



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Hinckley Area Committee 2 March 2022

Wards affected: All Wards

Establishment of a pop up/mobile Central Volunteering Hub facility

Report of Director Community Services

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update members on the new arrangements for overseeing the work of the Hinckley & Bosworth Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership
- 1.2 To seek approval from the Hinckley Area Committee to utilise funds previously allocated, to fund the establishment of a pop up/mobile central Volunteering Hub facility

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the request seeking utilisation of funds to support the establishment of a mobile central Volunteering Hub facility.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Partnership is a collaboration between the Council and VCS, and has been in place since 2013, with the overall aim of helping to sustain and grow the vital work delivered by the VCS and its many volunteers.
 - 3.1.1 Historically HBBC commissioned Next Generation to oversee the development and delivery of our local VCS support arrangements. However, in September 2020, Next Generation indicated that they would not be seeking to renew the SLA with HBBC from 1st April 2021. Therefore, with effect from April 2021, the Rural Community Council (RCC) another one of the Borough's well established leading VCS organisations, was commissioned to oversee this work on behalf of the authority.

3.1.2 As members may recall a report was presented to the Hinckley Area Committee

on 27 January 2020, seeking funding to enable new signage at the Next Generation

building, promoting both the VCS Partnership and the associated Hinckley based walk in Volunteering Hub. Specifically:

- A new sign for the front of the building and digital print running the full length of the windows, using our VCS partnership branding
- LED poster frames, wall prints and signage for the reception area promoting/creating a designated Volunteering Hub area

3.1.3 Subsequently a sum of £4,000 was agreed by the Committee, however, shortly after, the nation went into lockdown on 23 March 2020 owing to the Corona Virus pandemic. Given the circumstances throughout 2020, the work of rebranding and opening a walk-in volunteering hub were put on hold.

3.2 It should be noted that these funds of £4,000 remain ringfenced for the purposes of promoting the VCS partnership, and specifically a central volunteering hub, however, given we now have a new lead VCS organisation, the RCC, the proposal for the location and arrangements for this are now as follows:

- To establish a pop up/mobile volunteering hub facility, to be based primarily at the Atkins Building in the public area space, to act as a central volunteering hub for the Borough, for both those seeking volunteering opportunities, and those wishing to promote opportunities (please note the RCC office is based at the Atkins Building). This mobile facility would also be easily transported and set up in the Town Centre, and at key community events.

3.2.1 Support for this mobile facility is welcomed, specifically in recognising the impact of the pandemic in relation to volunteers and volunteering. Whilst the voluntary effort has been exceptional over the last 2 years, we have seen some volunteers step down (given their need to self-isolate/need to protect their health & wellbeing), and have subsequently not returned to volunteering. Therefore, we are keen to undertake work to recruit more volunteers, and specifically to capture/harness the enthusiasm of those who may have volunteered for the first time during the pandemic.

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 report relates to funds that have already been passported to the VCS Partnership now overseen by the RCC. The request is for the VCS

Partnership/RCC to use funds for a mobile central hub facility instead of signage.

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 the Rural Community Council 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 visible central access point promoting the VCS partnership and Volunteering Hub, and therefore impact on enabling sustainability of VCS through recruitment of volunteers	Establishment of a dedicated mobile volunteering hub facility with marketing campaign to promote the work/offer of the VCS Partnership and central access point for volunteering	Edwina Grant

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 The utilisation of upto 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 need for a central Volunteering Hub facility.

11. Climate implications

11.1 The purpose of having a mobile/pop up facility will allow for use in multiple locations, rather than having to replica the set up. Most environmentally/eco friendly materials will be sources wherever possible.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 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: None

Contact officer: Edwina Grant 01455 255950

Executive member: Cllr K Lynch