

**Bolsover District Council**

**Meeting of the Executive on Monday 11th July 2022**

**Extension of BCVS Delivery to provide Infrastructure Support to the Voluntary and Community Sector in Bolsover District**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Enforcement and Partnerships**

<b>Classification</b>	This report is Public
<b>Report By</b>	Jessica Clayton Leaders Executive and Partnership Manager <a href="mailto:Jessica.clayton@bolsover.gov.uk">Jessica.clayton@bolsover.gov.uk</a>
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Laura Khella Contracts and Commissioning Officer 01246 242302 <a href="mailto:Laura.khella@bolsover.gov.uk">Laura.khella@bolsover.gov.uk</a>

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT**

- To provide an update on the current position in respect of infrastructure support provided to the voluntary and community sector in Bolsover
- To seek approval from Executive to contract with Bassetlaw CVS for a further three years, utilising the Council's existing allocation from the Grants to Voluntary Organisations budget, as well as additional funding from Bolsover Partnership.

---

**REPORT DETAILS**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Bassetlaw CVS were appointed by Bolsover District Council via an open procurement process in 2019. Since then they have been providing infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Bolsover.
- 1.2 They were awarded a three year contract for the period July 2019 to June 2022, and this has recently been extended by 1 month to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Their areas of work include:

**Voice** - Advocacy, representation, supporting, campaigning, and linking the sector and sectors together

**Groups** - Funding and governance support, capacity building, training, advice, information, connecting groups and communication

**People** – Volunteering, connecting people with non-clinical VCSE / community support, mutual aid – connecting people

- 1.3 An exemption to Contract Procurement Rules has recently been approved to enable the Council to grant a new contract to BCVS to continue to provide infrastructure support for the VCS in Bolsover district, without the need to go out again to competitive tender. Reasons being that BCVS have become the recognised and embedded infrastructure support organisation within the district. In particular, Derbyshire County Council allocate £41,500 annually to BCVS, as they do to all CVS organisations across the county.
- 1.4 The reason for bringing this report to Executive is that the value of the three year contract is likely to be in the region of £144,000, and therefore is a key decision.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The proposal is to contract with BCVS for a further three years for infrastructure support for the VCS. Members of Bolsover Partnership and the Partnership Team have been working with the CEO of BCVS and a Business Plan for 2022 – 2025 is nearing completion. The goals of Bolsover CVS are:
- To be clearly understood and recognised by all stakeholders and the ‘Trusted Voice’ for the Voluntary and Community sector in Bolsover
  - To secure sustainable growth in funding for voluntary and community groups and BCVS across Bolsover
  - To become the leading local support for Voluntary and Community group development of Sustainability, Inclusion, Diversity and Equality
  - To enable the VCS to effectively engage with and understand Integrated Care Strategy and ‘Place’ development
  - To increase and diversify the number of volunteers, trustees, and Voluntary and Community groups across Bolsover
  - To provide timely accurate baseline and monitoring data to the sector and BCVS in support of above
  - To establish accessible Bolsover hub and spoke community space from which to operate.

## **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 BCVS were fundamental during the pandemic and their response to help support local communities was commendable. A State of the Sector Survey has recently been carried out and the top three areas for support identified by the sector are (1) help with funding applications; (2) volunteer development and recruitment; and (3) organisational development.
- 3.2 Bolsover has the lowest number of charities than any other district across the whole of the D2N2; even so, it’s still a sector worth £15m so infrastructure support to grow the sector is very important for local communities and the local economy.

- 3.3 BCVS have plans to strengthen the Bolsover CVS identity, as well as increased presence within the district, which will allow for some of the deeper relationship and capacity building work needed within the sector. Strategic links are also made via the Executive Board of the Bolsover Partnership and wider networks such as the Place Alliance.

#### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Going out to an open tender process has already been considered and was not in the council's best interest as BCVS are the only recognised provider for the VCS in the district. They also have also secured funding via DCC and other funding streams. This option has already been discounted and a Delegated Decision has been approved which provides an exemption to the Contract Procedure Rules.
- 4.2 To do nothing would not support our VCS groups and would be detrimental to the sector and affect residents who rely on these local services.

---

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

To grant a new contract to BCVS to continue to provide infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector in Bolsover district. This will be for three years but on a 1 year + 1 year + 1 year basis.

Approved by Councillor Mary Dooley, Portfolio Holder for Enforcement and Partnerships

#### **IMPLICATIONS:**

**Finance and Risk:** Yes ☒ No ☐

**Details:** The Council's Grants to Voluntary Organisations budget is currently under a Scrutiny review. As that programme has an allocation of £23,000 per year to BCVS, there is a possibility (albeit small) that changes could be made to that fund. This is why the contract is recommended to be on a 1 year + 1 year + 1 year basis. Other resources from Bolsover Partnership will be match funded each consecutive year of the 3 years to ensure the service meets the needs of the sector. An Annual Review will also be undertaken. The risk and financial implications are therefore minimal.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):** Yes ☐ No ☒

**Details:**

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Staffing:** Yes ☐ No ☒

**Details:**

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

## DECISION INFORMATION

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>Revenue - £75,000   <input type="checkbox"/>   Capital - £150,000   <input type="checkbox"/></b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	Yes
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	Yes

<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	All
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SLT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Details:</b> A delegated decision to grant a new contract to BCVS has already been approved and therefore it has been consulted on with the Leader, Portfolio Holder, AD for Leader's Executive, Partnerships, Governance and Communications, Section 151 Officer, Legal and Procurement (Monitoring Officer)

<b>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.</b>
Contributes to the Council's Ambitions by: Customer - Promoting equality and diversity and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people; Economy - Working with partners to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills. Contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy – Skills and Employment, and A Healthy Bolsover.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title

<b>Background Papers</b> <i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>