

## Review Committee – 7 September 2010

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **7 September 2010** when there were present:-

Vice-Chairman in the Chair: Cllr M Maddocks

Cllr Mrs P Aves

Cllr K A Gibbs

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr T Livings

Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill

Cllr P F A Webster

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr J E Grey

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs J R Lumley.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren - Chief Executive  
P Gowers - Overview and Scrutiny Officer  
M Power - Committee Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Ron Rowson (Chairman RRAVS)  
David Barnes (Vice-Chairman RRAVS)  
Tony Ashley (Trustee/Director RRAVS)  
Jackie Brown (Chief Officer RRAVS)

### **219 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **220 THE RAYLEIGH ROCHFORD AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE (RRAVS)**

The Committee received a presentation from Ron Rowson, David Barnes, Tony Ashley and Jackie Brown on the role of the RRAVS.

In response to Member questions, the following responses were provided:-

- RRAVS is looking to source new income streams for when the current funding expires (the majority of which is in 31/3/11). The Board of Trustees has made contingency plans in the event that funding is not forthcoming, including the possibility that the activities may have to be drastically reduced or closed down. RRAVS staff have been put on notice that if funding is significantly reduced their employment may have to be reviewed.

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- If further funding for the RRAVS Chief Officer is not available after March 2011, the post will be discontinued, which would make it difficult to continue to interface with statutory partners and attend strategic meetings at the level that was currently possible.
- RRAVS receives no funding from the South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT).
- Although Wyvern Community Transport is a separately registered charity, as a partner, RRAVS can provide Wyvern Community Transport with funding advice. RRAVS Trustees were asked to provide Members with full details of the relationship between RRAVS and Wyvern Community Transport.
- The Social Services provides RRAVS with details of families who would benefit from their Families in Need appeal, which provides goods to the most vulnerable families in the District.
- The bi-monthly newsletter is sent to those organisations that are registered as Members of RRAVS.
- RRAVS, in its role as an umbrella organisation, has contact with groups across the District. RRAVS staff members attend outside events or make visits to groups in the area. Local groups can also make direct contact with RRAVS via the office. The RRAVS newsletter is sent to all Parish and Town Councils, with a request that local organisations are advised of the service provided by RRAVS.
- The organisation where a volunteer is placed is responsible for obtaining references and undertaking the appropriate checks for that volunteer. Volunteers who work directly for RRAVS will have the appropriate checks done by RRAVS.
- Initially, a potential volunteer can either make contact direct with the organisation or ask RRAVS to progress the relationship. In the latter case the organisation will be provided with name and contact details only. RRAVS will fulfil the role of matching the volunteer with an appropriate organisation. When recruiting volunteers the Volunteer Centre staff conduct face to face interviews, which helps to increase the percentage of placements that are retained by organisations.
- Unregistered carers who look after housebound relatives in their own homes are one of the most vulnerable and isolated sectors in society. This can include carers who are children and carers who live with elderly parent/s and who are unwell themselves. In these cases RRAVS works closely with its statutory partners to find out where the gaps in service provision are and can either refer the person to the appropriate agency or offer 'befriending' services.
- The minimum age for a volunteer is 18 and the average age is around 25.

- RRAVS can provide 'LAPTTOP' computer training sessions for the over 50's in sheltered housing schemes across the District if they are invited to do so.
- RRAVS is required to ask volunteers who register with them if they are using volunteering as a route into employment. The organisation where the volunteer is placed is also advised that the volunteer is using this as a route to employment. It has been found that volunteers who find employment in this way will often continue with volunteering work.

The RRAVS representatives provided Members with information packs and flyers advertising the forthcoming Community Forum breakfast.

### **221 THE FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee reviewed the Forward Plan and noted its contents.

It was noted that dates had been moved back on some items for a variety of reasons including changes brought about by the change of central Government.

### **222 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Legal, Estates & Member Services, which provided Members with details of the Committee's work programme and which advised of an additional request from Rayleigh Town Council that a complete review be undertaken of the use of the taxi rank in Rayleigh High Street.

It was decided that the request for the review be declined on the basis that this would involve a review of the use of all the taxi ranks in the District and the commissioning of detailed traffic surveys of all areas affected. This would not be possible within the Committee's current or foreseeable work programme.

It was agreed that, because of the uncertainty of the situation with Connaught plc, their proposed presentation to the Committee should be deferred.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the status of the current work programme be noted.
- (2) That the request for a review of taxi ranks in Rayleigh be declined.  
(HLEMS)

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The meeting closed at 8.59 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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