

Bolsover District Council

**Meeting of the Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee on 11 October
2022**

**Review of Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations – Executive
Response**

Report of the Chair of Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee

Classification	This report is Public
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PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To present Executive's Response to the completed report for the recent Review of Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations to Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a Review of Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations, as part of the 2021-22 Work Programme.
- 1.2 The suggestion came direct from the Executive and Partnerships Team and Members agreed to consider this alongside other work carried over from the previous year.
- 1.3 The last review of the programme took place in 2013/14. As such the service felt it was timely to review the whole process to ensure it is current; meets the needs of the sector; meets the ambitions of the Council; and if the allocation to any of these organisations needs to alter, given the current climate and anticipated needs emerging in our communities. It was noted that to-date, all organisations have provided an excellent service and incredible value for money based on the evaluation of investments.

1.4 Within the process of the review, the Committee has taken into account the potential impact of any changes to the current scheme in terms of the impact on the sector. It is essential as stated in section 1 that the Council complies with its Best Value Duty when progressing changes to current policies and procedures in terms of grant allocations to the sector. This is addressed further in section 5.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 The aim of the review was:

- To ensure the VCS Grant Allocation Programme remains fit for purpose, value for money, and sustainable.

2.2 The objectives agreed were:

- Review existing SLAs and allocations, including how they support delivery of the current Council Ambitions.
- Analysis of integration of VCS Grant Programme with additional VCS contracts.
- Analysis of BDC Grant Allocation against other funding received
- Assessment of existing performance monitoring – is the SROI method the best approach

2.3 The key issues identified for investigation were as follows:

- The existing scheme is not a result of open commissioning of providers to deliver outcomes on behalf of the Council.
- Lack of change in grant recipients – there has been no recent assessment of whether the current amounts allocated are still adequate and that the organisation that the Council is engaging with are best placed to meet our needs.
- Value for money of existing grant levels and consideration of any adjustments
- Potential for duplication/double funding
- Gaps in delivery as a result of the pandemic that cannot be addressed through core service delivery or existing VCS Grants.

2.4 The Committee put together twelve recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council in ensuring grant allocations to the voluntary and community sector are transparent; have clear outcomes and monitoring arrangements and meet the current needs of the Council and local residents.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are required to make their report and findings public, in accordance with Part 4.5.17(4) of the Constitution.
- 3.2 Committee is required to monitor implementation of their recommendations in accordance with Part 3.6(1) of the Constitution.
- 3.3 Members must note Executive's response to the review recommendations and agree to review progress on the approved recommendations. A progress report will be submitted in twelve months' time, with any exceptions to expected delivery highlighted.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Committee is required to monitor implementation of their recommendations in accordance with Part 3.6(1) of the Constitution and as such the report cannot be rejected.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1 That Members note Executive's Response to the Review of Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations.
- 2 That Members make its report and findings public, in accordance with Part 4.5.17(4) of the Constitution.
- 3 That Officers monitor progress on the recommendations and report in six and twelve months' time highlighting exceptions to delivery, in accordance with Part 3.6(1) of the Constitution.

Approved by Executive

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

None from this report. Clarification of the revised allocation process and any new grant allocations for 2023/24 will be presented in a future report.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in s.21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation which added/amended these powers e.g. the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

There are no staffing implications from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? 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:</p> <p>Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	<p>No</p>

District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Relevant Service Managers and Portfolio Holder engaged during the review process.

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.
The review supports the Corporate Ambition of 'Customers' and the Priorities of 'Actively engaging with partners to benefit our customers' and 'Promoting equality and diversity and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people', but does not link directly to any Corporate Targets.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
App1.	ER to Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations

Background Papers
<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>
Please contact Scrutiny & Elections Officer where further information is required.