

Cabinet

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	1 st February 2017
	<p><u>Cabinet Member(s)</u> REBECCA KNOX – Cabinet Member for Communities, Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Debbie Ward Chief Executive</p>
Subject of Report	Funding strategy for supporting Dorset’s communities through its voluntary and community sector (VCS) and its parish and town councils (PTCs) from April 2017
Executive Summary	<p>Working with our communities is a key priority for Dorset County Council. The Council has seen and experienced the benefits residents receive as a result. We also know that local community knowledge is integral to the success of these relationships</p> <p>The Business Improvement Service has a long standing commitment to build relationships with others who are best placed to provide help where it is needed through the voluntary and community sector. There is a budget for this but in the past has not been aligned adequately to our corporate objectives. However, with the introduction of the strategic grant partnering arrangement in the current financial year, the current VCS organisations have been able to align their working practices and can now effectively evidence how their essential work aides to alleviate some of the pressure of the department transformation in these budget restricted times for County Council services.</p> <p>The recommendations in this report continue to set challenging outcomes and principles to continue our strategic relationship with the VCS and PTCs who deliver this service through identified organisations. This will continue to help ensure each pound invested in the VCS and PTCs supports delivery of the County Council’s priorities.</p> <p>This report details how the County Council intends to secure the continued involvement of the VCS and PTC sectors in the delivery of the corporate objectives. The report recognises the current</p>

	<p>budget pressures and has offered up in year and on-going savings for the next two financial years, whilst supporting delivery of efficiencies and capacity to minimise the impact of the budget reductions.</p> <p>The proposal develops on the current four areas and will be targeted to support the most vulnerable communities, reducing demand for high cost services through prevention and early intervention. Performance will be measured and monitored through the Council’s corporate outcomes framework across the four cross-cutting objectives.</p> <p>The four strategic grants aim to facilitate the following:</p> <p>Information, advice and guidance Improving the coordination of advice services delivered by the VCS providing ease of access and promotion of self help, and where appropriate targeting support for specific sectors of Dorset’s communities.</p> <p>Strategic Development of volunteering Promoting and developing good practice, increasing volunteering opportunities; facilitate capacity of a brokerage; enabling a voice of volunteering and develop the County Council employee volunteer scheme in line with the corporate outcomes.</p> <p>Supporting organisations that meet the needs of Dorset’s residents Dorset has a very rich and diverse voluntary sector landscape made up of a variety size of voluntary organisations with varying levels of capacity to employ many paid staff with the skills, knowledge and experience to manage and deliver services for these organisations. This service will support the sustainability of small organisations to improve and enable business planning, training, communication and marketing advice and other key activities to maintain their future viability.</p> <p>The County Council needs to both review the success of the current pilots, identify learning and agree the future provision of grant arrangements.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment: This report will have a an impact on equalities, however the report has balanced this out and further work will be conducted following Cabinet’s decision</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Assessment: The grants are directed towards the 4 corporate priorities and this will include supporting the delivery of outcomes overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board, which include promotion of physical activity, meeting housing needs and working with partners to enable healthy and fulfilling lives. Careful assessment of people with increased risk</p>

	<p>of poor health are identified early on and are supported to prevent premature problems developing.</p> <p>Use of Evidence: Consultation with the sector, elected members and the Working Together Project has informed this approach to medium term funding. In addition, work of the Social Value Group, learning from the pilot year and input from officers involved in defining our approach to coproduction and co design have helped to develop the recommendations.</p> <p>Budget & Contribution to Savings Target: This report includes proposals affecting the County Council’s budget for support to the voluntary and community sector and our Town and Parish Councils through a grant agreement with DAPTC.</p> <p>Proposed Spending reductions:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="523 757 1385 952"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organisation</th> <th>20116/17</th> <th>2017/18 10% reduction</th> <th>2018/19 5% reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CAiD</td> <td>£115,000</td> <td>£103,500</td> <td>£98,353</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VCD</td> <td>£60,000</td> <td>£54,000</td> <td>£51,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DCA</td> <td>£100,000</td> <td>£90,000</td> <td>£85,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DAPTC</td> <td>£25,000</td> <td>£25,000</td> <td>£25,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The County Council has a significant spend with the Voluntary Community Sector for direct service provision so it is crucial the County Council continues to support these infrastructure organisations to enable that investment to continue and develop.</p> <p>Risk Assessment: Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council’s approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:</p> <p>Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW</p> <p>Other Implications: This report directly affects the County Council’s relationship with Dorset’s voluntary and community sector and has a direct effect on some organisations within that sector.</p>	Organisation	20116/17	2017/18 10% reduction	2018/19 5% reduction	CAiD	£115,000	£103,500	£98,353	VCD	£60,000	£54,000	£51,500	DCA	£100,000	£90,000	£85,500	DAPTC	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000
Organisation	20116/17	2017/18 10% reduction	2018/19 5% reduction																		
CAiD	£115,000	£103,500	£98,353																		
VCD	£60,000	£54,000	£51,500																		
DCA	£100,000	£90,000	£85,500																		
DAPTC	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000																		
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Recommendation 1: To ensure Dorset’s most vulnerable residents have access to information, advice and guidance and to organisations that can provide the support required. This will be achieved through a funding allocation for year one of £103,500 and year two £98,353 to organisations that provide the appropriate information and guidance to residents. This will be delivered by the provision of a 2 year strategic grant. Further detail in 3.1</p>																				

	<p>Recommendation 2: To support volunteering and the volunteering infrastructure across Dorset so that we are able to maximise the impact to Dorset’s most vulnerable communities. This will be achieved through a funding allocation for year one of £54,000 and year 2 £51,300 to a support organisation that promotes volunteering, matches tasks to organisations and will continue to promote DCC’s volunteering scheme in line with the corporate outcomes. This will be delivered by the provision of a 2 year strategic grant. Further detail in 3.2</p> <p>Recommendation 3: To continue to build the capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector and Parish and Town Councils through support, advice and training to organisations so that the sector can participate in service delivery to meet the objectives of residents and DCC. This will be achieved through a funding allocation of £90,000 for year one and £85,500 for year 2 for support to Organisations and funding allocation of £25,000 per annum to help build the capacity of Town and Parish Councils. These will be delivered by the provision of 2 year strategic grants. Further detail in 3.3</p> <p>Recommendation 4: To continue but limit the provision of the Dorset Innovation Fund to one round of applications per year to enable funding for smaller innovative projects targeted to at Dorset’s most vulnerable communities and lever new money into the county which supports the councils ambition of reducing demand for its services through connecting people to the right support early. This will be achieved through a funding allocation of £85,000 to provide direct grants and some match funding often required by other grant providers as a condition of grant awards. Further detail in 3.4</p> <p>Recommendation 5: To agree that all grant agreements across the County Council will be recorded using the Council’s contract and grant management system.</p> <p>For all recommendations a system of governance is in place to ensure full compliance with our standing orders and good practice in the administration of funding to external parties.</p>
Reason for Recommendation	Dorset’s voluntary and community sector and its parish and town councils are vital to support, enable and improve the quality of life of Dorset’s communities and residents. The outcomes of these recommendations assist the County Council to deliver the priorities as outlined in the Corporate Plan.
Appendices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCA Pilot impact report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CAiD mid-year Impact report• Volunteer Centre Dorset midyear Impact report• DAPTC mid-year impact report• Dorset Community Innovation Fund report to Social Value Group
Background Papers	
Officer Contact	<p>Report author/s</p> <p>Name: Laura Cornette Position: Acting External Funding and Grants Manager Tel: 01305 224306 Email: L.cornette@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p> <p>Name: Karen Andrews Position: Business Improvement Manager Tel: 01305 221260 Email: K.Andrews@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

1. **Background**

1.1 The purpose of the Corporate civil society budget is to support and build capacity of the Voluntary Community Sector. The funding is aligned with the County Council’s Corporate Plan four priorities and includes services that deliver the prevention, early intervention and Prevention at Scale agendas. All of which set out to support building capacity in communities, and support individuals to reduce demand on Public Services and the requirement of high cost interventions in Dorset.

1.2 To support delivery of the corporate priorities, in December 2015 Cabinet agreed a 12 month strategic grant pilot. The table below outlines the four organisations, functions and expected outcomes:

Organisation	Function	Proposed Outcomes	Investment
Citizens Advice in Dorset	The provision of information, advice and guidance to residents is often difficult to access, confusing and inconsistent. Better coordination of advice services delivered by the VCS will improve outcomes for the clients they serve	Residents in Dorset, particularly the most vulnerable, through better information, will be able to access the range of voluntary and community organisations that can help them with particular needs. In addition we will continue to develop the connection of services provided through LiveWell Dorset, Family Information Service, My Life, My Care and the SEND Local Offer. Of particular significance is the funding provided to Citizens Advice in Dorset (CAID) and the support to Dorset Race and Equality Council to ensure people are signposted to the help they need	£115,000
Volunteer Centre Dorset	Strategic development of volunteering; Good practice development; developing volunteering opportunities; Brokerage; Voice of volunteering	Residents in Dorset, particularly the most vulnerable, are enabled to help improve the quality of life for people in Dorset through volunteering that supports delivery of DCC Priorities. Employees are able to volunteer making a contribution to the sector and improving the lives of residents through their efforts.	£60,000
Dorset Community Action	The Council values organisations that can help deliver the kind of services that our residents need. In Dorset we have a very rich and diverse sector made up of small voluntary organisations that lack the capacity to employ many paid staff and as a result need support across business planning, training, communication and marketing advice and other key success factors that keep a small organisation on track. There are support organisations that offer this service such as Dorset Community Action, and the Dorset Association of Town	Through partnership with the sectors the Council will be supporting the organisations that can meet the needs of Dorset residents, often helping to avoid the need for our services. The sectors therefore support people being able to lead safe and healthy lives with many organisations working with people who are most vulnerable.	£100,000
Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils			£25,000

	and Parish Councils and this objective will ensure that we can continue to offer support to the sectors.		
--	--	--	--

1.3 In addition to the main functions, Volunteer Centre Dorset, Dorset Community Action and Citizens Advice in Dorset were tasked with each working directly alongside three of the County Council’s services:

Organisation	DCC Service	Pilot Project
Citizens Advice in Dorset	Dorset POPP	Assist with legal updates and the age extension to include all adults against SHIP outcomes
Volunteer Centre Dorset	Community Transport	Extend volunteer base and to improve working practices against SHIP outcomes
Dorset Community Action	3 newly created community Youth Centres	Jointly establish 3 successful Youth organisations against SHIP outcomes

1.4 To complement the strategic grant agreements, and in line with the required budget reduction, the small grants fund provision was brought back in house and rebranded ‘Dorset Community Innovation Fund’ with a budget of £170,000 (Detail in 4)

1.5 A budget reduction of £150,000 on the previous budget was agreed as part of the grant pilot

2 Purpose of this report

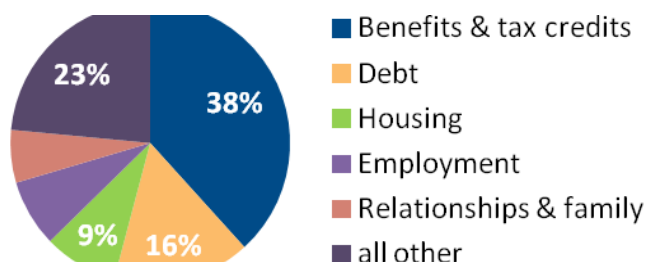
2.1 To provide an update on the success of the pilot strategic partnership grants commissioned in 2016/17 and to recommend the future approach to grant provision.

3 Strategic Grants Progress to date

3.1 Citizens Advice in Dorset (CAiD) - Appendix 1

3.1.i In the period April to December 2016 CAiD helped **15,494** people with **32,086** separate issues to address their individual desired outcomes. **42%** of their clients have a **disability or long-term health condition**

The main advice areas are shown below:



3.1.ii CAiD have set up the Advice Partnership (35 member organisations) with the objectives:

- An increase in the number of people accessing the right advice when they need it
- A reduction in people reaching crisis point
- An end to ‘wrong door syndrome’ – all users will get the advice they need
- A joined up advice service and sector with all partners maximising their ability to participate and contribute
- Sustainable and transparent funding processes, embedding accountability and value for money

3.1.iii CAiD connected the local Citizen’s Advice Bureaus (CAB’s) with the POPP Safe and Independent Living (SAIL) events as part of the multi-agency support improving collaboration and

avoidance of duplication between services and agencies. They also worked with MyLifeMyCare to produce the information on welfare benefits following changes to legislation and contributed to the isolation and loneliness work-stream

3.1.iv Using the national CAB calculator we can determine that for every £1 invested in CAiD and the Dorset CAB there is a return of £1.52 in fiscal benefits, £8.08 in public value and £10.87 in savings to clients in Dorset.

3.2 Volunteer Centre Dorset (VCD) – Appendix 2

3.2.i In the period April – December 2016

New registered volunteers = **626** – average **70** new volunteers per month

New volunteering opportunities = **257** – average 31 new roles advertised each month

Existing volunteering opportunities = **847**

DBS Checks for volunteers = **140**

For every £1 invested in the Volunteer Centre Dorset there is a minimum of £43 return. This means that the £60,000 invested by DCC in 2016/17 will see a return of at least £2,580,000 into Dorset’s economy

3.3.ii VCD has worked with Dorset Community Transport to target volunteer driver recruitment and develop their Community Transport Volunteer toolkit.

3.3.iii VCD connect County Council employees to opportunities to utilise their employee volunteering day inline with the SHIP outcomes

3.3 Dorset Community Action (DCA) – Appendix 3

3.3.1 DCA meet the corporate outcomes by offering advice and training to Voluntary Community Sector organisations including in the areas of: Good Governance; Income Generation; Health and Safety; Project Management; Staff, Trustee and volunteer recruitment and training

3.4.ii Between April – December 2016 DCA advised, supported and trained **340 organisations** on their level 1 (free) health check service and training, **349 organisations** at level 2 (small charge) and **206 organisations** at level 3 (chargeable).

3.3.iii DCA host a full VCS communications network of **2209 organisations** keeping organisations up to date on legislation and networking

3.3.iv DCA worked with 3 identified Youth Organisations taking over DCC buildings and setting up community organisations responding to their community aspirations (Gillingham, Crossways and Southill). It was evaluated that the organisations assisted by DCA were able to meet the required timescales for handover; were successful in retaining the community asset; and developed the youth provision locally.

3.4 Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) - Appendix 4

3.4.i The association now engages with all 144 precepted PTC’s on behalf of the County Council, only 2 are not precepted.

3.4.ii DAPTC have worked with the County Council to support, engagement and consultation meetings with members regarding the Local Government Reform and they will continue to do so during this period ensuring we are able to develop new ways of working with these key communities.

3.4.iii Implemented, supported and co-ordinated with PTC representatives development of the Working Together and successful implementation of the pilot with Dorset Highways.

3.4.iv Engagement with County and District & Borough Councils in the Shaping Dorset’s future work-stream, looking at ways to improve relationships with Towns and Parishes and support appropriate tiers of Local Government.

4 Dorset Community Innovation Fund (DCIF) – Appendix 5

4.1 This Fund aims to support local community organisations to deliver services that meet the needs of the people of Dorset by building capacity through innovative new projects. Projects supported target those whose needs are greatest and support the council’s ambition of reducing demand for its services through connecting people to the right support early whilst helping to deliver the Safe, Healthy, Independent and Prosperous priorities.

4.2 Grants were issued in Round 1 of the DCIF to seven organisations who demonstrated how their projects will successfully meet one or more of the Safe, Healthy, Independent, Prosperous objectives in their local community.

Round 1 overview	Applications	Total Project Values	Grant Value
Total number of applications	31		
Invited to Panel	8		
Awarded a quick grant	1	£1,000	£1,000
Awarded following applicant panel	6	£179,599	£63,724
Total	31	£189,599	£73,724

4.3 Outcomes from the grants awarded from round 1 will be evaluated and reported by October 2017 and Round 2 opened for applications on the 5th January, these will be assessed in February and March and any successful applications will be awarded by the end of March.

5. Future Actions and Proposals

5.1 Using the learning opportunities identified during the pilot year we are able to highlight the success achieved throughout the year. This will enable us to adapt the current grant arrangements to maximise positive outcomes and therefore we propose to continue these grant arrangements. To offer these vital VCS support organisations stability and certainty, a minimum 2 year strategic grant agreement is proposed.

5.2 To support the County Council’s corporate aims and priorities within the Corporate Plan including Prevention, Early Intervention and the Prevention at Scale agenda from the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) it is proposed the strategic grants are enabled to continue working towards the performance measures piloted in 2016-17 (Appendix 1)

5.3 Following the success of each of the pilots working in partnership to deliver County Council objectives, it is proposed that each organisation will be aligned with an area of the County Council to work with that service in delivering the prevention, Early Intervention and Prevention at Scale agendas to complement the main performance measures.

5.4 To acknowledge the importance of the voice of the Community sector, a representative of DCA will become the VCS representative on the Health and Wellbeing Board and utilise their networks to promote and inform of the STP and early intervention agenda.

5.5 We propose that the corporate contract management system is used to monitor all of the grants, this will enable a One Council approach and will allow us to probe the system to identify where any further funding is being given from elsewhere within the council and identify if any duplication in support exists.

5.6 Arrangements post 2019 will need to be agreed depending on available budget and outcome and progress of the Local Government Review.

6. Budget Savings

6.1 A review of the grants budget allocations has been undertaken for the financial year 2017/18, as part of the proposal for a two year grant which will provide service continuity, it is considered that a 10% reduction of funding can be achieved in year 1 and a further 5% reduction in year 2.

6.2 It is proposed that the Dorset Community Innovation Fund operate with one round of bids rather than two which will provide for a 50% reduction in funding.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Due to the evidential impact of the current strategic partnering grants, and proposed short term two year timescales, the process for awarding these partnering grants will continue to be via a strategic grant arrangement, monitored and evaluated against the corporate outcomes by the External Funding and Grants Officer.

7.2 The council has expressed its intention to deliver differently in the future and the role that the VCS and PTC will be considerable.

7.3 Efficiencies and the funding of posts attributed to this work have resulted in a proposed reduced budget of £429,800 for 2017/18 to cover the objectives proposed in section 2 with the sectors. This is £90,000 reduction on the previous budget available for the investment proposed here

Debbie Ward
Chief Executive
January 2017