

## **VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 5TH DECEMBER 2018**

### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2019/20**

#### **4.5.1 GAVO (Youth Service) – Remove contribution (£25k) – Public Impact: Medium**

- Members sought reassurance that those community engagement skills which sat with the post that had been phased out would not be lost and delivery of this service would continue from within the Council's Youth Service.

#### **4.5.2 Reduction in Community Regeneration Funding (£50k) – Public Impact: Low**

- Members raised concerns on a number of matters;
  - Organisations who have benefitted from the fund on previous occasions losing that support
  - The re-focussing of the criteria on to income generating projects excluding charitable organisations
  - Organisations being unable to deliver revenue projects
- Members requested a meeting with the Head of Planning and Regeneration, the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Public Protection, relevant Officers and any interested parties to discuss how to move forward with the focus of the funding.
- Members sought improvements in the communication and working between the Authority's Urban Renewal and Conservation team and the Voluntary Sector particularly in raising awareness of all grants available to organisations.

#### **4.5.5. Community Centres – Reduction of all Caretaker support across all centres from October 2019 (379k) – Public Impact: High**

- Members expressed concerns that it would be unsustainable for smaller community centres to fund caretaker posts.

#### **4.5.6 Community Centres – Closure of 4 centres (Tirphil, Phillipstown, Channel View and Lower Rhymney) (£23k) – Public Impact: Medium**

- Members suggested that further analysis of centre specific income data and information as needed.
- Members suggested that a comprehensive assessment of community centre facility and service assets should be conducted to identify duplication of services in the community and opportunities to direct service users to community centres.
- Members highlighted that cuts in training, provided by GAVO, made it difficult to recruit to centre management committees which impacted on the good management and therefore the survival of community centres.

#### **4.5.7 Review of Barnardo's Contract (£189k) – Public Impact: Medium**

- Members sought reassurance that there would be no drop in service delivery levels with the family support provision moving to in house delivery within Social Services.

#### **4.5.8 Non-renewal of Mental Health Carers Support contract (£34k) – Public Impact: Low**

- A Member enquired in regards to the non-renewal of the Mental Health Carers Support contract and the consultation currently being undertaken and whether the outcome of that consultation would affect the proposal to not renew the contract.

#### **4.5.10 Reduction in Voluntary Sector Service Level Agreements (£42k) – Public Impact: Medium**

- Members expressed concerns over reductions being made to the Authority's contributions to the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB), Groundworks and GAVO.
- Members raised concerns specifically relating to a reduction to the contribution to the CAB when the organisation is facing additional pressures from the introduction of Universal Credit.