

Public Consultation on Voluntary & Community Sector Support RESULTS

September 2015



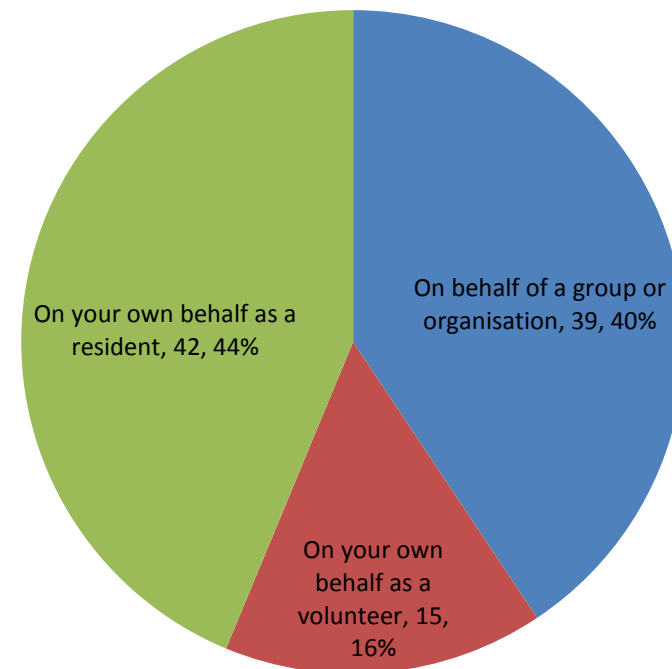
Summary of responses

96 Responses

- 42 residents
- 39 Organisations
- 15 Volunteers

1-1 meetings including

- Shop Mobility
- Borough Alliance FC
- Harborough Town FC
- Thurnby PC

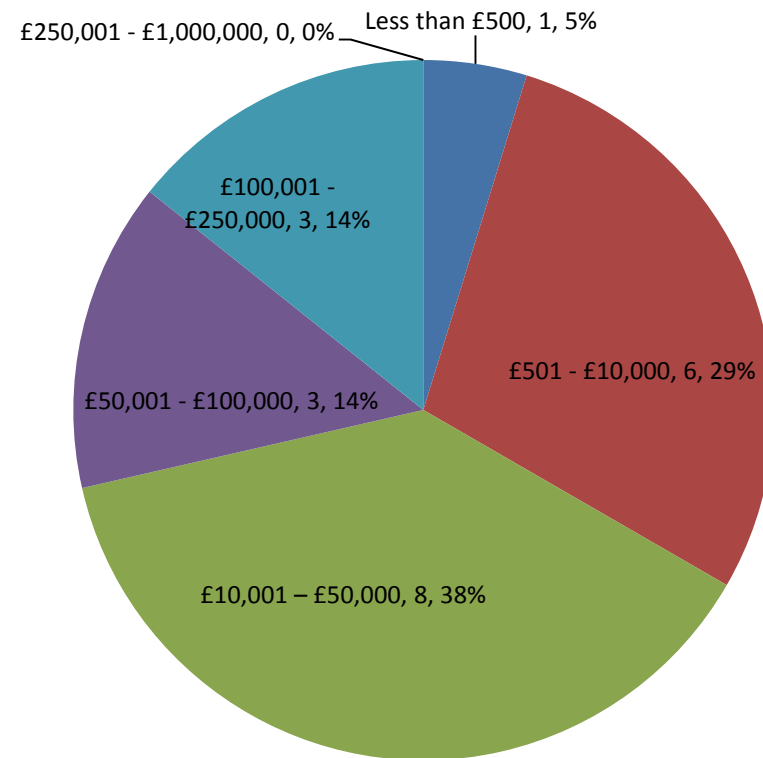


Organisations that responded included

- Voluntary Action South Leicestershire (VASL)
- HCYC (Harborough District Children and Young People's Charity')
- Sustainable Harborough (RCC)
- Harborough Town Community Trust/Harborough Town FC
- Shopmobility Market Harborough
- The Robert Monk's Foxton Charity (=Foxton Village Hall)
- Thurnby Memorial Hall
- Ullesthorpe Playing Field Association
- Thurnby and Bushby Parish Council
- Market Harborough Environment Group
- Market Harborough Baptist church
- Thurnby And Bushby Sports And Social Association (TABSASA)
- Market Harborough Cricket & Squash Club
- Market Harborough Baptist Church
- RFM Studios CIC
- Borough Alliance Juniors Football Club
- Symingtons Sports Association
- Market Harborough RUFC
- Welland Valley Archers
- Transition Town Market Harborough
- Harborough FM
- Lutterworth Community Transport
- Market Harborough tennis club



Total organisation income 2014/15



Organisation volunteers

- 39 Organisations
- 952 volunteers
- 113,290 volunteer hours per year

Or

- 4,720 volunteer days



Organisation main area of work

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Sport and leisure activities	52.6%	10
Services for the disabled and older people	36.8%	7
Activities and services for children and young people	31.6%	6
Community groups and forums	26.3%	5
Protecting and enhancing our environment	15.8%	3
Faith groups	15.8%	3
Health and social care services	10.5%	2
Black and minority ethnic support	5.3%	1
Mediation and counselling	0.0%	0
Advice and support for vulnerable people	5.3%	1
Other (please specify)		4



Volunteer respondents worked in..

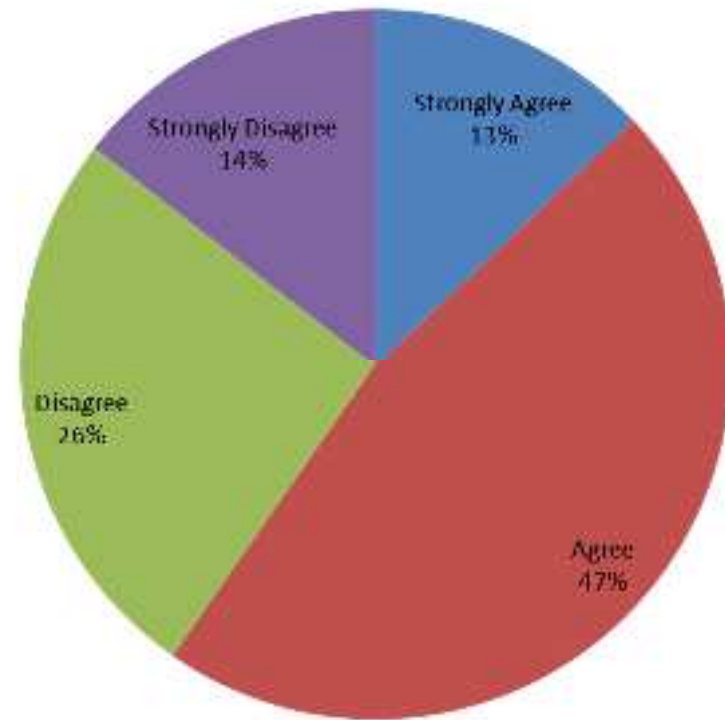
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Services for the disabled and older people	69.2%	9
Sport and leisure activities	30.8%	4
Activities and services for children and young people	23.1%	3
Community groups and forums	23.1%	3
Faith groups	15.4%	2
Protecting and enhancing our environment	15.4%	2
Health and social care services	7.7%	1
Mediation and counselling	0.0%	0
Advice and support for vulnerable people	0.0%	0
Black and minority ethnic support	0.0%	0



Feedback on Policy Statement

At a time of reduced resources and funding pressures, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following aspiration to guide future support to the Voluntary & Community Sector:

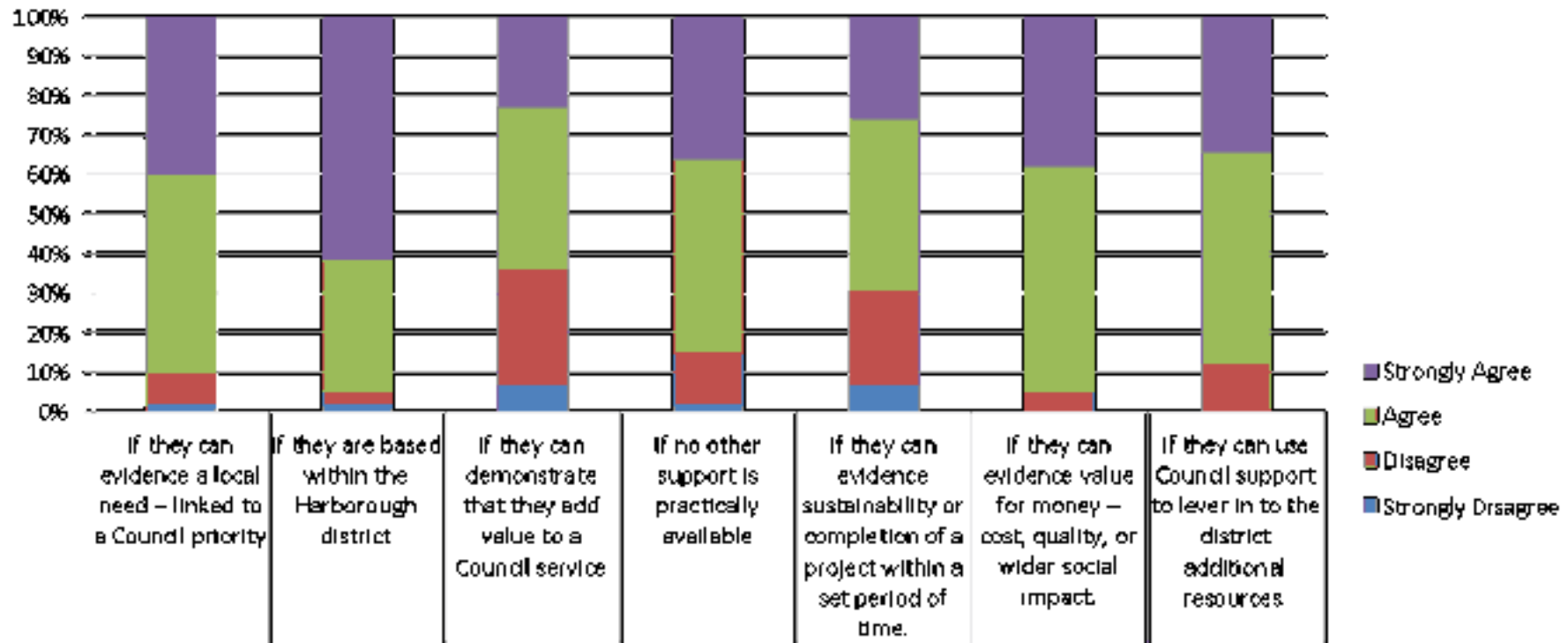
“Harborough District Council recognises the social, environmental and economic value of the Voluntary & Community Sector and the need to enable appropriate support to voluntary & community organisations. The Council will help enable the local Voluntary & Community Sector to increase self-sufficiency thereby reducing the need for Council support over time”.



Summary of comments on Policy Statement

- Support the aspiration – 5
- Needs clearer wording – 5
- Unrealistic – 5
- Volunteers add value – 3
- High expectation on volunteers – 3
- VCS organisations cannot be self-sufficient – 2
- VCS fill the gaps – 2
- Prioritise support for smaller groups – 2
- Its harder to get funding – 2
- VCS are the key link to the community – 2
- Not measureable – 1

Feedback on prioritising support



Summary of comments on priorities

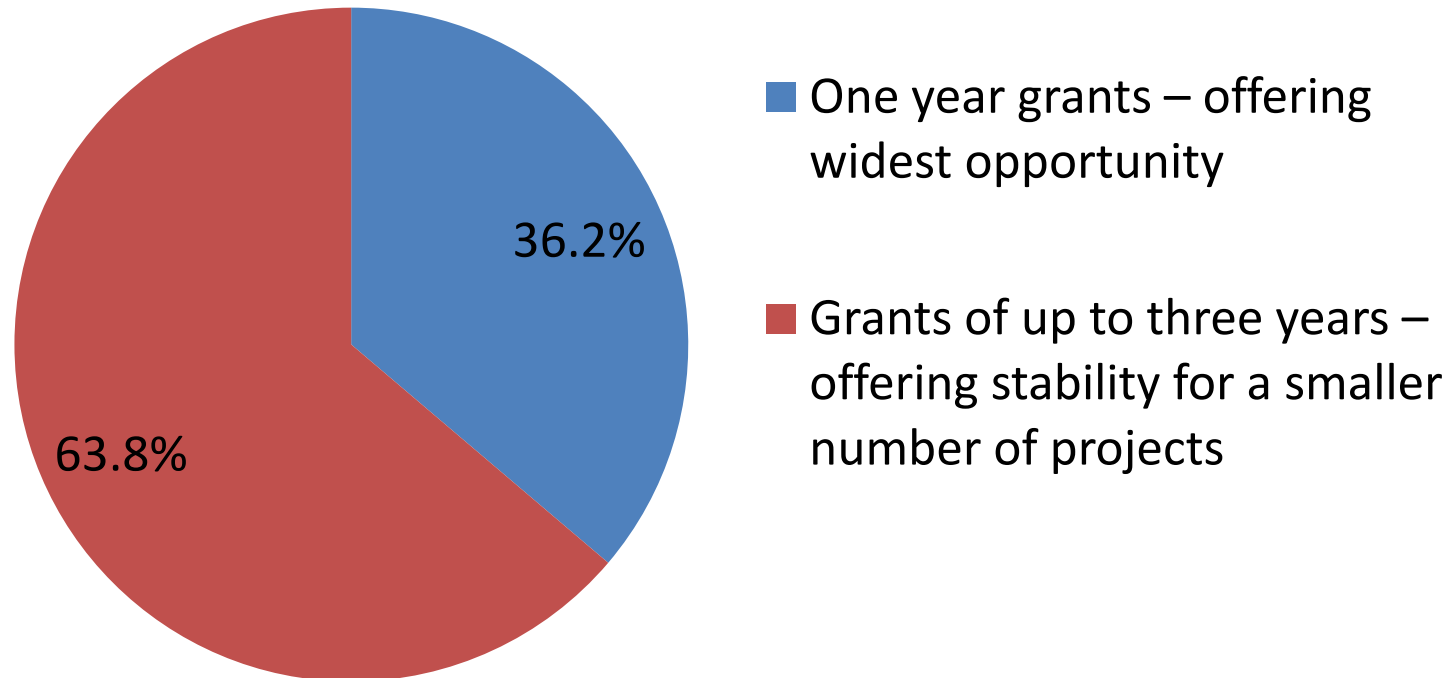
- Projects should support Council objectives – 3
- Should be community needs driven not Council driven – 3
- Does the Council know community needs? – 2
- Some needs/ gaps need long-term support – 2
- Council should encourage collaboration between organisations and sectors – 1
- Should be about outcomes and not where organisations are based – 1
- Value is about effectiveness, not just financial – 1
- Last priority is too complex – 1
- Need a way of prioritising – 1

How the Council can best support the VCS - rank order

1. Giving community grants
2. Core funding for a small number of Voluntary Sector hubs as focal points for volunteering
3. Enabling new and extended Community Facilities from housing developers
4. Funding volunteer promotion and development
5. Funding support and advice to voluntary and community groups to increase self-sufficiency
6. Enabling the provision of free, impartial and confidential advice to residents
7. Subsidised accommodation in Council owned premises



What is the best way to allocate community grants?



How the council can best support volunteering – rank order

1. More volunteering opportunities
2. Marketing opportunities
3. Matching volunteers to opportunities
4. Good practice guidance on using volunteers
5. Policy development on volunteering



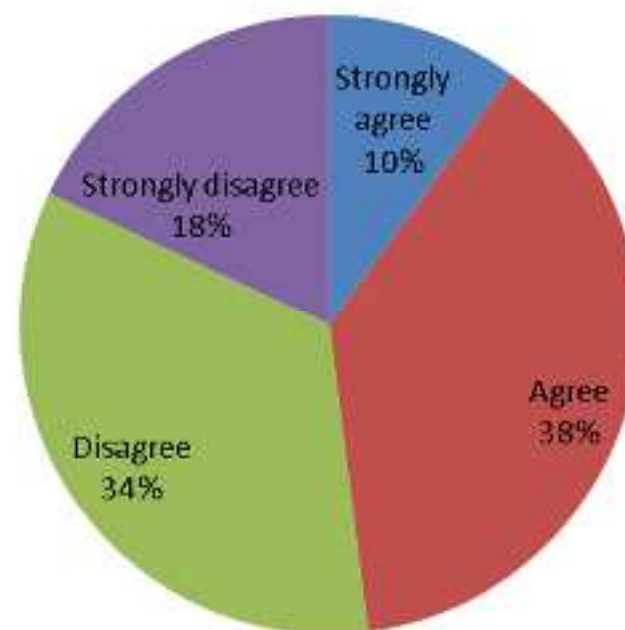
Summary of comments on key skills to improve sustainability

- Marketing – 11
- Securing funding/ grants – 7
- Business planning – 6
- Financial skills – 6
- Leadership / Management – 6
- Partnerships/ sharing resources – 5
- Communication skills – 3
- Partnerships with businesses/ CSR – 3

Feedback on Accommodation Policy

At a time of reduced resources and funding pressures, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following approaches to the leasing/ hiring of Council owned premises by voluntary & community organisations?

- That the Voluntary & Community organisations should pay full market rent/ hire charges
- Those organisations which cannot afford the cost should be able to apply for a subsidy from the Council if they meet some or all of the criteria mentioned earlier to help us prioritise support.
- That the amount of subsidy is based on evidence provided by the organisation but could cover the majority of lease/ hire costs in some circumstances.
- That any subsidy will be for a maximum of 5 years- based on the aspiration that organisations should become self-sustaining over time.



Summary of 31 comments on Accommodation Policy

- Do not object to principle – 9
- Support a subsidy - 7
- Market rent hard to fund externally – 6
- Too bureaucratic – 5
- Opportunity cost to community wellbeing if organisations cannot afford and close – 4
- A set VCS discount for accommodation – 2
- Council support to explore other options – 2
- Valuations must be fair and transparent – 1

