

CODE OF PRACTICE ON VOLUNTEERING AND COMMUNITY ACTION

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To invite Members' comments on a draft Code of Practice on volunteering and community action.
- 1.2 The Local Government Association has sent to all Local Authorities the attached document issued under the initiative by Central Government – compact with the voluntary sector.
- 1.3 In order to obtain comments from a cross section of voluntary organisations, the document was sent to those organisations shown on the attached list.
- 1.4 A summary of the replies received is as follows:-
 - Replies received (at the time of writing the report) 6
 - All generally support the Code of Practice.
 - The sections highlighted as being particularly good were 20,21,33,38,75
 - There was strong support for the recognition of volunteers and the contribution they make to society.
 - The independence of the voluntary sector was important and the ability to determine their own policy but act in partnership with statutory bodies and funding agencies.
 - There were problems in reliance on short term funding in that it makes strategic planning difficult.
 - There were problems in relying on a voluntary service when it exists to cover the deficiencies of statutory services. Many jobs performed by volunteers should be paid jobs. If it is a service on which the public depends, it should be properly funded.
 - Younger people need to be made aware of volunteering and the experiences and personal rewards available.
 - The danger of creating an environment that is too formal for volunteers. The freedom to enter and leave a commitment is important to encourage flexibility.

2 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Volunteers assist in all Corporate Objectives.

3 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That the response outlined within the report, be endorsed.

D Deeks

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Background Papers:

None.

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