

# Scrutiny Challenge Community Premises Action Plan Update

13 December 2021



# Recommendation 1



**Recommendation 1:** *That the council amends the community benefit rent reduction scheme to recognise the value nurseries/playgroups, faith groups and Tenants and Residents Associations bring to the community.*

## Completed

A revised policy on council premises leased to VCS organisations was agreed at Cabinet on 24 March 2021. This clarified the council's policy on support to early years settings and faith-based organisations. TRAs were included in the policy agreed in March 2018.



# Recommendation 2



**Recommendation 2:** *That the council develops a vision and strategy around community buildings that recognises the value these premises brings to residents and VCS organisations alike.*

## Ongoing for completion by 31 March 2023

The value to local residents from the use of council premises by VCS organisations is recognised through a range of policies and procedures including,

- The revised policy on leasing premises to VCS organisations (March 2021)
- Property Disposals and Lettings Protocol (July 2019)

Further work is scheduled (to include partners) as part of the VCS Strategy Action Plan 22/23. Work has not progressed during 21/22 due to the impact of Covid 19 affecting work priorities.



# Recommendation 3



**Recommendation 3:** *That the council uses its website and other communication channels to set out information around its community buildings including availability, location and how they can be accessed by VCS organisations*

## Complete

The council, continues to maintain the list of community premises for hire ([Halls and Venues for Hire](#))

Opportunities to lease premises from the council's community portfolio are promoted on the council's website, THCVS newsletters and the council's own VCS newsletter.

Further work to enhance access is scheduled in 22/23 VCS Strategy Action Plan.



# Recommendation 4



**Recommendation 4:** *That the council monitors the use of premises leased to VCS organisations to ensure they're being used within the terms of the lease and/or funding agreement.*

## In progress

The first round of CBRR monitoring is scheduled to take place in January 2022.

For LCF funded organisations, there is joint monitoring.

For others, the monitoring may be incorporated into discretionary rate relief monitoring.



# Recommendation 5



**Recommendation 5:** *That the council works with partners to provide capacity building to VCS organisations on matters relating to facilities management of premises.*

## Part completed

The council's funding agreement with THCVS provides for a range of support for VCS organisations, including premises management. In partnership with THCVS the council provided support and guidance to VCS organisations reopening safely during Covid

A meeting is planned for early 2022 to set up a peer group support network for VCS organisations that manage premises.

The peer group will help inform what FM support for the VCS should be sought through the council's Social Value support arrangements.



# Recommendation 6



**Recommendation 6:** *That the council develops a vision and strategy for community hubs to enable VCS organisations to take a lead role in managing and facilitating affordable access to these premises.*

## Complete

The strategy was agreed at Cabinet on 24 March 2021.

The council is now in discussion with two organisations to lease and manage two of the Hubs, Bow and Tramshed.

Alternative proposals for community management of the remaining three hubs will be produced early in the New Year.

