

**RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION FOLLOWING SCRUTINY REVIEW**

<b>Title of Review:</b>	Review of Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations					
<b>Timescale of Review:</b>	August 2021 – April 2022		<b>Post-Monitoring Period:</b>	12 months commencing August 2022. Interim report due January 2023.		
<b>Date agreed by Scrutiny:</b>	July 2022		<b>Date agreed by Executive:</b>	August 2022		
<b>Total No. of Recommendations and Sub Recommendations</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	7	<b>On track</b>	0	<b>Extended</b>	1
	<b>Achieved (Behind target)</b>	4	<b>Overdue</b>	0	<b>Alert</b>	0

**Key Achievements:**

- The contract with the existing VCS Infrastructure provider has been extended for a further 3yr period.
- The SV calculator tool was procured as planned, with Member input, and is being trialled among a small number of officers across departments.
- Performance reports continue to be produced on a six-monthly basis and will now incorporate presentation by the CEO of BCVS to Council on an annual basis.
- A VCS consultation took place as part of Better Bolsover event, this will shape the further development of the revised commissioning and allocations over the coming months.
- New allocation of representatives to outside bodies made following Council AGM.
- News SLAs in place which reflect current Ambitions/Priorities. These will be refreshed again once Vision Bolsover 2 is finalised.
- Now using LOOP to monitor social value outputs from VCS Grants.

**Reasons for non-implementation of Recommendations:**

- 3 recommendations are currently extended to allow for completion of the design of the commissioning process and to ensure all required consultation and negotiation with VCS partners takes place prior to launch.

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Lead Officer	Target Date	Completion Date	Status	Resources	Progress/Action
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.	Executive and Partnerships Team	Aug 22 - Dec 22	March 2023		Officer time	<p><u>INTERIM UPDATE</u></p> <p>Mid to end January organisations will be aligned with the Council's new Ambitions and Priorities and completed by the end of March 2023.</p> <p><u>FINAL UPDATE</u></p> <p>SLAs for 2023/24 updated to reflect Council's Ambitions and Priorities.</p>
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 revised scheme remains flexible to accommodate emerging issues.	Executive and Partnerships Team	Aug 22 - Dec 22	March 2023		Officer time	<p><u>INTERIM UPDATE</u></p> <p>The revised schemes will utilise the commissioning process established to identify need current and emerging.</p>

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							<p><u>FINAL UPDATE</u></p> <p>Following consultation with the sector on revising this scheme it was clear particularly on Commissioning options that this wasn't suitable for smaller VCS organisations. This was echoed by other grant funders as part of this consultation process. This meant alternative options to revise this scheme are limited. Therefore, a revision to the existing scheme has not been made.</p> <p>Grant provided contributes to the Organisations</p>

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							<p>Core Costs as part of the Councils Grants to Voluntary Organisations Programme. The Performance monitoring completed 6 monthly and reported in the Partnership Annual Report. This outlines the KPIs and outcomes expected which align and complement the specific priorities listed in the report. These are agreed annually so gives the council flexibility to amend the priorities should it be necessary. Any future additional grant identified by the Council will follow a commissioning</p>

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							<p>process and align to topics/priorities as much as possible included in the Scrutiny report.</p> <p>Identified priorities for additional funding (if available) include: Cost of living; mental health; young people and pressures on schools</p>
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.	Executive and Partnerships Team	Aug 22 - Dec 22	March 2023		Officer time	<p><u>INTERIM UPDATE</u></p> <p>The revised schemes will utilise the commissioning process established to identify need current and emerging. Including any additional or new allocations the council may wish</p>

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							<p>to add to the existing budget.</p> <p><u>FINAL UPDATE</u></p> <p>Following consultation with the sector on revising this scheme it was clear particularly on Commissioning options that this wasn't suitable for smaller VCS organisations. This was echoed by other grant funders as part of this consultation process. This meant alternative options to revise this scheme are limited. Therefore, a revision to the existing scheme has not been made.</p>

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							<p>The Grant provided contributes to the Organisations Core Costs as part of the Councils Grants to Voluntary Organisations Programme. The Performance monitoring completed 6 monthly and reported in the Partnership Annual Report. This outlines the KPIs and outcomes expected which align and complement the specific priorities listed in the report. These are agreed annually so gives the council flexibility to amend the priorities should it be necessary. Any future</p>

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							<p>additional grant identified by the Council will follow a commissioning process and align to topics/priorities as much as possible included in the Scrutiny report.</p> <p>Identified priorities for additional funding (if available) include: Cost of living; mental health; young people and pressures on schools</p>
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.	Executive and Partnerships Team	Jan 2023	October 2022		Officer time	<p><u>INTERIM UPDATE</u></p> <p>Consultation took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> October as part of a wider CVS event “Better Bolsover” (<a href="#">Bolsover Conference 2022 Report</a>)</p>



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							<p><a href="http://bcvs.org.uk">Bassetlaw CVS (bcvs.org.uk)</a>.</p> <p>The key messages from this event for funders / commissioners particularly were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Big contracts are not possible or cost effective for smaller providers.</li> <li>2. Grants not commissioning works better for smaller organisations.</li> <li>3. Require support to understand the commissioning frameworks.</li> </ol> <p>This would require consideration within this review to ensure recommendations do not negatively affect smaller</p>

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							<p>organisations which represent the majority of organisations we support.</p> <p><u>FINAL UPDATE</u></p> <p>Particularly in relation to point three above we would have to consider carefully when commissioning approaches are used to ensure the sector are equipped with the skills and knowledge to be part of this process.</p>
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.	Executive and Partnerships Team	July 22	July 2022		Officer time	<p><u>INTERIM UPDATE</u></p> <p>Completed</p> <p>This was completed during the course of the review due to a requirement to</p>

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							address the expiring contract. The current contract has been extended for a further 3yr 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.	Executive and Partnerships Team  Assistant Director of Housing Management & Enforcement  Finance team	Aug 22 – Mar 23 – development of revised scheme.  Monitoring from Apr 23 onwards	August 2023		Officer time	<u>INTERIM UPDATE</u>  Working with lead officers: ongoing  <u>FINAL UPDATE</u>  Agreed centralised monitoring which incorporates HRA grant with Assistant Director Housing Manager and Enforcement

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CCCSC21-22 2.7	<p>That the Council clearly define set allocations to a single organisation for the following areas of delivery to avoid any further chance of duplication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debt advice/benefits claim support</li> <li>• Employment advice/case support</li> <li>• Housing advice/case work – General housing/homelessness (General Fund)</li> <li>• Housing advice/case work – Council tenants (HRA Fund)</li> </ul>	<p>Executive and Partnerships Team</p> <p>Assistant Director of Housing Management &amp; Enforcement</p>	March 23	March 2023		<p>Officer time</p> <p>Revised grant allocation guidance/criteria</p>	<p><u>INTERIM UPDATE</u></p> <p>Working with lead officers: ongoing. Request to extend this and commence from May 2023. The purpose of this is to allow careful management of any changes to long term grant funding, the current Corporate aims are soon to be out of date so it would be sensible to pause this until we're clear on any new aims.</p> <p><u>FINAL UPDATE</u></p> <p>Reviews with all funded organisations took place in March/April in preparation for 2023/24 SLAs. Revised Key</p>

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							<p>Performance Indicators (KPIs) were agreed. The KPIs for both monitoring purposes and contained within the SLA's clearly define outputs and outcomes which ensures there is no duplication within the services provided. What the sector ensure is clients are referred to other services what are specific to each organisation most appropriate to their needs. This is contained within the contracting arrangements with each organisation. The relationships between organisation is very collaborative</p>

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							and a contractual obligation under the SLA.
CCCSC21-22 2.8	That the new process includes a clear section where applicants must declare other funding and evidence there is no duplication.	Executive and Partnerships Team	Jan 23 – Mar 23  Revised date October 2023			Officer time (production/processing of form)	<u>INTERIM UPDATE</u>  Information relating to this will be incorporated within the monitoring.  <u>FINAL UPDATE</u>  This will be collected during October 2023.
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 duration of the grant period.	Executive and Partnerships Team	Apr 23 onwards	June 2023		Officer time  Member time	<u>INTERIM UPDATE</u>  This will form part of the Member appointments to outside bodies following the Election in May.  <u>FINAL UPDATE</u>  For the 2023/24 municipal year representatives of the Council's

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							Executive have been assigned to the bodies in receipt of VCS Grant.
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.	Executive and Partnerships Team  Development Team	May 2022	May 2022		Officer time	<u>INTERIM UPDATE</u>  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.
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.	Executive and Partnerships Team  Development Team	May 2022	May 2022		Officer time	<u>INTERIM UPDATE</u>  Procurement process complete in May 2022. Initial training and roll-out of software to commence in July 2022.
CCCSC21-22 2.12	That performance reports for the VCS allocations be submitted to Executive/Council	Executive and	Oct 22 onwards	Oct 22 onwards		Officer time	<u>INTERIM UPDATE</u>

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	on a six-monthly basis, with periodic attendance of the individual recipients.	Partnerships Team				VCS partner time (attendance)	Performance monitoring reports are currently produced six-monthly and it is proposed the CEO of BCVS is invited to present to full council on an annual basis to cover the position of the CVS sector and on behalf the recipients identified.