

## Consultation - voluntary and community sector support

# Seeking your views

A consultation on Voluntary & Community sector support provided by Harborough District Council.

**Consultation closes on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

## How to have your say

You do not have to use this form to give us your feedback, you can fill in an on-line survey, email or write.

**Visit:** [www.harborough.gov.uk/vcsconsultation](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/vcsconsultation)

**Email:** [t.day@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:t.day@harborough.gov.uk)

**Write to:** Tom Day, Community Partnerships Manager, Harborough District Council, The Symington Building, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7AG – drop your survey at our main reception.

Please post your completed consultation form to the address above.

If you have any further questions or comment on the consultation please use the comments section at the end of this survey. Your answers will be treated anonymously but if you would like us to send you feedback on the consultation results, please let us know your email address in your response. All information collected will be used for the purposes of this consultation and will not be shared with any third party.

## Consultation - voluntary and community sector support

### Why is the council running this consultation?

Harborough District Council is running this consultation in the context of ongoing funding pressures to help enable the voluntary and community sector to help meet the needs of communities. This work includes;

1. Developing an aspiration for voluntary and community sector support to guide decisions,
2. Reviewing spending and support so that it enables the voluntary and community sector to be sustainable
3. Developing a consistent approach on rent/hire charges to voluntary and community groups in Council premises.

### Background

Harborough District Council recognises and values the contribution the sector makes to the economy, environment, civic life and social fabric of local communities.

Harborough has a strong voluntary and community sector with around 500 groups registered in the district, and a very diverse volunteering community which ranges from local branches of Age UK to those individuals that want to make something happen in their neighbourhood. Parish Councils are outside the scope of this work.

### Spending and support in 2015/16:

1.	Community Grants	£95,000*
2.	Additional work in Harborough District on volunteer development and group advice and support. (Over and above that, funded in all districts/ boroughs by Leicestershire County Council). Delivered by Voluntary Action Leicestershire	£10,000.
3.	Core Funding for local Voluntary and Community Sector 'Hubs':	
	a. Voluntary Action South Leicestershire	£14,000
	b. Lutterworth One Stop Shop/ Volunteer Centre	£10,000
4.	Funding to enable free, impartial and confidential advice to residents. Delivered by Leicestershire Citizens Advice	£67,200.
5.	The Council also offers accommodation and premises to Voluntary & Community Sector groups at reduced rates including ongoing repair and maintenance costs.	
6.	The Council enables new and extended Community Facilities from s106 Housing developer contributions.	
7.	The Council also funds smaller community groups such as Harborough in Bloom, Arts Fresco and offers in kind support e.g. litter picking equipment for community groups.	

\* In the last three years Harborough has given £750,000 from its New Homes Bonus Government funding directly to communities across the district.

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### Section 1 – about you

1.	<b>What is your postcode?</b>	<input type="text"/>
2.	<b>Are you completing this consultation:</b> <i>(please tick)</i>	
	a. On behalf of a <b>charity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b. On behalf of a <b>voluntary organisation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c. On behalf of a <b>social enterprise</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	d. On behalf of a <b>faith-based group</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	e. On behalf of a <b>community group</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	f. On your own behalf as a <b>volunteer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	g. On your own behalf as a <b>service user</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	h. On your own behalf as a <b>resident</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Section 2 – about your organisation

*Please complete this section if it is relevant*

3.	<b>What is the name of your organisation?</b>	<input type="text"/>
4.	<b>Does the voluntary and community organisation you represent provide services across the Harborough district, or just in specific towns or villages?</b>	
	a. Across the Harborough District	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Only in specific towns	<input type="checkbox"/>
	If b., please give details:	
	<input type="text"/>	
5.	<b>In the previous financial year (2014/15) what was the total income of your organisation from all sources?</b>	
	Less than £500	<input type="checkbox"/>
	£501 - £10,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
	£10,001 - £50,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
	£50,001 - £100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
	£100,001 - £250,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
	250,001 - £1 million	<input type="checkbox"/>
	More than £1 million	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	<b>How many full time equivalent staff does your organisation employ?</b>	<input type="text"/>
7.	<b>How many volunteers work with your organisation?</b>	<input type="text"/>
8.	<b>How many volunteer hours are provided per year?</b>	<input type="text"/>
9.	<b>What are your organisation's main areas of work?</b> <i>(please tick)</i>	
	a. Advice and support for vulnerable people	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Protecting and enhancing our environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c. Sport and leisure activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
	d. Mediation and counselling	<input type="checkbox"/>
	e. Activities and services for children and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>
	f. Services for the disabled and older people	<input type="checkbox"/>
	g. Community groups and forums	<input type="checkbox"/>
	h. Faith groups	<input type="checkbox"/>
	i. Black and minority ethnic support	<input type="checkbox"/>
	j. Health and social care services	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>

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### Section 3 – about your volunteering

Please complete this section if it is relevant

<b>10. What do you do as a volunteer?</b>	
a. Advice and support for vulnerable people	
b. Protecting and enhancing our environment	
c. Sport and leisure activities	
d. Mediation and counselling	
e. Activities and services for children and young people	
f. Services for the disabled and older people	
g. Community groups and forums	
h. Faith groups	
i. Black and minority ethnic support	
j. Health and social care services	
Other (please specify)	

### Section 4 – about services you receive

Please complete this section if it is relevant

<b>11. What services do you receive?</b>	
a. Advice and support for vulnerable people	
b. Protecting and enhancing our environment	
c. Sport and leisure activities	
d. Mediation and counselling	
e. Activities and services for children and young people	
f. Services for the disabled and older people	
g. Community groups and forums	
h. Faith groups	
i. Black and minority ethnic support	
j. Health and social care services	
Other (please specify)	

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### Section 5 – Developing an aspiration for voluntary and community sector support

12. **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 and community sector? (please tick)**

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

Strongly agree  Agree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments on this aspiration? Please let us know:**

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13. **The following criteria could be used to prioritise support to voluntary and community sector organisations in the future. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following? (please tick)**

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a.	If they can evidence a local need – linked to a council priority				
b.	If they are based within the Harborough District				
c.	If they can demonstrate that they add value to a council service				
d.	If no other support is practically available				
e.	If they can evidence sustainability or completion of a project within a set period of time				
f.	If they can evidence value for money – cost, quality, or wider social impact				
g.	If they can use council support to lever additional resources into the district				

**If you have any specific comments on this question, please let us know:**

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<b>Section 6 – reviewing spending and support</b>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>At a time of reduced public sector funding, please rank the following ways the council can best support the voluntary and community sector, in order of priority:</b>
	<i>Please rank each statement as 1 – 7, with one the most important and seven the least</i>
	a. Giving community grants <input type="text"/>
	b. Subsidised accommodation in council owned premises <input type="text"/>
	c. Funding volunteer promotion and development <input type="text"/>
	d. Funding support and advice for voluntary and community groups to increase self-sufficiency <input type="text"/>
	e. Core funding for a small number of voluntary sector hubs as focal points for volunteering <input type="text"/>
	f. Enabling the provision of free, impartial and confidential advice to residents <input type="text"/>
	g. Enabling new and extended community facilities from housing developers <input type="text"/>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Which of the following ways of delivering a grants process do you see as highest priority? (please tick)</b>
	a. One year grants – offering widest opportunity <input type="checkbox"/>
	b. Grants of up to three years – offering stability for a smaller number of projects <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>16.</b>	<b>Please rank the following ways of developing volunteering, in order of priority:</b>
	<i>Please rank each statement as 1 – 5, with one the most important and five the least</i>
	a. Developing volunteering opportunities <input type="text"/>
	b. Marketing volunteering opportunities <input type="text"/>
	c. Matching volunteers to opportunities <input type="text"/>
	d. Good practice in relation to using volunteers <input type="text"/>
	e. Policy development in relation to volunteering <input type="text"/>
<b>17.</b>	<b>In your opinion, what skills and expertise would best enable the voluntary and community sector to improve sustainability?</b>
	<input style="width: 100%; height: 100%;" type="text"/>

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### Section 7 – approach to rent/hire charges for voluntary and community organisations

Access to reasonable cost premises is vital for all voluntary groups seeking to maintain or expand their service delivery. This applies both to groups leasing premises and those hiring halls for daily or occasional use. Current lease/hire arrangements have been decided on a case by case basis leading to variation in terms and conditions. The intention is to standardise arrangements to ensure consistency and transparency in hiring/leasing to voluntary groups.

18. **Do you currently lease or hire council premises?**

Yes  No

19. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following approach to the leasing/hiring of council owned premises by voluntary and community organisations?**

- That the voluntary and community organisations should pay full market rent/hire cost for any premises, and that this should form part of their business plan
- That 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 in Question 13, in order 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 a subsidy will be for a maximum of five years – based on the aspiration that organisation should become self-sustaining over time.

Strongly agree  Agree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

**If you have any specific comments on this proposal, please let us know:**

## Consultation - voluntary and community sector support

<b>Equality Monitoring</b>				
The following information is collected to help us understand our community. It will not be shared with anyone or used for contacting you.				
1.	<b>What is your gender?</b>			
	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<b>What is your age?</b>			
	18-24 <input type="checkbox"/>	25-29 <input type="checkbox"/>	30-44 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	45-59 <input type="checkbox"/>	60+ <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<b>What is your ethnicity?</b>			
	White: English, Welsh, Scottish, or Northern Irish			<input type="checkbox"/>
	White: Other White background			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Asian or Asian British			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Black African, Black Caribbean or Black British			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mixed or multiple ethnic group			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other ethnic group			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Prefer not to say			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	<b>What is your sexual orientation?</b>			
	Heterosexual			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Prefer not to say			<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	<b>Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?</b>			
	Yes, limited a lot			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Yes, limited a little			<input type="checkbox"/>
	No			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Prefer not to say			<input type="checkbox"/>

### What to do with your completed consultation form

Thank you for taking the time to give us your views. You can now return your completed consultation form in any of the following ways:

1. **By email:** [t.day@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:t.day@harborough.gov.uk)
2. **By post:** Tom Day, Community Partnerships Manager, Harborough District Council, The Symington Building, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7AG
3. **In person:** drop your completed consultation form to our main reception at the above address.