

**VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING
(Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of a request by the Economic Well-Being Panel for the Social Well-Being Panel to examine the proposed future relationship between the Council and the voluntary sector.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At the Panel meeting in January, Members gave consideration to a proposal to establish an indicative budget for voluntary sector support for the 2013/14 financial year. The report identified options for the distribution of future funding. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-being) also considered the report. Subsequently, the Economic Well-Being Panel discussed this matter again during its deliberations on the Budget and MTP. As a result, the Economic Well-Being Panel asked that the Social Well-Being Panel is informed of the next steps that will be taken to finalise future arrangements between the sector and the Council. The Economic Well-Being Panel also asked the Social Well-Being Panel to examine in detail the policies and mechanisms that are proposed for this purpose.

2.2 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 16th February 2012, accepted the Economic Well-Being Panel's suggestion and confirmed that the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) is requested to undertake this work.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The Social Well-Being Panel has had extensive involvement in the process leading to the approval of the indicative budget for the voluntary sector for 2013/14 and the mechanisms through which it will be distributed. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has asked the Panel to look at the next steps in the process leading to the finalisation of arrangements between the Council and the Voluntary sector and what those arrangements will be.

3.2 The Panel is invited to consider the request by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) and the Cabinet and to determine how to proceed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report and Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) meetings held on 3rd January and 7th February 2012 and of the Cabinet meeting held on 16th February 2012.

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