



Feedback from the European Volunteering Capital 2020 Jury:

Stirling shows that volunteering has an important value to to city - both as a municipality and community - and demonstrates strong efforts to recognise volunteering and assess its impact. The municipality not only has an established base and engagement of the public for volunteering, but its future plans will continue to do the same on a larger scale. Stirling Council, aided by Volunteer Scotland (VS) & Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise (SVE), demonstrate solid plans for the future promotion of volunteering in Stirling and the surrounding area. Stirling is making efforts to become a center or hub for service and volunteering. Stirling creates an enabling environment for people to volunteer and has a special focus on facilitating increased volunteering from people belonging to marginalized groups. Furthermore, there are extensive training programs for all groups in order to improve the quality of volunteering. Whilst Stirling Council show great commitment to create an enabling environment for volunteers through the building of their city hub for organizations, in terms of the involvement of volunteers when developing municipal strategies there is a lack of specific examples of how the voices of volunteers are heard in the process of co-design of policies.

The commitment to volunteering is also underpinned by appropriate funding, that also includes the possibility of co-funding for EU projects. Support for the development of the European Solidarity Corps is also evident. Stirling has good recognition systems for volunteers through the Provost's Civic Awards and SVE's Inspiring Volunteer Awards and there is also support for the national initiative 'Investing in Volunteers'. Stirling shows an important focus on measuring the value of volunteering both in a quantitative and qualitative aspects. Stirling also displays a strategic focus on how to encourage organizations to become more inclusive, for instance by leading a national, strategic group for inclusion. The commitment to cross-sector collaboration is shown through the allowance of employees of the municipality take a day off to engage in the community as volunteers.

