

EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY REVIEW

Title of Review:	Review of Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations		
Timescale of Review:	August 2021 – April 2022	Post-Monitoring Period:	12 months commencing August 2022. Interim report due January 2023.
Date agreed by Scrutiny:	July 2022	Date agreed by Executive:	August 2022

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response	Executive Response
CCCSC21-22 2.1	That further communication takes place as part of the refresh of the allocation scheme to ensure new contracts are aligned to the Council's new Ambitions and Priorities, in order for VCS organisations to submit valid applications.	Greater knowledge and understanding of Council Ambitions and Priorities by VCS partners	Aug 22 - Dec 22	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time	Due to a clash in timings of the Ambition refresh and negotiation of annual contracts, the opportunity to refresh existing SLAs was missed. This can easily be rectified as part of the development of the new allocation process. This will also be incorporated in to future allocations post local elections in 2023 when new priorities will start to be developed for 2024 onwards.	Recommendation Approved.
CCCSC21-22 2.2	That as part of any revised allocation scheme, the additional areas outlined in the report are listed as areas the Council wishes to see additional local delivery via grant allocation, and that the	Wider scope to impact of VCS grants following the pandemic and current financial/social impacts.	Aug 22 - Dec 22	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time	This can easily be incorporated in to any new scheme developed. It may be that a number of the areas identified	Recommendation Approved.

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	revised scheme remains flexible to accommodate emerging issues.					can be addressed via incorporation to targeted approaches to advice and guidance	
CCCSC21-22 2.3	That BDC move to a commissioning process outlining set clear areas of delivery which assist achievement of BDC Ambitions and Priorities, with local organisations able to tender for contracts/SLAs.	<p>Establish an allocation process for VCS grants that eliminates any possible duplication.</p> <p>This should be an annual process allowing flexibility for amendment if required during the delivery and monitoring phase.</p>	Aug 22 - Dec 22	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time	The service could accommodate either an application form style scheme or a full commissioning approach and are happy to look to implement whichever solution Members feel would be the best solution. Service experience tells us that a commissioning approach is more robust and allows the greatest flexibility should a contract need	Recommendation Approved.

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						to be varied during the delivery/ monitoring phase.	
CCCSC21-22 2.4	That following the review, a consultation process takes place with existing recipients and wider sector on the proposed changes to allocation, as required by the Best Value Guidance.	Compliance with the Councils Best Value Duty and engagement of VCS partners in the development of the new Allocation Scheme.	Jan 2023	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time	This would be standard practice by the service for any significant changes to the scheme, and is essential to remain compliant. Ensuring full engagement and buy-in from key contacts in the sector will be crucial to the success of the revised scheme.	Recommendation Approved.
CCCSC21-22 2.5	That the current contract with a VCS Infrastructure provider is extended and integrated in to the wider VCS grants allocation process, to ensure all grants and monitoring are centralised.	Continued support to VCS organisations and streamlined internal monitoring.	July 22	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time	This has been completed during the course of the review due to a requirement to address the expiring contract. The current contract has been extended for a further 3yr	Recommendation Approved.

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						period to allow current infrastructure development to continue. The contract is performance based enabling release of funding based on achievement of agreed outcomes.	
CCCSC21-22 2.6	That other VCS grants from across the Council are incorporated in to the main VCS Grants process, in compliance with the HRA ring-fence where required, to centralise allocation and monitoring, with appropriate involvement of services outside of the Executive and Partnerships team in relation to monitoring of any grants.	Reduced duplication of funding; streamlined monitoring function; improved communication between service areas.	Aug 22 – Mar 23 – development of revised scheme. Monitoring from Apr 23 onwards	Executive and Partnerships Team Assistant Director of Housing Management & Enforcement Finance team	Officer time	While the review has predominantly found duplication linked to Housing services, it will be of greater benefit to ensure this recommendation is widened to all VCS grant allocations council-wide to ensure there is one central process.	Recommendation Approved.
CCCSC21-22 2.7	That the Council clearly define set allocations to a single organisation for the following areas of delivery	Reduced duplication of funding; streamlined monitoring function;	Mar 23	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time Revised grant	This can be incorporated as part of the	Recommendation Approved.

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	<p>to avoid any further chance of duplication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt advice/benefits claim support • Employment advice/case support • Housing advice/case work – General housing/homelessness (General Fund) • Housing advice/case work – Council tenants (HRA Fund) 	clearly defined delivery outcomes for grant recipients.		Assistant Director of Housing Management & Enforcement	allocation guidance/criteria	revised scheme developed.	
CCCSC21-22 2.8	That the new process includes a clear section where applicants must declare other funding and evidence there is no duplication.	Reduced chance of duplication of funding.	Jan 23 – Mar 23	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time (production/processing of form)	This is undertaken as part of the existing SLA negotiations and would be an essential part of any revised process.	Recommendation Approved.
CCCSC21-22 2.9	That consideration be given to the Council negotiating positions as a representative on the management committee of grant recipients, to ensure there is transparency for the	Greater transparency over spend, monitoring and identification of duplication of funding.	Apr 23 onwards	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time Member time	A number of the current organisations in receipt of grant already have a representative of the Executive linked to the organisation.	Recommendation Approved.

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	duration of the grant period.					See current Appointments to Outside Bodies (Executive Functions). This Appointments list can be reviewed once the new grant allocations have been agreed.	
CCCSC21-22 2.10	That Officers ensure the procurement process for a SV calculator tool takes in to account the criteria identified by Members during the review process.	Procurement process meets Members requirements in relation to mitigating potential risks associated with software procurement	May 2022	Executive and Partnerships Team Development Team	Officer time	This was completed during the course of the review with the criteria agreed by Members forming part of the RFQ for the procurement of the evaluation tool.	Recommendation Approved.
CCCSC21-22 2.11	That the Council completes the required procurement process for an improved social value evaluation tool which will support improved analysis and reporting functions, and enable wider use across multiple service areas and by external partners.	Procurement of enhanced social value calculator tool to enable Council to embed social value analysis across all services areas.	May 2022	Executive and Partnerships Team Development Team	Officer time	Procurement process complete in May 2022. Initial training and roll-out of software to commence in July 2022.	Recommendation Approved.
CCCSC21-22 2.12	That performance reports for the VCS allocations be submitted to	Enhanced monitoring of outcomes, greater	Oct 22 onwards	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time	Current reporting is via the Bolsover	Recommendation Approved.

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	Executive/Council on a six-monthly basis, with periodic attendance of the individual recipients.	interaction with grant recipients; improved transparency of monitoring within Council governance structure.			VCS partner time (attendance)	Partnership Annual Reports to Executive and Council on a bi-annual basis.	