

## **SE7. Following the Public Pound – CVS Falkirk and District**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting information under the Following the Public Pound (FPP)

arrangements for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 for CVS Falkirk and District which supports the Council's priorities with regard to community development.

Fiona Campbell provided an overview of the FPP reporting arrangements, CVS's important role in supporting community development and the options available for the committee. The committee then heard from Andrew Wilson who gave an overview of the Annual Reporting Statement which was attached as appendix 1 to the report.

Members discussed the reduced funding from Falkirk Council and the impact on service delivery. Andrew Wilson gave an overview of the funding received by CVS from Falkirk Council, and other bodies, and the expectations of Falkirk Council which were set out in a Service Level Agreement. The agreed outcomes were achievable and realistic in the context of the funding available. In response to a question on CVS' decision to stop an Annual Awards ceremony due to the cost and the impact of this on volunteers' morale, Mr Wilson advised that CVS recognised volunteers in other ways, for example by awarding certificates.

Members questioned the remit of the CVS and its role assisting local development, encouraging community participation and acting as the Third Sector Interface, and how it was continuing to deliver the service in light of financial pressures. Members highlighted the large number of staff based at the Forum compared to the number of staff employed by the Council to support volunteers. Andrew Wilson confirmed that the team which was based at the Forum supported volunteers and provided support to full employment in addition to supporting 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations, some of which were small in terms of capacity. As an organisation, CVS had a "critical mass" in terms of funding and ability to support, which was invaluable to smaller organisations. CVS was reshaping its offer in light of financial pressures and the changing landscape. It was looking to digitalise its offer for example.

Members sought information on a review of volunteer centres by the Scottish Government. Falkirk was unique in that the service was provided by one organisation covering the Council area. In other areas the services were more local. This had disadvantaged CVS Falkirk and District which acts not only as a volunteer centre but was also a 3<sup>rd</sup> sector interface. Its funding had been rolled into one package by the Scottish Government whereas in other areas the separation of service between organisations had been more financially beneficial. In response to a question, Fiona Campbell stated that the Scottish Government financial package, which would be for the next 5 or 6 years would not be backdated to account for any disadvantage to CVS Falkirk and District over previous years.

## **Decision**

**The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by CVS Falkirk and District in meeting Council priorities.**