



REPORT TO: CORPORATE COMMITTEE ON 31 JANUARY 2023

SUBJECT: VOLUNTEERING POLICY REFRESH

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee on the need to review our current Volunteer Policy and to seek approval of the refreshed Moray Council Volunteering Policy which recognises the different types of direct and indirect volunteering that the council engages with.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (B) (41) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the formulation and review of Council wide policy, strategies, priorities and objectives.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to adopt the refreshed Volunteer Policy and reaffirm Moray Council support for direct volunteering with council services and within communities.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There are currently a number of different documents relating to Volunteering on the council website which can cause confusion. [The Moray Council Volunteering Policy](#) has references to The Scottish Executive and has been in place since 2007. The [Volunteering Policy \(Staff Guidance\)](#) is the most up to date document being updated in Sept 2019 and due for review in March 2022.
- 3.2 There is an opportunity to update and simplify the current position, hence the refreshed Policy at **APPENDIX 1** which has evolved from the Staff Guidance document. The updated version better reflects the different types of volunteering that the council supports and is informed by the experiences of the past two years where community volunteers and groups played such an important role in mobilising during the pandemic and adverse weather events.
- 3.3 The [Scottish Government review](#) of Storm Arwen made a number of recommendations one of which is "*Fuller integration of the voluntary and community sector into emergency planning and response*". Reference is

therefore made explicitly to Emergency Planning within the refresh in recognition of work being delivered with community councils and others to develop local resilience plans.

3.4 The Policy outlines

- How people can volunteer with the council within different services and projects.
- How the council will link in with Community Resilience groups and other stakeholders to co-ordinate support to communities in emergency situations.
- How we will celebrate the work of volunteers and link in with **tsi MORAY**.

3.5 The Policy has been developed with input from council services, **tsi MORAY** and Health and Social Care Moray colleagues. It has been discussed and amended after feedback from the Personnel Forum and CMT/SMT.

3.6 Colleagues in Health and Social Care have confirmed that the Policy is consistent with their refreshed NHS Grampian Volunteering Policy and that they will report back to the Integration Joint Board on the new council policy once approved.

3.7 The Policy makes reference to the [Volunteer Essential Information Handbook](#) which will require a new Foreword and which will be updated once the Policy is approved.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan /Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)

The refreshed Policy will support volunteering in Moray and is consistent with the Corporate Plan Vision which explains how the council works with 'public, private, community and voluntary organisations to create the right environment for people to do well and reach their potential...'

The LOIP refers to the key role of the CLD Plan in supporting the development of 'resilient and self-reliant, empowered communities'. The CLD Plan has a dedicated Active Citizens and Communities strand which seeks to encourage and value volunteering, support community action groups and to help community groups develop Community Resilience Plans, all of which are consistent with the new Policy.

(b) Policy and Legal

None.

(c) Financial implications

None.

(d) Risk Implications

The inclusion of community resilience within the overall Policy should help co-ordination across different services and back into communities during emergency scenarios and events.

(e) Staffing Implications

The new Volunteering Forum will be an additional group but it is anticipated that the impact will be positive in terms of improved communication and networking and that the officer input required should be minimal. This will be monitored and reviewed after 12 months if the benefits of the Forum are not as anticipated or the workload is not manageable within current resources.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

The Policy has an Equalities Statement and refers to the need to remove financial barriers which may impede the ability to volunteer.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

The Policy is consistent with the intentions of the emerging Climate Change Engagement Strategy.

(i) Consultations

The Head of Education Resources and Communities, the Head of Financial Services, the Equal Opportunities Officer, the Principal Climate Change Strategy Officer and Lindsey Robinson, Committee Services Clerk have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with the contents as regards their respective areas of responsibilities.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 It is recommended that Committee support the refreshed Policy and reaffirm the council's commitment to supporting volunteering.

Author of Report: Kevin McDermott, Communities Service Manager
Background Papers:
Ref: SPMAN-9425411-139 / SPMAN-9425411-144