workstream Four: Building and maintaining strong relationships in the borough

- 10.1 We must ensure we retain a strong relationship between the council and the VCFS, to promote trust and mutual understanding, enable us to identify shared priorities and respond quickly to concerns and issues. VCFS 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.
- 10.2 The workshops held to inform this Action Plan highlighted support for the Communities Together Network and a desire to continue working in partnership with the council. The feedback also highlighted the need for the VCFS to build strong relationships between organisations within the sector and with local businesses.

What:

- we will continue to build and maintain strong relationships via the Communities Together Network (4.1 below)
- we will explore how digital and online platforms can be used to encourage networking and the development of a support community where groups can share information, skills and expertise to respond to opportunities and challenges together (4.2 below)
- we will review how the council can support the VCFS to communicate messages around common goals (4.3 below).

How:

Item No.	Action	When	Who	Measurement	Outcome	Priority
4.1	We will work with the CTN Steering Group to ensure that CTN remains relevant and useful to all	Ongoing	LBB	Increase the number of attendees at CTN meetings. Increase the number of individuals on the CTN Bulletin	To enhance the council's strategic relationship with the local VCFS, allowing information exchange and dialogue To allow the council to have early sight of strategic issues affecting the VCFS	1
4.2	Set up an online / social platform to develop a self-facilitated networking and support community	Year 1	LBB	Implementation of platform	A more joined up VCFS in Barnet, which can come together to share skills, experience and knowledge	1
4.3	We will draft guidelines on how VCFS organisations can work with the council to share information that will	Year 1	LBB	Case studies	By amplifying the VCFS message, residents will benefit from being able to access information from a range of organisations	1

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	amplify messages and share information on services and events through our communication platforms				that are delivering services or events to meet their needs	
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10. Workstream Five: Use our resources and assets to support communities

- 11.1 This workstream identifies the information and assets that the council can offer to support residents and communities to become more active and involved and, where relevant, take on and run services or functions. We will bring this refreshed information together into a consolidated package, easily accessible to VCFS groups through the council website. The provision of information to support organisations is key to developing a better relationship with residents and community groups.
- 11.2 The council has a number of resources, assets and levers available to support communities including information on grants and funding support, insight and intelligence, and physical spaces. Through the launch of the council's new website, there is an opportunity to present better and more comprehensive information in an easily navigable format. Actions from the implementation of the original CPS action plan also means that we have additional information to support the sector, for example, the delivery of the Community Asset Strategy has resulted in better knowledge within the council of assets where co-location of groups could be an option to explore.

What:

- co-ordinate grants and funding to make them easier for communities to access (5.1 below)
- make sure the council's community assets are used as much as possible to support community activity (5.2 and 5.3 below)
- we will refresh the council's information offer to VCFS groups (5.4 below).

How:

Item No.	Action	When	Who	Measurement	Outcome	Priority
5.1	We will work to continue to provide support for crowdfunding opportunities in the borough	Year 1	LBB	Number of projects per year Number of successful projects Amount of funding made to Barnet projects	Increased funding for local VCFS to deliver projects of local benefit	1
5.2	We will work with John Lyon's Charity and the Estates Team to ensure that the council's data is included in the new venue bank and that the venue bank is signposted from the council	Year 1	LBB, John Lyon's Charity	Webpage hits	Local VCFS will be able to advertise and search for venues that will support their ability to deliver services to Barnet's residents	2

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	website					
5.3	Co-ordinate the production of thematic insight, facts and statistics to support grant applications for larger funding pots	Year 2	LBB	Delivery of thematic insight reports	Increased funding into the borough as a result of better quality data within grant applications	2
5.4	Refresh the information offer from the council, making use of the new website capabilities	Ongoing	LBB	Webpage hits	Increased understanding locally of what support is available from the council for residents or groups to become more active in the civic sphere	1

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11. Workstream six: Working collaboratively with strategic partners and the private sector

12.1 The first stage of the Community Participation Strategy saw the development of an online Responsible Business Toolkit and a stronger involvement of The Federation of Small Businesses within the Communities Together Network. This has sparked a real desire from both businesses and community groups to find ways of working in partnership. We are also aware that our strategic partners, such as Middlesex University and Saracens Foundation, have valuable skills and experience that they are eager to share to support local VCFS organisations.

What:

- we will work with partners to bring the VCFS and small business sector together to network (6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 below)
- we will work with partners to support business to achieve their own Responsible Business goals (6.1 below)
- we will ensure local business and contractors are aware of how they can support local VCFS organisations (6.1 and 6.3 below).

How:

Item No.	Action	When	Who	Measurement	Outcome	Priority
6.1	Work with the new VCFS Development Partnership to ensure that local business and strategic partners are linked in as a source of volunteers and skills sharing	Ongoing	LBB and Volunteer Barnet	Number of organisations supported with ESV	Increased partnership working with local businesses on shared priorities	1
6.2	Support the VCFS Development Partner to provide networking opportunities between the VCFS, strategic partners and local businesses in order to support joint grant proposals (for example, using a local designer in a proposal)	Ongoing	LBB and Inclusion Barnet	Number of networking events (or similar) for VCFS, strategic partners and the local business community	Increased funding into the local economy, benefiting the local community and residents	1
6.3	Set up an annual Pitch and Pledge event where crowdfunders can pitch to local businesses for support with the council's pledge pot	Annual	LBB, FSB and crowdfunding provider	Delivery of annual Pitch and Pledge event Amount of funding secured	Increased funding for projects of local benefit	2

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12. Next Steps

- 13.1 Once the Action Plan is approved a full work programme will be developed. Where a further decision is needed on policy development, a report will be brought back to the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee, or relevant committee, for approval.
- 13.2 An update on progress on the Action Plan will be brought back to the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee in Autumn 2019 for review.

Appendix One

The council would like to thank the following organisations for their input on the development of the *Barnet Together: Action Plan 2018*.

Age UK Barnet
Barnet Community Transport
Barnet Giving
Barnet Homes
Barnet Mencap
Barnet Multi Faith Forum
Barnet TV
Colindale Community Trust
CommUNITY Barnet
Federation of Small Businesses
GLL / Better
Groundwork London
Inclusion Barnet
Jesus Hospital Charity
London Funders
Living Healthy Matters
Livingway
Metropolitan Homes
Middlesex University
Nouvus Homeshare
Pocklington Trust
RAF Museum
Saracens Foundation
The John Lyon's Charity
The Larches Trust
The National Lottery Fund
Twining Enterprise
Young Barnet Foundation
Youth Zone