

**EXECUTIVE – 30TH JANUARY 2013**

**REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)**



Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

*A Borough to be proud of*

**RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF A HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR HUB**

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS**

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1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- To set out a proposed approach for the establishment of a Locality based Hinckley & Bosworth Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Hub

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- (i) To support the establishment of the Hinckley & Bosworth VCS Hub from April 2013, as follows:
  - That HBBC support Next Generation Community Connects (NGCC) to lead and deliver the VCS infrastructure work within the locality. NG Community Connects to retain their existing charitable status and Trustee Board
  - That HBBC continue to support Community Action Hinckley & Bosworth (CAHB) to lead and deliver the community development/cohesion work within the locality. CAHB to retain their existing charitable status and Trustee Board
  - That HBBC support both organisations working in partnership through the VCS Hub to develop and delivery the VCS Forum (the Locality Forum for the VCS), that is properly supported by both NGCC and CAHB, with a new Locality Commissioning/Board made up of representative organisations.
  - That a proposal is submitted by both NGCC and CAHB to demonstrate their fitness for purpose for the delivery of the work streams outlined under paragraph 4.1., and subsequently, both organisations to present this model and supporting arrangements to Executive Committee.
- (ii) To support the proposal to allocate the current HBBC annual VCS Grant funding of £27,670 to support the delivery of work streams to be commissioned via the VCS Hub for 2013/14..**N.B.** Subject to requirements outlined under financial implications paragraph 6.1.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1. HBBC currently support a number of VCS organisations within the locality, through Grant funding and in kind arrangements, but in the context of ever reducing budgets, there is a need to find a more sustainable approach to VCS support, development, and delivery within the Borough, in order to continue to meet the needs of our diverse community.

- 3.2. Discussions with a number of key VCS organisations operating within the locality, indicate that very often organisations are bidding and competing for the same pot of money, to fund core business, with very little staff capacity to field for this kind of resource intensive work. Whilst this is understandable in the context of organisations seeking survival, it is not necessarily making best use of collective resources, expertise and assets, or positioning VCS organisations to take advantage of future opportunities evolving through new commissioning arrangements.
- 3.3. It is within this context that HBBC has been keen to explore options for the future, and in the first instance have held discussions with Community Action Hinckley and Bosworth (CAHB) and Next Generation (NG), two lead VCS organisations within the Borough, and both currently in receipt of Grant funding from the authority.
- 3.4. Discussions to date confirm that both organisations are in agreement of the potential and opportunities afforded through the creation of a new VCS partnership for Hinckley and Bosworth, building on the many years of success and achievements of these organisations to date.
- 3.5. In the context of changing and reducing funding streams, and the increased demand to support individuals with very complex needs, during July 2012, NG Trustees gave unanimous support for a refreshed set of objectives for the charity. This has resulted in a change to the charitable status of NGCC from 'youth' to 'community', and a rebranding of the organisation to Next Generation Community Connects (NGCC).
- 3.6. As part of their new business model and strategic direction, NG have officially merged with Burbage Youth Project, to ensure the continuity of this valuable work which includes youth club provision, gardening club and vehicle restoration, now all delivered under the NG Community Connects brand. NG have applied for and been successful in securing Grant funding to support the delivery of these projects. **Appendix 1** sets out the expanded Community Connects services under the new NG model. NGCC has also introduced additional work streams, for example work around Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender issues, having recognised there is very little support for such minority groups. This work will be progressed under the Proud Generation Connect Project.
- 3.7. CAHB has continued to deliver the highly valued community development and cohesion work on behalf of the Borough, and has supported the range of provision delivered via our Community Houses. Specifically the Borough Council has in place a SLA with CAHB for the running and delivery of associated services for the Wykin Community House, which has gone from strength to strength in terms of community engagement and ownership of community activity.
- 3.8. Alongside this, during the budget setting round for 2012/13, HBBC made the decision to withdraw from the county wide VCS infrastructure support contract, currently delivered by Voluntary Action Leicestershire (VAL), for which we had been contributing an annual amount of £27,670. Under the terms of this contract we were required to give three months notice of withdrawal, and therefore made a payment of £6917.50 for the first quarter of 2012/13. The Borough Council made a decision to re-direct the remaining resources to focus on locality based work, where we feel we make the most impact. A majority of the remainder of this funding, £15,000, was re-directed to support the sustainability of CAHB, to deliver the community development work described in paragraph 3.8.
- 3.9. A further £5,000 from this pot, was ring fenced to support the ongoing development of a Social Enterprise (S.E.) organisation, supporting the aspirations of CAHB, for the establishment of a S.E. organisation, specialising in regeneration/community development and direct service delivery (where it sees its particular strengths), with a move away from direct delivery of VCS infrastructure support services. The ambition

was to enable CAHB to lever in resources and capacity, to deliver the localism agenda, provide appropriate support to the VCS in terms of regeneration and community development, and create a sustainable organisation, non reliant on grant funding arrangements.

- 3.10. However, owing to the ongoing ill health of the lead officer for the S.E. this has not been realised during 2012. In October 2012, the officer concerned made a decision to permanently withdraw from the position for ill health reasons. The ring fenced £5,000 was subject to an agreement on a payment by results basis, and therefore, still remains in the budget for 2012/13.

#### 4.0. **Hinckley and Bosworth VCS Hub Proposal**

- 4.1. Therefore, in the context of the above, the following is proposed for the establishment of the H&B VCS Hub from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013:

- That HBBC support NGCC to lead and deliver the VCS infrastructure work within the locality. NG Community Connects to retain their existing charitable status and Trustee Board. (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 continue to support CAHB to lead and deliver the community development/cohesion work. CAHB to retain their existing charitable status and Trustee Board. **N.B.** This proposal should be considered in conjunction with a separate report, setting out a proposal for the sustainability and development of all three community houses, and subject to requirements outlined under financial implications paragraph 6.1. of this report.
- That HBBC support both organisations working in partnership through the VCS Hub to develop and delivery the VCS Forum (the Locality Forum for the VCS), that is properly supported by both NGCC and CAHB, with a new Committee/Board made up of representative organisations.

#### 4.2. **The proposed model is outlined at Appendix 2.**

- 4.3. Please note NGCC, owns its town centre location building, unencumbered by loans or mortgages, and it is proposed that this building becomes the VCS Hub, to complement the new HBBC statutory agency hub. The VCS Hub has sufficient space to accommodate outreach workers, and indeed, NGCC has already extended this provision to a range of enquiring agencies seeking appropriate facilities for their one to one meeting requirements. In addition the VCS Hub will undertake a key referral/sign posting service between itself and the Hinckley Hub.
- 4.4. The proposed model, with the existing organisations retaining their charitable status and trustee boards, enables us to move to the new arrangements within the timescale required, by April 2013, with a view to securing the sustainability of these key VCS organisations, which we can not afford to lose. Overtime, the intention is to bring on board further key VCS organisations, for example Age UK, with the potential for the establishment of a Social Enterprise organisation, building on the success of this 'partnership' arrangement.

#### 5. **Recommendation**

- 5.1. It is recommended that a proposal be worked up by both NGCC and CAHB to demonstrate their fitness for purpose for the delivery of the work streams outlined

above, under paragraph 4.1. Following this, both organisations will be requested to present this model and supporting arrangements to Executive Committee.

- 5.2. It is recommended that the HBBC annual VCS Grant funding of £27,670 is allocated to commission the delivery of work streams to be delivered via the VCS Hub for 2013/14. **N.B.** Subject to requirements outlined under financial implications paragraph 6.1.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** (KB)]

- 6.1. It is proposed that the HBBC annual VCS Grant funding of £27,670 is allocated to commission the delivery of work streams to be delivered via the VCS Hub for 2013/14. **N.B.** The allocation of funding for 2013/14 to Community Action Hinckley and Bosworth will be confirmed following a full review of the organisations financial standing and forecasts. This will be obtained through a review of CAHB's 2011/12 accounts and pending issue of a "going concern" conclusion from the organisations external auditors.

7. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS** (LH)

- 7.1. None arising directly from this report.

8. **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

9. **CONSULTATION**

This report has taken account of the ongoing consultation undertaken by key VCS organisations in the locality, including Next Generation and CAHB, along with evidence provided by Voluntary Action Leicestershire to understand the changing context within which the VCS is operating. This has informed the need to consider alternative approaches to the sustainability of the VCS within Hinckley and Bosworth.

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	Establishment of the H&B VCS Partnership and supporting work streams	Edwina Grant

infrastructure arrangements within the locality		
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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, alongside VAL, 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

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Background papers: None

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