

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	7 April 2022 21 April 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	New Realities 2022		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director (People)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Y	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

### Summary:

To consider a revised New Realities Protocol which has been co-produced with the Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) Sector.

### Recommendation(s): That

- (1) Cabinet consider the content of the revised New Realities protocol; and
- (2) Council be recommended to approve the revised protocol for adoption.

### Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To approve a revised New Realities protocol.

### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

The Council is not obliged to have a protocol in place but it is recommended best practice.

### What will it cost and how will it be financed?

#### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue costs to this decision.

**(B) Capital Costs**

There are no capital costs to this decision

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>	
There are no resource implications beyond the regular engagement with the VCF sector as part of the Council’s usual business.	
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	
There are no legal implications	
<b>Equality Implications:</b>	
There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
The protocol relates to ways of working with the VCF sector and although there is collaboration on the climate emergency it is not a substantive issue within the protocol.	

**Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: Most of the work undertaken by the VCF sector protects the most vulnerable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The VCF sector is pivotal in facilitating strong and resilient communities
Commission, broker and provide core services: Some VCF organisations are commissioned to provide services.
Place – leadership and influencer: The VCF sector and the way the Council works with the sector is a key part of place leadership
Drivers of change and reform: The New Realities protocol won national awards for formalising the relationship between the Council and VCF organisations.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Volunteering opportunities are recognised as steps towards employment

Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: The council and the VCF sector collaborate on climate emergency response.

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6756/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4956/22.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

**(B) External Consultations**

Consultation has taken place through the New Realities Joint Steering Group and to the following specific networks - Every Child Matters Forum and network members, Health and Social Care Forum network and members and presentation, Sefton Faith Forum network members and workshop, Sefton In Mind network and the Healthwatch Steering Group. It has also been circulated via Sefton CVS's e-bulletin.

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Council meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Andrea Watts
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2030
Email Address:	andrea.watts@sefton.gov.uk

**Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

New Realities Protocol 2022

**Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

**1. Introduction/Background**

1.1 New Realities (NR's), is a 'Can-Do' collaborative agreement between Sefton Council and Sefton's Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector (VCFS). The agreement was launched in 2015, alongside an operational framework that aimed to strengthen relationships and help to 'get things done' whilst making the most of all resources available.

- 1.2 Since June 2021, the New Realities Steering Group (made of VCF organisations across Sefton, Sefton Council and Sefton CVS) have reviewed the 2015 protocol and refreshed the approach.
- 1.3 The Group are also working to complete an action plan associated with the protocol which is included within the document.