

Agenda Item 17

Executive Board

21 June 2006

PJ/smep



Volunteering Policy for East Devon District Council

Summary

The Council is asked to approve this Volunteering Policy which sets out how we will promote volunteering within and outside the Council.

Recommendation

That the Volunteering Policy be approved.

a) Reasons for Recommendation

This policy will make clear to officers, partner organisations and the public how we are approaching this issue which is developing in importance and profile.

b) Alternative Options

The Council may reject, tighten or be more generous in its approach to promoting volunteering.

c) Risk Considerations

That its policy could have inadvertent consequences for staff time or local voluntary organisations.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

This policy supports the Council's priorities whilst remaining focussed on value for money. There are no unbudgeted cost implications.

e) Date for Review of Decision

June 2009

1 Main Body of the Report

- 1.1 National Government is increasing the profile of the "Third Sector" (i.e. principally the community and voluntary sector organisations.) Our effectiveness in working with such organisations is likely to become a feature of future reviews of our own programme.
- 1.2 The County Council has recognised, within their priorities and Local Area Agreement work the need to better promote and value volunteering. They are providing policies to support this.
- 1.3 East Devon District Council has identified in its Corporate Strategy an outcome of an increase in 'engaged communities' which includes the voluntary and community sector.
- 1.4 The Council has signed to the Devon Voluntary and Community Sector 'Compact' which recognises the value of volunteering.

- 1.5 There is much evidence to suggest that there will be an expectation on Local Government to adopt volunteering policies or statements.
- 1.6 For the reasons above, and for clarity of our officers, partner organisations, and the general public, it is felt useful to have a policy on how we will promote and value volunteering both internally and across the District.
- 1.7 In drafting the policy I have sought to create a balance between our wish to promote volunteering and our need to use budgets and officer time prudently so as to satisfy our other expectations of demonstrable focus and value for money.
- 1.7 The proposed policy is at Appendix A.

Legal Implications

There are no legal comments.

Financial Implications

No financial implications contained within this report.

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

This matter has been discussed at the Staff Joint Forum

Background Papers

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