



Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

*A Borough to be proud of*

## FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

Scrutiny Commission                      24 May 2018

WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards

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## **VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMISSIONING OUTCOMES 2016/17**

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### **Report of Director Community Services**

#### **1.     PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1.1 To update members on outcomes arising from the 2016/17 round of Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Commissioning, via a presentation from commissioned VCS providers and beneficiaries.
- 1.1.2. Please note this report relates to the outcomes of the commissioning round October 2016 to October 2017. The outcomes of the commissioning round October 2017 to October 2018, will be reported in 2019.

#### **2.     RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the positive impact in improving the quality of life for communities, resulting from the ongoing direct commissioning of front line services via our local VCS commissioning arrangements.

#### **3.     BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Historically Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council has supported a number of VCS organisations, through grant funding and 'in kind' arrangements. However, in the context of ever reducing public sector budgets and subsequently grant funding, during 2012, the authority recognised the need to find a more sustainable approach to VCS support, development and delivery within the Borough, in order to meet the needs of our diverse and most vulnerable members of our community.
  - 3.1.1. Therefore, from April 2013, HBBC commissioned one of our leading VCS organisations, Next Generation, to lead on the development of new VCS arrangements for our locality, with the aim of sustaining our front line VCS service delivery organisations, through the establishment of arrangements to enable locality based commissioning of the VCS.

3.1.2. The established arrangements we now have in place for Hinckley & Bosworth, which are unique to Leicestershire, include:

- An **overarching VCS Development Forum**, comprising 40 VCS (both large and small) organisations, enabling learning and development, collaboration, communication, and a key mechanism for listening to and capturing the voice of the local people of the Borough. The Forum meets on a regular basis, to help inform overall developments for our local arrangements, for focused development sessions on topical issues, and importantly as a vehicle to enable networking and collaboration.
- A **VCS database and Directory** detailing the type of provision and geographical location of VCS organisations across the Borough – comprising approximately 1,200 entries. This provides the key access route for the Borough Council and other key partners, for communicating, engaging and consulting with the VCS.
- A **VCS Commissioning Board**, made up of VCS representatives, (and two HBBC Executive Members – Cllr M Hall and Cllr M Cook) which provides a robust, fair and accessible mechanism through which the local authority and other sectors can commission the VCS
- Successful establishment of **VCS collaboration** through the development Forum, in submitting joint commissioning bids, and subsequent joint delivery, and joint working on other areas of delivery, which has in turn enabled sustainability
- Effective **representation of the interests and offer of the VCS** at key delivery partnerships within the Borough, including: The Local Strategic Partnership, Think Family Partnership, and the Health & Wellbeing Partnership, and others as and when required. This has enabled a greater understanding of the opportunities for both commissioning, and improved joint working between the statutory and voluntary & community sector.

3.1.3. It is important to note that the ongoing development of our local VCS arrangements, has been enabled through the commitment of our VCS, who continue to give considerable time to test and continually develop this model of working, at a time when their resources and capacity are particularly stretched.

3.1.4. To date, five rounds of VCS commissioning have been undertaken, (including 2017/18 commissioning which took place in October 2017), enabled by ongoing ring fencing of HBBC funds on an annual basis, which has seen an increase from £20,000 in 2013/14, rising to £70,000 in 2016/17, and for subsequent years. The total funds committed through these arrangements since 2013 is £195,474.

## **3.2. VCS Commissioning 2016/17**

3.2.2. Reflecting on four rounds of VCS commissioning, evidence indicates that the VCS are well placed to support the Borough's health and wellbeing priorities, providing cost effective practical frontline provision, which complements statutory provision. Furthermore, the VCS are often closest to the community, and based on this insight, have the flexibility to tailor their delivery approaches to meet customer needs, in a timely way, not always afforded by the statutory sector, and specifically in relation to:

- Reducing the impact of social isolation and loneliness, and
- Helping maintain good mental health and wellbeing within our communities

Therefore the focus for commissioning during 2016/17 reflected these two themes.

- 3.2.1 We have also concluded that whilst we want to encourage new, and both larger and smaller VCS organisations to benefit from commissioning funds, it is important that we continue to support our more established VCS projects/models, to enable them to become self sustaining longer term. Examples of these projects include: The Burbage Youth Project, The Mayflower Project, Hinckley Pathways Journey Well with Dementia Project, and Hinckley & Bosworth Community Transport.
- 3.2.2 Therefore, the work commissioned during 2016/17 reflects a mix of both new and established projects:  
**Appendix 1** provides a summary of the projects commissioned in 2016/17, key outcomes delivered, and numbers of direct beneficiaries
- 3.2.3. However, increasingly we have identified that case study information better reflects the impact on individuals and our communities. Therefore **Appendix 2** has sought to capture a **range of case studies**/feedback from beneficiaries of projects commissioned in 2016/17.
- 3.2.4. To demonstrate this further a number of VCS organisations, together with beneficiaries have been invited to present to the Scrutiny Commission meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May, in order that members can hear first hand, about how this provision is positively impacting on the quality of life for our communities.

### **Responding to Community Safety priorities**

- 3.2.5. In addition to the above, during 2016/17, £25,000 of the additional £50,000 (agreed by Executive Members during this time period, increasing the VCS commissioning funds from £20,000 to £70,000 p.a.), was ring fenced to support Community Safety priorities, and specifically work to support vulnerable perpetrators and victims of anti social behaviour (ASB), offering early intervention and prevention support, with the aim of proactively seeking to address some of the underlying causes.
- 3.2.6 In responding to the above, we subsequently embarked on a Community Safety Partnership/VCS pilot piece of work – further details of this pilot project are detailed at **Appendix 3**

### **Ongoing development of our local VCS arrangements**

- 3.3.1. The local authority working in partnership with Next Generation as our lead VCS organisation, are committed to continually improving the offer for our VCS. Therefore 2017/18 will see the introduction of a new HBBC/VCS partnership website, with new branding, hosted by Next Generation, providing an on line platform to profile all of the work delivered by the partnership including the VCS Development Forum, the Commissioning opportunities, and related work such as the Annual Making a Difference Awards.
- 3.2.6. In addition we will be introducing a Volunteering Hub, offering a one point of contact service for anyone wanting to volunteer within the Borough, and for VCS organisations seeking to recruit volunteers. This service will be available on line (hosted on the new partnership website), as well as a face to face service based at Next Generation. This is in response to feedback from our VCS, that fundamentally their sustainability is reliant on retaining a good volunteer base.

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 amount spent on VCS commissioning during the period 2013-14 to 2017-18 was £195,474 compared to a budget of £200,000 as detailed in the table below:-

Year	Budget	Actual Spend
	£	£
2013-14	20,000	20,000
2014-15	20,000	20,000
2015-16	20,000	20,000
2016-17	70,000	70,000
2017-18	70,000	65,474
Total	200,000	195,474

5.2 In 2018/19 the commissioning budget is £70,000.

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 This report has taken account of the ongoing consultation undertaken by Next Generation through the established VCS Development Forum, Commissioning Board, and database.

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
Lack of sustainability of key VCS	Sustainability of the H&B	Edwina

organisations within Hinckley and Bosworth, resulting in no VCS infrastructure arrangements within the locality, and significant reduction in frontline delivery of essential provision	VCS locality arrangements	Grant
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## 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, and approaches to the sustainability. 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 the VCS commissioning arrangements.

## 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

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Background papers: None  
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