

**Small Charities Week 2015  
Policy Debate Event  
Worcestershire County Council  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
Council Chamber  
4 – 6:30pm**

I am writing to introduce you to [Small Charity Week 2015](#), and invite you to take part in an event to debate and explore the relationship between the Local Authority and small voluntary organisations delivering public services locally.

The new commissioning environment requires Local Authorities to robustly access ‘value for money’ services for their communities. This will require Local Authority Commissioners to be ever more creative and resourceful in respect of what they commission and who they commission from as relationships move further along the scale to transactional relationships rather than transformational. So how will small charities respond to the complex needs of Local Authorities whilst maintaining their focus on delivering the very best of services to their beneficiaries?

As Leader of Worcestershire County Council I would like to invite you to join me along with other Cabinet members and Senior Officers to explore issues and come up with fresh ideas, network, form relationships and share best practice to achieve, together, more sustainable results for residents of Worcestershire.

The networking session will run from 4 - 4:45pm and will be a great opportunity to meet other organisations and make new links. This will be followed by a debate and discussion session on the following topics:

**Question 1**

‘Payment by results’ is a type of contract under which payment to the service provider (for example a charity) is made wholly or in part based on the results that are achieved rather than delivery of the service.

**How do you believe contracts commissioned on a ‘payment by results’ basis impact on the quality of services provided by charities to their beneficiaries?**

**Question 2**

The way that the Government describes the charity sector has changed over time. Definitions have changed from, among others, the ‘Third Sector’ to the ‘Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise’ (VCSE) sector.

**Adrian Hardman**  
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**Do you think the charity sector possesses unique characteristics compared to say Community Interest Companies and Social Enterprises who are not registered or regulated by the Charity Commission?  
To what extent do you think it is important for small charities to have a unique identity in contrast to other not-for-profit organisations?**

**Question 3**

The voluntary sector is currently operating in the broader context of economic austerity. This means that there have been reductions in funding for public services at both the local and national level.

**How are small local charities responding to reduced funding and what measures, if any, are they taking to diversify their income?**

If you would like to join us at this event please confirm your place by emailing Gail Wills [gwillis@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:gwillis@worcestershire.gov.uk)

I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrian Hardman". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Adrian Hardman  
Leader of the County Council

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