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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Housing and Community Services</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b> 8
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>25 August 2005</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>Director of Community Services</b>	<b>DELEGATED OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>M Roseburgh Ext 5774</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Review of support to the Voluntary &amp; Community Sector – Review Team Membership</b>	<b>REF: HCS 07</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>	

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### **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That members approve additional members of the review team looking at Council grant aid and related support to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To appraise members of the decision taken at the first meeting of the review team looking at Council grant aid and related support to the Voluntary and Community Sector to increase representation on the group to include four additional VCS representatives and to seek approval for that decision.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 4.1 At June Housing and Community Services Committee members approved a working group for a review of Council grant aid and related support to the Voluntary and Community Sector comprising the Director of Community Services, the Head of Leisure and Community Development, the Partnership Development Officer, a Finance officer, one representative from the Opportunities for All SDLSP theme group and three Members. This decision was then amended at Council to increase the number of Members to five.
- 4.2 It was further acknowledged within the report that when first convened the working group would consider it's membership and make adjustments as deemed necessary.
- 4.3 The initial working group met for the first time on July 20<sup>th</sup> and agreed that it's membership should be expanded to include four additional members from the voluntary and community sector.

4.4 The reason for the increase was that as the rationale for undertaking the review included the need for the services to be fair, open and transparent and in consultation with stakeholders that the voluntary and community sector representation should be equal to that of the Council.

4.5 It was agreed that the sector would self select its representation in a similar fashion to that utilised for the Local Strategic Partnership Board and that Jo Smith as the original VCS member and Chair of the Opportunities for All community strategy theme group would lead on this.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 The additional membership of the review team will have no direct costs although financial considerations will underpin the review and feature in the options analysis.

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

6.1 The existing service and any future recommendations for change will make a significant contribution to a number of the Council's key aims including safeguarding and enhancing a sustainable environment, reducing crime and disorder, developing a vibrant economy, promoting the well being of all sections of the community and improving access to leisure and cultural activities.

## **7.0 Community Implications**

7.1 In order to ensure an effective review and retain the confidence of the sector it is important that the working group membership has a proper balance and engages well with the community.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

8.1 The proposed additional membership of the review team should ensure a more effective review and retain the confidence of the VCS in both our services and processes.

## **9.0 Background Papers**

9.1 Committee report on Review of support to the Voluntary and Community sector to Housing and Community Services committee on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2005