

**APPENDIX B – VCS Strategy Action Plan Updated March 2022**

## VCS Strategy - Action Plan

<b>Output</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Status</b>
Review Community Grants for 2016/17 budget and then annually as part of budget setting. Community Grants to be given priority in any savings discussions.	Annual budget	The Council budget for community grants was maintained at £50k between 2016/17 and 2020/21. The budget reduced to £40k in 2021/22 to support savings and will reduce further in 2022/23. However, the Council is planning to introduce a six figure capital grants budget in 2022/23 to support the Platinum Jubilee.	<b>Complete</b>
Develop and implement a VCS Accommodation Policy	October 2015	<a href="#">VCS Accommodation Policy</a> agreed by Executive on 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	<b>Complete</b>
Review grant to Voluntary Action LeicesterShire to provide volunteer development and VCS group support	February 2016	A review took place in August 2015 in consultation with VAL. Decision to cease funding on value for money grounds saving the Council £10k. Advice and support to groups continues in Harborough District via the countywide contract between VAL and the County Council.	<b>Complete</b>
Review core grant funding for local strategic VCS organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens Advice</li> <li>• Voluntary Action South Leicestershire</li> <li>• Lutterworth Community Transport</li> </ul>	February 2016	Annual review of core grants carried out by Communities Scrutiny Panel. No changes in funding recommended.  New core grant added in 2019/20 to support complex families. This was a key population that was not covered by existing grants.	<b>Complete</b>
National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) Discretionary Relief	Ongoing	Review in line with Revs & Bens timetable to review policy	<b>Complete</b>
Supporting Council staff to volunteer for Harborough	January 2016	New staff volunteering policy in place from 2017	<b>Complete</b>

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Develop volunteering opportunities for Council services	January 2016	Develop new policy to enable volunteering for the Council  <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&amp;S advice and collection of bagged rubbish.</i>	<b>Dropped</b>
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>	<b>Dropped</b>
Recognising VCS in the Procurement of services	April 2016	<i>After further investigation the procurement policy already includes reference to the Social Value Act.</i>	<b>No further action</b>
Supporting VCS to secure external funding	Annually	Annual 'dragons den' style event held where groups can pitch project ideas to a panel of funders including HDC, LCC, National Lottery, Community Foundation and Bowdens Charity.	<b>Complete</b>
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. As of 1 March 2022 the lotto; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sold 215,513 tickets</li> <li>• Has 1,339 regular players</li> <li>• Has paid out £31,450 in prize money</li> <li>• Has generated £107,756 for local good causes</li> <li>• Currently has 67 good causes registered</li> </ul>	<b>Complete</b>
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 families through the development of tailored programmes; drawing on leisure centres, community opportunities and specialist support.	<b>Complete</b>