

EXECUTIVE – 22ND JANUARY 2014

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

RE: PROGRESS REPORT RE ESTABLISHMENT OF HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ARRANGEMENTS

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- To outline to members key progress in the establishing a locality based Hinckley & Bosworth Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Hub, Forum and Commissioning Board
- To propose recommendations for the continued development of the VCS locality arrangements for 2014/15.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- To note the VCS arrangements progress report
- To support the recommendations for the continued development of the VCS locality arrangements for 2014/15 (as detailed in paragraphs 3.9 – 3.19)

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

3.1. A report was presented to Executive Committee on 30th January 2013, seeking members support for the establishment of new VCS arrangements for Hinckley & Bosworth VCS from April 2013, to secure the sustainability and ongoing development of VCS organisations within the Borough. Subsequently Executive members gave their support for the following:

- That HBBC support Next Generation Community Connects (NGCC) to lead and deliver the VCS infrastructure work within the locality, through the establishment of new VCS arrangements, including a VCS Hub operating from the existing Next Generation building. (**VCS Infrastructure provision** is aimed at supporting the establishment, development and sustainability of front line VCS service delivery organisations, and brokering effective joint working between the VCS and the public sector).
- That HBBC, work in partnership with NGCC and Community Action Hinckley and Bosworth (CAHB) to develop and deliver the new VCS arrangements during 2013/14.

3.2. The VCS report was considered in conjunction with a separate report seeking member's approval for growth funds, to support the ongoing delivery and development of neighbourhood management arrangements via our three community houses, to be funded via the HRA. It was subsequently agreed that 50% of the costs of each of the Community Houses, which equates to £72,500, be off set by income from the HRA, with £32,000 ring fenced for the delivery of services for Wykin Community House, via a SLA with CAHB. The subsequent savings arising from the

General Fund, £40,500, to be ring fenced as a development fund to support the development of the new VCS arrangements.

3.3. Key achievements 2013/14

3.4. The following provides an overview of key achievements in establishing the new VCS arrangements during this initial year:

- Establishment of a **comprehensive VCS database**, following an extensive mapping exercise identifying to date, 1,197 active VCS organisations within the Borough
- A preliminary VCS representatives meeting on 12th March 2013 to share/test out initial thinking about the proposed VCS Forum and Commissioning Board model
- **VCS consultation workshop** on 16th May 2013 to gain detailed feedback and views on the operation of the VCS Forum and Commissioning Board, attended by 30 VCS organisations/representatives
- Comprehensive report developed capturing the outcomes arising from 16th May consultation workshop
- An **inaugural VCS Forum meeting** in July 2013, and **establishment of a VCS Development Forum** primarily made up of the 30 engaged VCS organisations, which included a discussion on the proposed Commissioning Board model
- **Establishment of VCS Commissioning Board** including ten VCS representatives and two HBBC Executive Members
- Promotion and management of arrangements inviting all VCS organisations to put forward bids for a share of **£20,000 for projects** seeking to support and sustain good mental health and wellbeing within the community (details of the brief inviting bids is attached at Appendix 1)
- Meeting of the VCS Development Forum to assess VCS bids, and recommendations made to VCS Commissioning Board
- Meeting of **Commissioning Board** on 29th October 2013, to review successful bids and agreement to **allocate £20,000** to support the delivery of **10 projects** to help support and sustain good mental health and wellbeing within the community (overview of commissioned projects detailed at Appendix 2)

3.5. In addition to the above NGCC has continued to undertake activities, in the development of the NGCC building becoming operational as a VCS Hub and a town centre location to complement the new Hinckley statutory agency Hub, e.g. a town centre access point has been established for the Clockwise Credit Union provision, and has been operational from 1st April 2013. This has seen a direct impact on the increase in the number of volunteers secured in supporting the Credit Union provision, and increasing footfall for those seeking the Credit Union services and provision.

3.6. As well as providing a central Hinckley base for the Credit Union, the VCS Hub is utilised by the Probation service, who deliver an independent living programme, at least two sessions per month, to support women who have just left prison, and this is set to continue through 2014. The VCS Hub also offers its facilities to the Hinckley Bereavement Support Group, who were required to vacate their previous meeting venue at the Health Centre from December 2013. In conjunction with the authority, during 2014, NGCC are planning to offer training from the VCS Hub, to support community volunteers. The training will be delivered utilising the trained community coaches within Hinckley and Bosworth, sourced from the countywide Think Leicestershire initiative.

- 3.7. The promotion of this town centre facility and its role in signposting people to appropriate support, will become increasingly important in facilitating a link with the new Hinckley Hub.
- 3.8. The achievements and learning from this initial development year will be profiled at the **LSP Board annual review meeting on 5th February 2014**, to which the local press will be invited. The event will also profile the outcomes for the community arising from the development of the VCS arrangements, and the commissioned projects during 2013/14.
- 3.9. Next Steps – Proposals for 2014/15
- 3.10. Going forward a key priority will be to continue to develop the VCS Development Forum, and specifically in securing more VCS organisations (particularly smaller VCS organisations to engage with the new arrangements). During 2013, there has been considerable consensus in views, of the importance of the Forum in supporting VCS learning and development, collaboration, communication, and becoming a key mechanism for listening to and capturing the voice of the local people of the Borough. Ongoing maintenance of the VCS database will be fundamental to enabling this.
- 3.11. As a result of the developing Forum arrangements during 2014/15, it is envisaged that the VCS will be able to represent itself effectively, for example, at HBBC/locality key delivery partnerships/forums, to articulate the VCS offer, enabling a greater understanding of the collective offer of both the statutory and VCS sector, and opportunities for improved collaborative working.
- 3.12. In addition, the strengthening of the VCS Forum, should enable the VCS to position itself effectively for emerging commissioning opportunities, not just via HBBC, but other statutory sectors such as the Clinical Commissioning Groups. Our local VCS model is concerned with **enabling VCS collaboration**, recognising that previous commissioning arrangements have made it difficult/impossible for smaller VCS organisations to respond to commissioning opportunities.
- 3.13. A further core work stream will be the continued development of the NGCC building in establishing a VCS Hub for the locality, offering a town centre venue for a range of provision, such as: recruitment of volunteers, a conducive venue for partner agency outreach workers, a base from which VCS groups can deliver services particularly for the most vulnerable, etc.
- 3.14. Proposed Funding and Delivery Arrangements 2014/15
- 3.15. It is proposed that the funding arrangements for 2014/15, remain as for 2013/14, detailed at paragraph 3.2., and at paragraph 4.0.
- 3.16. In addition, now that some of the fundamental structures are in place for the new VCS arrangements, it is proposed that during 2014/15 the VCS Forum will seek appropriate grant funding, as part of the funding package to support the ongoing development proposals.
- 3.17. Following the successful three party partnership to establish the new arrangements during 2013/14, going forward it is proposed that NGCC continues to be the lead organisation, operating as the VCS infrastructure organisation to support the ongoing development of the VCS arrangements. CAHB will continue to engage with the new arrangements alongside all other VCS organisations.
- 3.18. N.B. it is proposed that HBBC will continue to engage CAHB to deliver the community development/cohesion work, and delivery of services via Wykin Community House, as part of a separate SLA to these VCS arrangements.

- 3.19. Prior to the passporting of funds to support the continuation of the VCS arrangements, it is recommended that NGCC submits accounts to HBBC Finance services in order to verify the financial viability of the organisation during 2014/15. It is further recommended that this should be the case for CAHB in relation to the SLA arrangements for Wykin Community House.

4.0. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (KB)

HBBC currently allocate £27,670 of funding on an annual basis to support VCS arrangements, for 2013/14 this fund will be allocated to the Next Generation Community Connect VCS Hub. This budget for 2013/2014 was approved as part of the budget setting process.

The total budgets for the Barwell and Earl Shilton Community Houses for 2013/2014 are £32,190 and £81,640 respectively. These are financed from the base budget and were approved as part of the 2013/2014 budget setting process.

The allocation of funding for the Wykin Community House via CAHB has been considered reasonable following a review of the body's financial standing and forecasts. On this basis a £32,000 expenditure budget will be included for 2013/2014. No supplementary budget is required for this amount as £33,010 budget was included in the base budget for the previous year.

In order to fund the expenditure budget and the additional contribution to the VCS Hub, the following supplementary budget requests will be made from Executive:

- £40,500 HRA expenditure budget to fund Community Houses within the General Fund.
- Corresponding income budgets of £40,500 within the General Fund to reflect the receipt of income from the HRA and payment to the Barwell and Earl Shilton Community Houses (£20,250 each)
- £40,500 VCS General Fund expenditure budget.

Funding for the Community Houses from the HRA is permitted under the HRA ring fence, on the basis that the property is within the HRA and the provision serves Council tenants. Any additional allocation of funding which is not provided solely for this purpose should be reviewed further to ensure compliance with the ring-fence.

5.0. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (LH)

- 5.1. None arising directly from this report.

6.0. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The contents of the report relate to and support the following strategic aims:

- Cleaner and Greener Neighbourhoods
- Thriving Economy
- Safer and Healthier Borough
- Strong and distinctive communities

7.0. CONSULTATION

This report has taken account of the ongoing consultation undertaken by NGCC and CAHB in establishing a comprehensive VCS database and Directory, to inform the

development of the VCS Forum and Commissioning Board, and the proposals for 2014/15.

10. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Lack of sustainability of key VCS organisations within Hinckley and Bosworth, resulting in no VCS infrastructure arrangements within the locality	Establishment of the H&B VCS locality arrangements	Edwina Grant

11. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The utilisation of up to date evidence sources and data, informed via the key VCS organisations within the locality, has helped to inform the need to consider alternative approaches to the sustainability of the VCS within Hinckley and Bosworth, to focus resources on priority needs across all areas of the Borough, including rural Hinckley and Bosworth.

12. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

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