

APPENDIX B – VCS Strategy Action Plan Updated March 2021

VCS Strategy - Action Plan

| Output | Timescale | 2020 update | Status |
|---|------------------|---|-----------------|
| Review Community Grants for 2016/17 budget and then annually as part of budget setting. Community Grants to be given priority is any savings discussions. | Annual budget | Minimum £50k community grants budget agreed for each financial year since 2015/16. | Complete |
| Develop and implement a VCS Accommodation Policy | October 2015 | Agreed by Executive on 4 th April 2016 | Complete |
| Review grant to Voluntary Action LeicesterShire to provide volunteer development and VCS group support | February 2016 | Consultation carried out with VAL in August 2015 Scrutiny September 2015 Identified as £10,000 saving in the 2016/17 budget 3 months notice given to VAL Grant ended | Complete |
| Review core grant funding for local strategic VCS organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens Advice • Voluntary Action South Leicestershire • Lutterworth Community Transport | February 2016 | Annual review of core grants carried out by Communities Scrutiny Panel Core grant added in 2019/20 for HomeStart South Leicestershire. This was funded through reprioritising funding previously given to the County Council as part of the Supporting Families Programme. | Complete |
| National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) Discretionary Relief | Ongoing | Review in line with Revs & Bens timetable to review policy | Complete |
| Supporting Council staff to volunteer for Harborough | January 2016 | New staff volunteering policy in place from 2017 | Complete |

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| Develop volunteering opportunities for Council services | January 2016 | Develop new policy to enable volunteering for the Council by December 2015 <i>Explored but discounted due to resources. HDC continues to play an enabling role in volunteering through providing grants to the voluntary sector. HDC also provides direct support to community volunteer litter pickers through providing litter picking equipment, H&S advice and collection of bagged rubbish.</i> | Not progressing. |
| Providing value for money DBS checks for VCS organisations | January 2016 | <i>Investigated but no viable business case based on amount of work vs. likely uptake from the VCS.</i> | No further action |
| Recognising VCS in the Procurement of services | April 2016 | <i>After further investigation the procurement policy already adheres to the Social Value Act.</i> | No further action |
| Dragons den | Annually | Annual dragons den style event held, last one in 2019. Panel of funders including HDC, LCC, National Lottery, Community Foundation and Bowdens discuss potential project ideas with around a dozen community groups per year and give advice on funding applications and likelihood of success. | Complete |
| Develop and implement a new community lottery as a way to enable VCS to raise more funding | April 2018 | The Harborough Lotto was launched in May 2018. In March 2020 the lotto; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had 55 good causes registered • Was selling 1262 lotto tickets per week • Was generating £32,812 for good causes • Was generating £6,562 for HDC to cover costs. | Complete |
| Greater collaboration between HDC and the VCS on joint funding bids | Ongoing | In 2018 HDC brought Homestart Charities together with all District Councils in Leicestershire and the County Council to apply for a Sport England Pilot project around helping vulnerable families to improve physical activity. The project was awarded £500k for three years, which has been extended to March 2022. In Harborough the project helps 15 families per year through the development of tailored programmes; drawing on leisure centres, community opportunities and specialist support. | Complete |