

Mayor and Cabinet			
Report Title	Matters referred by the Public Accounts Select Committee – Review of Voluntary Sector Grant Funding		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	X
Ward	All		
Contributors	Public Accounts Select Committee		
Class	Part 1	Date	13 May 2009

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the Public Accounts Select Committee's Review of Voluntary Sector Grant Funding. The final report of the Review is included at Appendix A below.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to:
- (a) Note the views and recommendations of the Committee set out in the main report at Appendix A.
 - (b) Agree that the Executive Director for Community Services be asked to respond to the Review's recommendations.
 - (c) Ensure that a response is provided to the Public Accounts Select Committee at its meeting on 15 July 2009, in line with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Council's Constitution.

3. Context

- 3.1 The Review of Voluntary Sector Grant funding was carried out by the Public Accounts Select Committee between July 2008 and March 2009. The final report was agreed at the meeting on 21 April 2009, following evidence sessions on 7 October and 9 December, and discussion of recommendations on 10 March 2009.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se, although the financial implications of several of the recommendations will need to be considered in due course.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months.¹ It is therefore requested that a response is provided to the Public Accounts Select Committee at its meeting scheduled for 15 July 2009.

6. Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The Council's support for the community sector is a major expression of Lewisham's commitment to making social inclusion a reality in meeting the needs of the borough's diverse communities. A number of the recommendations in the Committee's report support social inclusion, e.g. the recommendation that gaps in the services currently provided in Lewisham are identified and plugged.

7. Crime and Disorder/Environmental implications

- 7.1 A number of voluntary organisations are funded to work with young people in particular and are integral to the borough's Crime Reduction Strategy. In addition, a number of Organisations are funded to assist with improving the environment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

If you have any queries on this report or the wider Review of Voluntary Sector Grant Funding, please contact Charlotte Dale, Scrutiny Manager (0208 3149534), or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business & Committee (0208 3149327).

¹ The constitution was amended following the implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and states that:

(a) When the overview and scrutiny committee or a select committee makes a report and/or recommendations to the Council or to the Executive, (whether in response to a councillor call for action or otherwise,) the overview and scrutiny committee/select committee may publish its report and/or recommendations and must give notice in writing to the Council or the Executive requiring the Council or the Executive, within 2 months of receipt by the Council or Executive of the report/recommendations, or (if later) the notice:-

1) to consider the report or recommendations

2) to respond to the overview and scrutiny committee/sub committee indicating what (if any) action it intends to take

3) if the overview and scrutiny committee/sub committee has published its report/recommendations to publish its response

4) if the overview and scrutiny committee provided a copy of its report/recommendations to a member referring a matter to it under the Councillor Call for Action, to provide a copy of the response to that member .