



MAIN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION FORUM – 26 JUNE 2018

Council and Voluntary Sector relations

- KCSC is keen to maintain good working relationships with councillors across all political parties. Whilst avoiding political bias it is important that in moving forward we are able to facilitate engagement between councillors and the voluntary and community sector. KCSC is a conduit albeit not the only conduit but one all the same by which we are able to facilitate strategic dialogue between the sectors.
- The voluntary and community sector should be fully recognised for the contribution it brings to the local area in delivering preventative services thus creating savings for the state. The sector hopes the council maintain this view of the sector going into the future and that this is committed through a voluntary sector strategy.
- There needs to be a better understanding of what services will be needed into the future and what currently exists. Mapping this and planning future services is required to ensure appropriate needs are met.
- There has been a developing gap in communication with voluntary organisations in group settings. Conversations are taking place at an individual level but this is not helpful in trying to understand the bigger picture and how the council and the voluntary sector can work together. Councillors should make themselves more available to attend forum meetings and other events which bring voluntary organisations together to have dialogue about the challenges facing communities and how we work together.
- The south of the borough should not be forgotten and to recognise that whilst there is need for greater services within the north of the borough, the south must not be left out. The council needs to engage with the sector to ensure that residents get the services they need in the south.
- The report on RBKC's governance by the Centre for Public Scrutiny provides an opportunity for the council to work with the local voluntary and community sector. KCSC can be a conduit in aiding the sector's involvement.

Council & Community relations

- The council needs to place greater emphasis on strategies which empower the community. Investment should be made in supporting residents to understand how decisions are made and how they can influence or participate in the process. This could be independent of the council.
- If the desire is to rebuild community relations then a Community Compact which has a set of guiding principles and lays out how the council will work with the community, what the community can expect and what role the community can play could be a way forward. Working through the process with the community could be a way of rebuilding trust. However the name 'Compact' could be changed to reflect a more modern outlook.



Investing in the community

- The council should take the opportunity to be bolder in their actions which demonstrate real change. Buying local through ensuring procurement of services are accessible to local businesses and charities. Include social value measures which include employment of local people and paying the London Living wage.
- The council could be stronger in holding housing developers to account over the building of social and affordable housing in the borough and be bold in enabling the development of community led housing.
- Political interest and involvement of young people should be strengthened locally. More time should be spent on investing in building the capacity of young people to engage politically. The north of the borough and pockets within the south should be a particular focus.

Key Asks of the Council

- The Council engage with the Social Council and the voluntary sector, maintaining dialogue on all aspects of its planning future services.
- The Council to lead on the development of a voluntary sector strategy. The strategy could set the direction through a series of commitments over the next 3-5 years, developed in partnership with the voluntary sector.
- Council to work with the Social Council and DemSoc to look at practical ways to improve governance and relationships
- Improve communication with the voluntary sector. KCSC can work with the Community Engagement Team to ensure councillors remain up to date with forthcoming voluntary sector meetings and for relevant councillors can attend.
- Review procurement and tender processes and bring about changes which improve opportunities for local businesses and charities to compete more readily.
- Explore housing options to include community led housing.
- Introduce new programmes which ensure young people can be upskilled to engage politically within the borough.

What the VCS can do

- Recognise we need to work together to ensure that the most effective services are delivered within the borough



- Be more assertive in taking propositions to the council about what we can deliver
- Develop time banking across the borough as a way of utilising volunteering for the benefit of the community