



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

Council 29 January 2019

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

INTRODUCTION OF A VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY FOR THE BOROUGH

Report of Director - Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To inform members of the background to, and introduction of the proposed volunteering strategy for the Borough

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. To note and endorse the proposed volunteering strategy.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Borough Council has a well established relationship with the voluntary & community sector (VCS), and this has been strengthened through our VCS partnership arrangements. Next Generation is commissioned by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council to act as the lead VCS organisation for the Borough, overseeing and coordinating provision and support available to the local VCS community - locally this is known as the Hinckley & Bosworth VCS Partnership.
- 3.1.1. The VCS undertakes a unique and invaluable role in delivering essential front line services to our communities, which complement statutory provision. In recognising this, HBBC ring fences funding and other resources on an annual basis, to directly commission the VCS, overseen and managed by Next Generation as part of the agreed SLA. However, fundamentally the VCS is reliant on volunteers to meet the needs of the community it serves.
- 3.3.2. We are fortunate to have a rich, vibrant and diverse range of volunteers across all areas of our Borough, and whilst there is a range of support for these volunteers, we recognise the need to make this easy to access and to reflect the needs of volunteers, and those managing volunteers.
- 3.3.3. In addition through the VCS partnership, we deliver regular VCS Development Forums bringing together VCS organisations large and small, to discuss topical

issues of most importance to the VCS. The issue of support for volunteering is a regular feature, and specifically the need for support in promoting volunteering opportunities, and the importance of securing more volunteers. In response to this, again through the partnership, we have recently introduced a new provision – the introduction of the Hinckley & Bosworth Volunteering Hub. This provides a one stop shop for VCS organisations wishing to promote volunteering opportunities, and support for those wanting to volunteer. The Volunteering Hub can be accessed online, as well as the provision of a drop in service based at Next Generation, Castle Street, Hinckley.

- 3.3.4. Therefore, the introduction of this volunteering strategy, builds on the ongoing work of the VCS partnership, and responds to a priority need expressed by the VCS. Furthermore, the strategy has been informed by, and is presented as a joint document setting out the aims and commitment of both HBBC and the VCS. The draft strategy is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.3.5. It should be noted that the delivery of this strategy is reliant on the ongoing commitment of HBBC, and associated funding in commissioning Next Generation (or equivalent VCS lead body), to deliver the VCS Partnership work programme, in conjunction with the HBBC Community Planning team.
- 3.3.6. In role modelling effective workplace practice (as set out in the volunteering strategy), HBBC will need to continue to support and enable employees to take up volunteering opportunities. Therefore, the Strategic Leadership Team has requested that the current HBBC internal volunteering policy be reviewed, to include a commitment enabling employees up to 2 days per year to undertake volunteering opportunities. Furthermore, SLT members have agreed to support in the identification of appropriate HBBC volunteering opportunities i.e. community clean ups, tidy gardens, Borough wide events, etc. The current HBBC volunteering policy adopted in 2013 is attached for information at Appendix 2.

4. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

- 4.1 The report is to be taken in open session.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (DW)

- 5.1 The local authority currently allocates £130,000 annually to support the development and delivery of our VCS partnership arrangements, for the following activities:
 - £60,000 - SLA with Next Generation to oversee and deliver a broad range of responsibilities in supporting the development and sustainability of our VCS, including our VCS Commissioning arrangements, and
 - £70,000 - for direct VCS commissioning.
- 5.2 The costs of delivering the work associated with the Volunteering Strategy, will be met from the existing SLA with Next Generation.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MR)

- 6.1 None

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The contents of the report relate to and support the People, Place and Prosperity corporate priorities, and will specifically support the delivery of the following ambition: 'Support an effective and viable voluntary and community sector.'

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The volunteering strategy has been informed by the Voluntary and Community Sector, through the comprehensive VCS database, and specifically the VCS Development Forum, via the VCS Partnership arrangements.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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
A reduction in the number and capacity of volunteers to undertake essential frontline service delivery which complements statutory provision	Introduction of a volunteering strategy supported by the delivery of jointly owned and delivered comprehensive action plan	Edwina Grant

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The utilisation of up to date evidence sources and data, informed via the VCS Development Forum, and VCS database, has helped to inform the ongoing development of our VCS arrangements, including the volunteering strategy. These mechanisms also ensure resources are aligned with Borough priorities, and gives VCS organisations from all areas of the Borough, including rural areas, access to support via the VCS partnership.

11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community Safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset Management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data Protection implications

- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Hinckley and Bosworth Volunteering Strategy (attached)

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