



West Lothian
Council

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

VOLUNTARY SECTOR: HEALTH CHECK PROPOSAL

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the Executive's approval, on the recommendation of the Voluntary Organisation Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, for the replacement of the current annual monitoring system and approach used by Council in relation to voluntary organisations with a new, 'Health Check' approach.

B. RECOMMENDATION

1. To request that the Council Executive approve the Health Check approach.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs Being honest, open and accountable Providing equality of opportunities Developing employees Making best use of our resources Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The duty of Best Value is set out in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Contributes to SOA Outcome 11.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Cost of approach met from within agreed revenue budgets.

VII Consideration at PDSP

Voluntary Organisation Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 22 December 2011. Recommended for approval to the Council Executive.

VIII Other consultations

Council Services, Link Officers, Voluntary Organisations, West Lothian Compact Working Group, VSGWL.

D.	TERMS OF REPORT	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>In September 2011 it was reported to the PDSP that the current annual monitoring system and approach used by Council in relation to the voluntary organisations that it invests in does not adequately highlight potential areas of risk, nor does it effectively monitor performance or identify good practice. The report identified that the current approach is very much a 'tick box' exercise.</p> <p>Health Check Approach</p> <p>The September 2011 report proposed to replace the existing monitoring approach with a new, more robust 'Health Check' approach. However, the report noted that any new monitoring approach would have to be subject to Internal Audit being satisfied that the proposed approach is robust enough to meet the legislative requirements of Following The Public Pound and Best Value. The report also noted that Officers engage in formal consultation with the West Lothian voluntary sector on the Health Check approach through the vehicle of the West Lothian Compact Working Group.</p> <p>Outcomes of Consultation</p> <p>Internal Audit was satisfied that the proposed approach is robust enough to meet the legislative requirements of Following The Public Pound and Best Value and commented that the Health Check is absolutely consistent with these and should be an advance on previous arrangements. Internal Audit have recommended that the Voluntary Organisation PDSP formally recommend the framework to the Council Executive for approval, because disbursements to voluntary organisations are still approved by the Executive and the framework has the potential to result in a decision to reduce or withdraw funding. Internal Audit also suggested some minor amendments to the detail of the framework, which have been incorporated into the final draft (Appendix 1). Officers also engaged in formal consultation (Appendix 2) with the West Lothian voluntary sector on the Health Check approach.</p> <p>Timeline</p> <p>The September 2011 report proposed that the new Health Check approach be piloted with all VOBR-funded organisations in the 2011 annual monitoring cycle which was due to take place during November and December 2011. However, this timeline will now be delayed into the start of 2012 until approval is sought from Council Executive.</p>		

E. CONCLUSION

1. To request that the Council Executive approves the Health Check approach.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1: Health Check Approach
 Appendix 2: Consultation - Health Check Approach

Contact Person: David Murray, Senior Policy Officer, Regeneration & Employability
Tel. 01506 281096
e-mail: david.murray@westlothian.gov.uk

Alistair Shaw, Head of Area Services

Date: 11/01/2012