

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

20 November 2019

Report of

**Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer
K.Jones**

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Alternative model for the Older Persons' Council

Purpose of Report

1. To present Cabinet with an alternative model for the Older Persons' Council for consideration and approval.

Executive Summary

2. In 2005 Welsh Government (WG) introduced their Strategy for Older People and Councils were required to produce their own version of the Strategy. WG funding was also provided to help deliver this work (i.e. to cover staff costs). This funding was used to employ an Older People's Development Officer.
3. To develop our own Strategy, consultation work was undertaken and feedback from this resulted in the Older Persons' Council being set up in 2005 (with the aim to continue the dialogue with older people). The OPC was made up of 12 residents (volunteers) from the county borough and was supported to deliver on its remit by the Older People's Development Officer.
4. The OPC's main functions were to engage with the Council and its partners, along with the public, providing an independent collective voice for older people. They also supported the Council in the implementation of the Strategy for Older People, along with monitoring and scrutinising the Ageing Well in Wales Programme.
5. Over the years the OPC have made a good contribution in a number of areas and the following are some examples of their work:

- Engagement with the public, communities and third sector organisations on issues affecting older people;
 - Responding to consultation exercises (affecting older people);
 - Attending events relating to older people and disseminating messages to the community;
 - Supporting the Council to deliver on its priorities for older people; and
 - Supporting the Commissioner for Older People in Wales to deliver priorities for older people.
6. However, over the years there have been a number of changes in how the Older People's Development Officer has supported the OPC. In 2018, due to reduced budgets and change in priorities, the resources to support the OPC was removed to focus on the Armed Forces Covenant work. In 2019, through NPT CVS a part time Development Officer was appointed to continue to support the OPC.
 7. The work undertaken by the NPT CVS Development Officer through engagement events with the community, has highlighted the lack of awareness in the community of the OPCs work and role.
 8. There has also been an issue with keeping the membership to full capacity, with members stepping down during their term and difficulties recruiting.
 9. The current arrangements are no longer proving to be an effective model for providing an independent collective voice for older people. The proposal is to change from its current model to an alliance/federation of organisations that represent the views of older people across Neath Port Talbot. The OPC would be dissolved but members could still be part of the alliance/federation through other organisations they represent or as individuals.

Background

10. In 2005 Welsh Government (WG) introduced their Strategy for Older People and Councils were required to produce their own version of the Strategy. WG funding was also provided to help deliver this work (i.e. to cover staff costs). This funding was used to employ an Older People's Development Officer.

11. As part of this work the Council held a 'have your say' event with older people to help develop the Strategy. Feedback from this engagement event led to the setting up of a Council for Older People (known as the OPC) with the aim to continue the dialogue / engagement with older people.
12. The Council's Older People's Development Officer supported the OPC to deliver on its functions (as set out in paragraph 4).
13. Over the years the OPC have made a good contribution in a number of areas and the following are some examples of their work:
 - Engagement with the public, communities and third sector organisations on issues affecting older people;
 - Responding to consultation exercises (affecting older people);
 - Attending events relating to older people and disseminating messages to the community;
 - Supporting the Council deliver on its priorities for older people; and
 - Supporting the Commissioner for Older People in Wales deliver on its priorities.
14. However, over the years there have been a number of changes in how the Older People's Development Officer has supported the OPC. In 2018, due to reduced budgets and change in priorities, the resources to support the OPC was removed to focus on the Armed Forces Covenant work. In 2019, through NPT CVS a part time Development Officer was appointed to continue to support the OPC.

Current Position

15. The purpose of appointing the NPT CVS Development Officer in 2019 was to support the OPC to develop as an independent representative body for older persons in Neath Port Talbot. This required a full review of existing arrangements which included its aims and objectives, membership, and terms of reference. NPT CVS supported the OPC in recruiting a Development Officer by involving them in the recruitment process and the Development Officer was appointed in July.
16. The work to date has enabled the OPC to recognise that changes are needed to ensure they continue to be relevant, focussed and a more effective voice for older people in the county borough.

17. The OPC have started to address the main issues they see necessary for change. These being: defining the future aims and purpose of the OPC; recognising where they need to focus their efforts in order to influence decisions and drive change; and recruitment of new members.
18. However, despite efforts made, progress has been slow during 2019-2020. The OPC feels that it is still not engaging sufficiently well with the wider community and acknowledge few people in the community know of its work and its role.

Proposal for Alternative Model

19. The proposal is to change from its current model to an alliance/federation of organisations that represent the views of older people. The OPC would be dissolved but members could still be part of the alliance/federation through other organisations they represent or as individuals.
20. The proposed alliance/federation model will be designed to expand the representation of views of older people within Neath Port Talbot by bringing more representative organisations together. The intention is that the alliance/federation focuses on discussing policy and makes recommendations around this, in line with the Council's agenda and other issues (such as health).
21. If the change in model is agreed, then the focus of the Development Officer over the next few months will shift to making arrangements for an alliance/federation model to be put in place. This will involve coproducing the terms of reference, membership and governance structure with local organisations representing older people.

Financial Appraisal

22. If the proposed model is not approved, the OPC will not be able to deliver on the commitments set out in their grant agreement with the Council for 2019-20 financial year.

Integrated Impact Assessment

23. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment.

Valleys Communities Impact

24. The current model is not representative of the county borough and therefore the views of older people are not representative and limited.

The new model will enable a better representation across the county borough.

Workforce Impact

25. No impact.

Legal Impact

26. If the proposed model is approved, variations will be required to the grant agreement that the Council has entered into.

Risk Management

27. If the proposed model is not approved the views of older people across the county borough will not be represented and limited.

Consultation

28. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

29. It is recommended that Cabinet considers and approves the alternative model proposed.

Reason for Proposed Decision

30. To ensure the views of older people from across the county borough are represented.

Implementation of Decision

31. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in.

List of Background Papers

32. [Third Sector Grant Scheme](#)

Officer Contact

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