DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

30 July 2020

Joint Report of the Executive Directors for Adult Social Care and Health and Commissioning, Communities and Policy

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR REVIEW

Adult Social Care, Health and Communities, Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek Cabinet approval to take forward proposals on the future funding of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) infrastructure providers and approval to extend recurrent payments to VCS organisations for a period of twelve months from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021.

2. Information and Analysis

At Cabinet on 28 February 2019, the Council agreed plans to undertake a council wide review of VCS grants. It was agreed that the review would:

- Consider all grants provided by the Council to VCS organisations in Derbyshire and subsequently develop a coordinated and consistent council wide approach to allocate future resources
- Consider the support provided by the Council to VCS infrastructure organisations across Derbyshire, in collaboration with partners, and develop a new model for allocating funding moving forward which supports the Council's ambitions and priorities.

On 21 November 2019, Cabinet agreed that funding for all 2019/20 grant funded organisations be extended for the first six months of 2020/21, until 30 September 2020, whilst proposals on the future funding of voluntary and community sector infrastructure support were being developed. This was to ensure that organisations were not adversely affected during the review process and to maintain the security and stability of the sector.

On 16 January 2019, draft proposals on the future funding of voluntary and community sector infrastructure support were considered by Cabinet and approved for consultation for a period of 12 weeks.

Since January 2020, work on the review has continued at pace. However, the emergence and impact of the coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on many areas of work, not least the VCS review, consultation on which was taking place at a time when the voluntary and community sector were being called upon to mobilise around both a national and local response.

In Derbyshire, VCS and infrastructure providers across the county have mobilised resources across communities to ensure that vulnerable people have enough food and medications to support their health and wellbeing during what has been a challenging time. The context and landscape for the review has changed and work has been taking place on a revised approach, further details of which are set out below.

2.1 VCS Infrastructure Review

Draft proposals for the future funding of VCS infrastructure support were agreed in January 2020 and shared with providers. A twelve-week consultation period on proposals commenced on 7 February 2020 and closed on 30 April 2020. The agreed timetable for the review would have seen Cabinet considering final proposals in June 2020 with the new offer/approach being in place by the end of September 2020.

During the consultation period, many organisations requested that the Council postpone the infrastructure review as a result of Covid-19 and for the existing grant arrangements to be extended indefinitely. The organisations making these requests outlined that Covid-19 had presented the sector with overwhelming challenges which had made it difficult for them to engage with the consultation process. The Council's response, which confirmed that the consultation would run its course, was shared widely and this resulted in additional written correspondence and consultation responses, particularly in those areas which would have seen a reduced level of funding based on the proposed redistribution methodology.

Over 800 responses to the consultation were subsequently received. These were a mix of both online responses to the consultation questionnaire and written submissions, primarily from those organisations who felt that they did not have enough time to respond to the consultation itself.

Overall, there has been broad support for identified principles and key elements of the approach set out in proposals and agreement that these should form an essential platform for the new approach. However, responses to the consultation highlighted concerns about the proposed reductions in funding to organisations in areas such as Erewash, High Peak and South Derbyshire, as a result of the proposed redistribution methodology. Conversely, there was support for proposals and the increase in funding to those areas which would benefit from the redistribution of funding.

The consultation has also revealed an overwhelming consensus that Covid-19 has presented Derbyshire and the sector with both challenges and opportunities and that it is 'not the right time' to be implementing new proposals which reduce funding to infrastructure providers. The ask from the sector, and other partners, is that the Council should 'level up' rather than 'level down' funding allocations. More than ever, Covid-19 has highlighted the need to ensure that in future, there is a core, consistent offer of support to the community and voluntary sector across all parts of the county.

Following detailed analysis of the consultation and internal discussions with key stakeholders, it is recommended that a number of key components of the original infrastructure proposals, deemed essential in taking work forward, are maintained. It also recommended that there be a number of key revisions to proposals for an interim period whilst further work on the review takes place.

The essential components which will form part of proposals from 1 October 2020 include the following:

- **Agreed principles** - The Council will adopt the agreed guiding principles, as set out in original proposals, in its approach to funding infrastructure providers moving forward. These principles are integral to ensuring that any work with infrastructure providers works towards a common vision and guides emerging action.
- **Shared outcomes framework** - Organisations will start to move under the shared framework which is focused on outcomes. This may take some time, but organisations should be committed to delivering core VCS support and be prepared to deliver against agreed Key Performance Indictors. This will ensure that over time, funding can be consistently monitored, measured and providers can demonstrate impact and value for money.
- **Funding methodology** - Funding will be allocated at a district level and where there are multiple providers within a district, they will be required to work together. This will ensure that duplication is avoided and that better outcomes are achieved.
- **Fair distribution** - The Council is committed to the principle that support for the VCS across the county should be fairly distributed. Disproportionate funding over a significant period of time has had a cumulative effect on the amount of investment some areas have received in comparison to others. This impact has been outlined in the EIA, and it is essential this is addressed moving forward. Whilst the Council does not want to make any changes that destabilises the sector, it does maintain its commitment to ensuring an adequate level of VCS support is available across the whole county.

Revisions to the proposals, which will be put in place as interim arrangements whilst further work takes place, include the following:

- There will be no reduction in funding to those infrastructure organisations who are currently funded by the Council from 1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021.
- Those areas which were due an uplift in funding through a commitment to redistribute the funding will see that uplift honoured.
- Current funding will therefore be committed for a period of one-year, not the four years outlined in the original proposal. Work will take place over the next year to look at ways the Council can make a longer-term commitment to providers.
- Interim funding arrangements will be based on providers commitment to the essential components outlined above.
- Over the next year the Council will continue its work with infrastructure providers to make the changes necessary to delivery arrangements. This will include taking-stock of the last four months and understanding and apply the learning from Covid-19.

Fully revised proposals can now be found at Appendix A to this report. In addition, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) on the revised proposals has been undertaken the findings of which can be found at Appendix B.

Due to the complexities in current delivery arrangements and ways of working, it is anticipated that not all providers will be able to implement the new approach in its entirety by October 2020. Seeking consensus on the approach and a willingness of organisations to move this work forward however, builds a solid foundation for the future. Grant-aid flexibility will give organisations the time and space to effectively work together if necessary and plan how they will deliver against the framework in the short to medium term – as an ongoing, developmental process.

Adult Care currently have 12 infrastructure support grant arrangements in place across the county, whilst Policy and Research have eight grant arrangements. There are currently no grant arrangements in place for Bolsover. The total cost, including a funding allocation for Bolsover, is currently £399,137. Further details of the current grant arrangements are set out in Appendix C (Table 1.0 and Table 2.0).

It is recommended that for the one-year interim period, all current grant allocations and their values are maintained and that no infrastructure provider will see their funding reduced. Where there is an uplift in funding, providers will be supported to agree how the additional funding will be allocated. This will require an additional funding amount of £53,089. It is also recommended that an additional payment of £11,244 is made to Bassetlaw CVS for the work undertaken to support Covid-19 response in Bolsover over the six-month period between April and September 2020.

Whilst levels of funding will not be reduced, Service Level Agreements will be revised to fall in line with the essential elements described above. Before 30 September 2020, officers will work with providers on a district-by-district basis to drawn-up new Service Level Agreements which align to the new approach, including those for countywide specialist provision.

It is essential that the Council continues to work closely with infrastructure providers and the wider sector to support Derbyshire's response and recovery, over forthcoming months alongside existing plans to roll out our proposals for Thriving Communities and Vision Derbyshire. It is vital that this is done in a way that builds upon consistent and coordinated provision and does not widen current disparities across the county.

2.2   General Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Review

The VCS Grants Review report to Cabinet in November 2019 approved the extension of grant funding to VCS organisations until 30 September 2020, whilst a review of existing arrangements took place. The report also recommended that a further report, outlining proposals for the future funding of VCS organisation beyond 30 September 2020, be brought to Cabinet for approval in July 2020.

Following an initial appraisal of grant support to VCS organisations, the report recognised that a significant number of existing grants were recurring, long standing and have not been reviewed for some time. Cabinet agreed that a review of existing arrangements was therefore vital to ensure that future funding of the sector reflected a move to an outcome-based approach and to ensure that future investment supported the Council's strategic priorities moving forward.

Over the last six months, work on the development of a new approach has taken place as part of the review process. This has included the development of a cross-departmental Grants Framework which proposes a significant shift in the way that grants are currently developed, distributed, monitored and reviewed.

The impact of Covid-19 has also been felt by local voluntary and community organisations. There is currently a mixed picture of what is and what is not currently being delivered and how and where resources are being mobilised towards the response. There is also ongoing work through recovery, to understand the long-term impact Covid-19 will have on VCS organisations across the county moving forward.

Although a significant amount of progress has been made on the development of a new approach to grant funding, it is important that the impact of Covid-19 across the sector in Derbyshire is reflected in the review process. It is

therefore recommended that proposals for how VCS organisations will have their current funding reviewed against the new Grants Framework, will be brought to Cabinet from September 2020 onwards.

2.3   Extension of General VCS Grants

The Council currently funds a range of VCS organisations across the county details of which are set out in Appendix D. The Council has continued to make usual grant payments during the Covid-19 crisis and has maintained regular contact with relevant organisations.

It is essential that the process of reviewing all recurring VCS grants continues. The Council however recognises the pressure that VCS organisations are currently under as a result of the pandemic and continues to support all existing VCS grant funded organisations during this period of uncertainty. It is therefore recommended that alongside the ongoing VCS grants review outlined above, the security and stability of the sector is maintained in the interim through a further extension of funding for general grants, from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021.

Adult Care Proposed Grant Arrangements
Adult Care currently has 37 grants arrangements with VCS providers, to assist them to deliver a range of preventative services that complement other funded care and support services. These are subject to annual renewal. These awards, which total £640,108 are set out in Appendix D Table 3.0 alongside a brief description of the activities they support.

In November 2019, Age UK Derbyshire Dales Bakewell Day Service and Age UK Derbyshire Dales Hulland Day Service were successful in their application to join the day services framework and were due to join this on 1 October 2020. Due to Covid-19 the transition period requires an extension. It is therefore recommended that these grants are extended by up to six months to 31 March 2021 to allow for a well-managed transition.

Adult Care has a further nine grant arrangements with VCS providers that are now part of Public Health preventative services. These awards, which total £7,363 are set out in Appendix D Table 4.0 alongside a brief description of the activities they support.

Policy and Research Proposed Grant Arrangements
Policy and Research have a further eight grant arrangements with providers across the county who offer specialist legal and employment advice or offer support to BME communities, including providing a forum for BME residents to consult with Council representatives in relation to issues affecting their members. It is recommended that for the one year period, all current grant allocations and their values are maintained and that no organisation will see

their funding reduced. These awards total £127,065 and a brief description of what each grant supports is set out in Appendix D Table 5.0.

Arts Service Grant Arrangements

The Arts Service has ten grant arrangements with VCS provides that are subject to yearly application and award, with nine community arts organisations who have been in receipt of annual funding for a number of years. These organisations receive funding for different arts based activities, including contributions towards core running costs, purchase of specified assets, and the running of specific events. It is recommended that for the one year period, all current grant allocations and their values are maintained and that no organisation will see their funding reduced. These awards total £137,812 and a brief description each grant is outlined in Appendix D Table 6.0.

3. Financial Considerations

The table below summarises the budget allocations for the twelve-month period October 2020 to September 2021 against each grant area.

Infrastructure Funding		
Grant	**Number**	**Cost**
Current Adult Care	10	£245,336
Current Policy and Research	9	£153,801
Interim uplift payments	NA	£53,089
Payment to Bassetlaw CVS	1	£11,224
Total	**20**	**£463,450**

This leaves a shortfall of £73,403 in 2020/21 which will be met from existing reserves. The shortfall of funding of £49,818 required for 2021/22 will be subject to consideration as part of the budget setting process for 2021/22 when the funding will be agreed accordingly.

Adult Care VCS Grants		
Grant	**Number**	**Cost**
General VCS Funding	37	£640,108
Total	**37**	**£640,108**

Public Health Grants		
Grant	**Number**	**Cost**
50+ Forums	9	£7,363
Total	**9**	**£7,363**

All the proposed Adult Care allocations are based on funding agreed in respect of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 year and can be met from existing Adult Care budgets.

Corporate VCS Grants		
Grant	**Number**	**Cost**
General VCS Funding	8	£127,065
Total	**8**	**£127,065**

The proposal will cost £127,065 with a shortfall of £34,453 for 2020/21, to be met from existing reserves. The shortfall of funding of £17,227 required for 2021/22 will be subject to consideration as part of the budget setting process for 2021/22 when the funding will be agreed accordingly.

Arts Service Grants		
Grant	**Number**	**Cost**
Community arts groups	9	£124,230
Live and Local rural and community touring	1	£13,582
Total	**10**	**£137,812**

The Five Year Financial Plan, agreed by Cabinet on 11 September 2019, identified a budget saving of £208,000 from April 2020, by examining alternative ways to deliver the arts service and also reviewing the current arrangements for awarding grants to organisations. Therefore, there has been no revenue budget to cover the cost of arts grants from April 2020 and any budget shortfall will be met from existing reserves.

4. Human Resources Considerations

The voluntary and community sector organisations currently funded by the Council as part of this report are independent of the County Council and therefore there are no human resources considerations. However, with regard to any organisation providing services to children or vulnerable adults, approval of financial support is conditional on the existence within these organisations of appropriate procedures assessing suitability to work with children or vulnerable adults.

5. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: Legal and human rights, equality of opportunity, health, environmental, transport, property and crime and disorder considerations.

6. Background Papers

None

7. Key Decision

Yes

8. Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report?

No

9. Officer's Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Notes progress on the review of the Council's voluntary and community sector grants and the challenges and opportunities that have arisen as a result of the recent Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Approves revised infrastructure proposals and interim arrangements for taking forward proposals over the next twelve months as set out in the report.
3. Approves an extension of funding totalling £463,450 for voluntary and community sector infrastructure support until 30 September 2021.
4. Notes progress on the general grant funding review and receives a further report on proposals for taking work forward from September 2020 onwards.
5. Approves the extension of funding totalling £912,348 to the VCS organisations set out in the report for one year from October 2020 to September 2021.
6. Approves an extension of Bakewell and Hulland Day Service grants for six months to 31 March 2021 to allow for a transition to the day services framework

Helen Jones and Emma Alexander
Executive Directors for Adult Social Care & Health and Commissioning, Communities and Policy

Derbyshire County Council Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure support 2020-2021

Appendix A – VCS Infrastructure support Plan

Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Grants

1. Introduction
Creating empowered and self-sufficient local communities is a key priority for the Council and supporting the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to grow and thrive will be central to achieving this.

Whilst some voluntary organisations and charities are able to operate effectively without any assistance, the Council recognises that the sector includes a large number of voluntary and community groups that require varying levels of support in order to establish themselves, grow and thrive.

Local infrastructure organisations can provide the sector with a single front door to offer vital support to the VCS as and when a need arises. These organisations can also reach new, small and marginal organisations across the county, and generate invaluable feedback and intelligence about the sector. By knowing the local area and local needs, local infrastructure organisations can help the VCS to:

- attract funding
- operate good governance
- recruit and manage volunteers
- network and collaborate
- disseminate knowledge at a local level
- identify gaps and develop new activity
- influence the public sector

The Council recognises that this support is not free. To ensure a recognised and experienced provision is available, infrastructure organisations require ongoing investment to help support the communities we want to build together.

This will be new way of working with infrastructure providers which could have a significant impact on how some providers across the county are funded by the Council and what providers are asked to deliver going forward.

This proposal set out in this document will outline the:
- Design principles for the new approach
- Outcomes framework and key performance indicators
- Delivery model and collaboration
- Funding approach
- Monitoring and review process

Appendix A – VCS Infrastructure support Plan

2. Principles

The Council wants to ensure that the VCS in Derbyshire is supported to grow and thrive. To achieve this the Council commits to the following principles in guiding its approach to developing and delivering infrastructure support moving forward:

- **Valued** – Infrastructure providers play a vital role supporting the VCS to allow communities to support themselves and meet the specific needs of local people
- **Sustainable** –The Council understands that its funding approach needs to offer greater sustainability to provider organisations, which includes certainty regarding future funding commitments
- **Transparent** – It must be made clear which organisations the Council funds for infrastructure support and what outcomes have been achieved for the Council's investment
- **Local** – The VCS works best when it is local and at the heart of communities. Any provision of support needs to reflect this
- **Proportional** – What the Council requires of infrastructure organisations will be commensurate to the level of funding provided
- **Outcome driven** – Infrastructure investment will focus on outcomes rather than how support is delivered
- **Fair** – Infrastructure funding needs to be fairly distributed throughout the county to ensure that community organisations receive an equitable offer of support regardless of their location
- **Independent** – The Council recognises the independence of the voluntary and community sector.

These principles have been developed following analysis of engagement and discussions with officers at the Council, current infrastructure providers and partner organisations which identified common themes and current challenges.

3. Infrastructure Model – the new approach

The infrastructure approach has been developed through a series of options papers, research and learning from the work so far, engagement and consultation with infrastructure providers and sector developments with other funding partners. The approach has the following key features:

1. The Council adopts an Outcomes Framework with agreed Key Performance Indicators, which forms the basis of a whole Council approach
2. Sector support is delivered by providers through collaboration based on district boundaries
3. An interim funding commitment until October 2021. Work will take place over the next year to look at ways the Council can make a longer-term commitment to providers.

Appendix A – VCS Infrastructure support Plan

4. The Outcomes Framework

Across Derbyshire, infrastructure organisations have different organisational models to support the sector. This means the Council needs to be clear about the types of support it wants to see delivered to the sector moving forward.

The purpose of having an outcomes framework is to allow the Council to have an articulated and shared understanding of its expectations and requirements from VCS infrastructure providers. It is expected that this will also support the agreement of clear and measurable objectives.

The framework (attached at Appendix B) outlines the three main outcomes for infrastructure support. These are:

Outcome 1 - The VCS is supported to grow and develop, enabling residents to contribute to social and cultural opportunities, which enhances their lives and the lives of others

Outcome 2 - There are increased pathways to volunteering which give opportunities to individuals to contribute to their community and enhances the sectors contribution across the county

Outcome 3 - VCS organisations can be supported to contribute to the strategic priorities of the Council.

Whilst outcomes will be clearly defined at the outset of each grant arrangement, organisations will need to explain how they intend to achieve each outcome in their local area. This will mean that support can be delivered flexibly, responding to the varying requirements of the sector in each geographical area – through collaboration where necessary.

Against each outcome there will be a number of Key Performance Indicators that infrastructure providers will be asked to report on as part of the routine monitoring process (for example – amount of funding for the sector). By working to achieve clearly defined outcomes and reporting on these outcomes, organisations will be able to demonstrate their impact much more clearly and effectively.

The Council will work with infrastructure organisations on an ongoing basis to ensure that the outcomes and KPIs requested are relevant to the sector and proportionate to the level of investment.

5. Delivery model and collaboration

The Council recognises that across the county there are different sector support organisations which operate across different geographies.

To ensure the new approach is as simple as possible, all currently funded organisations will be given the chance to participate in discussions, where there are multi-providers in an area, providers will be invited to come together

and collaborate on how they can deliver the outcomes framework through a non-competitive process where possible.

Where there is more than one provider across a geography, collaborations will work most effectively across a familiar and recognised geography. It is therefore proposed that district boundaries are used as the basis to build any model, however some specialist support may have to be organised at a county level.

To participate in a collaboration or consortia arrangements the Council is clear that infrastructure providers will have to be working within the district in question and are a recognised infrastructure organisation. This means that they are accredited to a national body which would provide a level of quality assurance to monitoring officers.

The Council will work with VCS infrastructure organisations to determine how new arrangements can be established in each area, but there will be an expectation that providers will work together, build consensus and cooperation to deliver the outcomes framework jointly.

6. Grant Funding
The Council will continue to use grant funding to secure the provision of sector support across the county.

Grant funding will allow organisations the flexibility to provide support that is responsive to local need, whilst delivering the Council's priority outcomes. Providers will be able to deliver local activities that are tailored to the specific sector issues within their locality.

The Council believes given the overarching principles and the emergent nature of the work, grant funding would be the best tool to allow all parties to collaborate to establish an approach and allow the approach to adapt as the new model is implemented.

7. Funding Allocation
All current grant allocations and their values will be maintained and therefore no infrastructure provider will see their funding reduced. Current infrastructure grant funders across the Council (Adult Care and Policy and Research) are committed in the long term to combine their grant funding as part of the new shared approach, so that providers are issue with one grant allocation, have one point of contact at the Council and will be asked to provide one monitoring report – but this should be done at time which suits both funders and providers.

Appendix A – VCS Infrastructure support Plan

Infrastructure grant funding will be distributed throughout the county on a fair and consistent basis. This should ensure that VCS organisations in each geographical area receive an equitable offer of support, enabling the sector to grow and develop support around the needs of local communities.

All district allocations will therefore be brought up to a minimum of £41,500 per year to deliver the objectives outlined in the outcomes framework. Where there is an uplift in funding, providers will be supported to reach agreement on how the additional funding will be allocated.

The combined total funding therefore for infrastructure support across the county will be £453,228 per year. This is a real term increase of 13% total funding and 28% increase on the original proposals as they included a 30% reduction from the Policy and Research budget taken in 2014.

There is also a separate countywide allocation of funding for support to the BME and Rural VCS sector. Both allocations have a combined value of £30,778 per year and remain unchanged. For these allocations providers will also have to work within the outcomes framework and deliver against the KPI's commensurate to the amount of funding and specific challenges working across those communities of need.

The chart below shows the anticipated change in funding, outlined by district.

Area	Current Funding	Proposed Funding	Change
Amber Valley	£47,896	£47,896	£0
Bolsover	£22,488	£41,500	+£19,012
Chesterfield	£24,460	£41,500	+£17,038
Derbyshire Dales	£50,511	£50,511	£0
Erewash	£72,473	£72,473	£0
High Peak	£73,808	£73,808	£0
North East Derbyshire	£24,461	£41,500	+£17,039
South Derbyshire	£52,262	£52,262	£0
County Wide (BME and Rural)	£30,778	£30,778	£0
Total	£399,137	£452,228	+£53,089

8. Commitment, monitoring and review

Covid-19 has changed the operational context of the review and this needs to be accounted for in any new way of working with infrastructure providers going forward.

Appendix A – VCS Infrastructure support Plan

New service level agreements for core infrastructure services will be developed and used for infrastructure and countywide specialist support. This would provide clarity of the Council's expectations of a consistent, high quality offer throughout the county. Where specialist infrastructure services are required such as activities supporting specific departmental priorities, additional elements could be included in the SLA.

Seeking consensus on the approach and a commitment of organisations to move this work forward builds a solid foundation for the future. This will allow organisations to begin to embed the outcomes framework and where necessary, develop new ways of working that better support the delivery of those outcomes. Grant-aid flexibility will give organisations the time and space to effectively work together if necessary and plan how they will deliver against the framework – as an ongoing, developmental process.

The Council will therefore work more closely with infrastructure providers in the short to medium term, as it has done with Covid-19 response and recovery in Derbyshire. This will include taking-stock of the last four months, understanding and applying the learning from Covid-19 and looking at ways the Council can make a longer-term commitment to providers.

Appendix A – Outcomes Framework Infrastructure Support

	Vision	Build a sustainable, diverse and vibrant Voluntary and Community Sector across Derbyshire				
	High level outcomes	**Sector Support** 'Derbyshire's VCS is supported to grow and develop, enabling residents to contribute to social and cultural opportunities which enhances their lives and the lives of others'		**Volunteer Support** 'Increased pathways to volunteering gives opportunities to individuals to contribute to their community and enhances the contribution of the sector'	**Strategic Support** 'VCS organisations can be supported to contribute to the strategic priorities of the Council'	
		Maintain a local presence	Build sector capacity	Volunteer Brokerage	VCS has a strong voice	Effective information and collaboration
	Accreditation Mark	NAVCA	NAVCA	VCQA	NAVCA	NAVCA
Core Funding - whole sector support	Objectives	• Work to maintain an effective local VCS • Identify gaps in local provision • Understand the needs of the local sector • Support a diverse range of organisations, groups and activities • Encourage a diverse range of activities across all age ranges • Maintain and updating membership and local intelligence • Signpost to local services where appropriate • Market of the sector and its purpose	• Work with and develop new groups and activities • Help organisations secure new and existing funding • Ensure organisations can manage and plan for financial wellbeing • Ensure organisations have practices and processes which are transparent and safe • Support organisations to maintain a strong organisational framework and excellent standards • Support non-constituted groups where necessary	• Promote volunteering • Scope and maintain local knowledge about volunteer opportunities • Support related groups to meet their volunteer needs • Identify the needs of volunteers to improve provision for volunteers • Build confidence and self-esteem of volunteers and potential volunteers • Help residents understand the value of volunteering and the difference it makes to communities	• Provide a clear pathway of communication between the Council and the sector • Ensure that smaller organisations have a voice • Support the Council to involve the sector in key decisions which may affect them	• Support positive relationships between the sector to support the priorities of the Council • Ensure the sector understands Council priorities • Enable formal and informal networking opportunities both locally and strategically • Support organisations and groups to share resources, best practice and develop initiatives
Specialist Support - priority - demographic - theme - department	Objectives	• Support initiatives to tackle issues at a local level	• Above support to specific groups such as health and social care or BME • Support grant programmes and grant funded schemes • Support the formation of alternative business models such as new social enterprises	• Support the uptake and delivery of the DCC volunteer passport	• Represent the sector within strategic meetings and forums - Derbyshire Partnership Forum - Health and Wellbeing Board • Support the sector to understand their impact and social value	• Support corporate and departmental priorities (e.g. Thriving Communities, prevention) • Build a diverse marketplace of providers across the sector • Support organisations understand with Council tendering, bidding and monitoring processes. • Ensure that VCS services are visible in service development and delivery
	KPI's	• Range of activities in the community • Diversity of the sector	• Number of groups supported • Number of new entrants to the sector • Survival rate of sector organisations • Amount of funding for the sector	• Number of volunteers • Number of opportunities for volunteers • Number of projects supported	• Sector participation in consultation • Variety of involvement and consultation	• Diversity of the marketplace • Joint initiatives developed • Groups sharing assets and resources

Appendix A – Outcomes Framework Infrastructure Support

Sector support

'Derbyshire's VCS is supported to grow and develop, enabling residents to contribute to social and cultural opportunities which enhances their lives and the lives of others'

Maintain a local presence
- Develop and maintain a variety of local communications including:
  - Database
  - Community directory
  - Newsletters
  - E-bulletins
  - Websites (for information sharing and collation and cascading of information)
- Provide or have access to information on a range of spaces to enable communities to share resources, meet and develop.

Building Sector Capacity
- Assist voluntary and community organisations to develop constitutions, policies, management committee roles and business planning
- Provide information via one to one, website information and e-bulletins and social media to help voluntary organisations develop their organisational structures, governance and legal structures
- Provide financial management support and training
- Support funding searches and assist with writing bids
- Organise funders workshops and surgeries
- Organise funding workshops and events.
- Deliver training to the sector
- Enable opportunities to access national available resources, for example Locality and their Lighthouse offer

Volunteer support

'Increased pathways to volunteering gives opportunities to individuals to contribute to their community and is accessible to all'

Volunteer brokerage
- Source volunteer opportunities
- Referrals to volunteer opportunities, supported as needed to ensure successful placements
- Provide volunteer management training
- Volunteer training, including supporting the delivery of and encouraging the uptake of Derbyshire Volunteer Passport Training
- Organise volunteer Coordinators Forums and web based information - regular support for all volunteer involving organisations
- Undertake or support specific volunteer projects to meet community need

Strategic Support

'VCS organisations can be supported to contribute to the strategic priorities of the Council'

VCS has a strong voice
- Represent the voluntary and community sector in partnerships, meetings and boards
- Represent the Voluntary Sector and support other voluntary sector organisations to provide accountable and informed representation at strategic and local meetings
- Facilitate information and activities to enable the voice of the sector, local groups and their members to be communicated at a strategic and local level
- Use recognised communications process to inform commissioners of policy, practise and needs of VCS and communities
- Work collaboratively with statutory organisations to consult, inform and involve wider VCS, disseminating information and collecting views from groups and their members via appropriate media including bulletins, networks and forums

Effective information and collaboration
- Provide networking opportunities for community organisations
- Liaise between the statutory sector and voluntary sector

Appendix B – EIA on Infrastructure arrangements

Derbyshire County Council
Equality Impact Analysis Record Form

Department	All
Service Area	Policy and Research (co-ordinating)
Title of policy/ practice/ service of function	Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure arrangements
Chair of Analysis Team	Rob Lowe

Stage 1. Prioritising what is being analysed

a. Why has the policy, practice, service or function been chosen?

Derbyshire County Council provides funding to a number of voluntary and community sector infrastructure organisations. Generally, VCS infrastructure organisations provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, promotes good practice and provide a voluntary sector perspective to the statutory sector at a strategic level. Many of the infrastructure organisations across the county also develop and deliver services.

The nature of the financial investment for infrastructure is currently mixed as various other stakeholders invest in a variety of ways that are often small, restricted in scope and under a short or temporary time frame. Resources are unevenly distributed, there is an inconsistent offer across the county and providers have to work across a complex mix of funding mechanisms.

A clear understanding of what the Council expects from infrastructure organisations is required, along with a rationale as to the purpose of the Council continuing to fund VCS infrastructure development. This needs to be done in a way that increases stability within the sector and enables those organisations to ensure there is adequate provision and resource across Derbyshire to help the Council meet its strategic priorities.

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b. What is the purpose of the policy, programme, service?

Whilst some voluntary organisations and charities are able to operate effectively without any assistance, the Council recognises that the sector includes a number voluntary and community groups that require varying levels of support in order to establish themselves, grow and thrive.

Local infrastructure organisations provide the sector with a single front door to offer vital support to the VCS as and when needs arise. VCS infrastructure organisations provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, promote good practice and provide a voluntary sector perspective to the statutory sector at a strategic level. Many of the infrastructure organisations across the county also develop and deliver services.

By knowing the local area and local needs, local infrastructure organisations are best placed to help the VCS to:

- attract funding
- operate good governance
- recruit and manage volunteers
- network and collaborate
- disseminate knowledge at a local level
- identify gaps and develop new activity
- influence the public sector

A new whole Council approach will support the ongoing investment in the sector, and be utilised to evidence how grant investment supports the Council in the achievement of its strategic priorities as set out in the Council Plan. This will support the VCS as a key Council partner and help to support a thriving VCS in Derbyshire.

c. Have any proposals been made to change, reduce or alter the policy, service or function? If so, what are these?

In order to most effectively support the development of an effective and efficient infrastructure offer, a new joint corporate approach has been developed as set out below:

Summary of proposed model
9. The Council has an Outcomes Framework with agreed KPI's, which will form the basis of service level agreements with providers
10. Sector support will be delivered by providers through collaboration based on district boundaries
11. Following the completion of the review in September 2021, a four-year commitment will be offered to improve sustainability, resilience and long term

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planning through a grant award. This will be supported by six monthly monitoring, yearly priority setting and a review after two years.

It is important to note that the proposed approach will have a significant impact on the way in which a number of providers currently work with the Council and their offer to the sector. For other providers, who may already be working on an outcomes basis, there will be less of a change.

Organisational Model

It is essential that across Derbyshire the VCS has local organisations which support, gives advice to, and promotes voluntary and community sector groups that make a positive contribution to communities across Derbyshire. In order to do this effectively, any sector support organisations must have a strong knowledge of their local area with direct links to the communities they serve. They should also be able to identify any gaps in provision locally and work with the sector to develop community activity in these areas.

Change - The Council is not proposing changing the operating model of any third sector organisation through this review and therefore this element of the proposal is not a change for current providers. However due to some of the changes outlined below, it may be possible that some organisations operational model will change as a result of this new proposed approach as they look to adapt their offer accordingly.

Outcomes Framework

It is proposed that the Council has an agreed Outcomes Framework for the sector, which identifies clear set of outcomes to direct future investment.

Other options such as a fully commissioned approach were considered as part of the review process, but this route would be too prescriptive and restrictive, and would not allow the flexibility needed to meet the outcomes at this moment in time.

The Outcomes Framework will allow the Council to have an articulated and shared understanding of its expectations and requirements from VCS infrastructure support services. It will also support the agreement of clear and measurable objectives for providers to work towards.

Against each outcome will be a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that infrastructure organisations will be expected to report on as part of the routine monitoring process. By working to achieve clearly defined outcomes and reporting on KPIs, infrastructure organisations will be able to demonstrate their impact much more clearly and effectively.

Change – This will be a proposed change for providers as the Council does not currently have a consistent Outcomes Framework with KPI's.

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Delivery models

To ensure the delivery model is as simple as possible and everyone is given a chance to participate in discussions, it is recommended that where there are multi-providers in a district, providers would be invited to come together and collaborate on how they can deliver the outcomes framework. In districts where only one provider exists, they would be invited to provide the support for that area.

Change – This will be a proposed change for providers, as the Council does not currently require organisations to collaborate on their offer to the VCS at a district level. However over recent years, providers have increasingly worked together in local areas to deliver projects or work on behalf of the sector.

Procurement process

Competitive and non-competitive approaches have been considered as part of the review process. It is recommended that, because of the desire to establish a consortia or collaborative provider approach, at this moment in time it would be most appropriate to work with the sector to build consensus and cooperation in a non-competitive process.

Change – This will result in no change for providers.

Funding

The new model also proposes a more equitable funding allocation. It has been agreed that funding allocations will work most effectively across a familiar and recognised geography. District boundaries will be used as the basis to build any model, Funding for identified specialist support will be set aside and may need to be funded at a county level.

Under current arrangements, funding is distributed disproportionately across the county, with some areas receiving significantly more funding than others. In order to develop a proposal which best matches the principles of the approach, it is proposed that equitable funding allocation is the fairest way to distribute funding for a 'universal' style service, recognising the basic costs of delivering a core infrastructure offer across the whole of the county.

Consideration has been given to the impact this would have on organisations in the areas which will lose a proportion of their funding envelope. However, this is only a reflection of the disproportionate way that funding has been allocated previously. Consideration also has to be given the cumulative impact that reduced funding in an area has had on missed opportunities. The table shows the amount of funding that has been invested over the past 5 years, district by district on infrastructure provision.

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District	Value of Funding over last 5 years
Amber Valley	£239,480
Bolsover	£89,952*
Chesterfield	£122,300
Derbyshire Dales	£252,555
Erewash	£362,365
High Peak	£369,040
North East Derbyshire	£122,305
South Derbyshire	£261,310
County Wide (BME and Rural)	£153,890

*reduced investment due to collapse of Bolsover CVP

It is proposed that funding will be committed for a period of one-year. Work will take place over the next year to look at ways the Council can make a longer-term commitment to providers.

To ensure that organisations are meeting their objectives as described within the agreed service level agreement, monitoring will take place every six months. To ensure providers engaging with the Councils strategic aims, a yearly priority setting meeting will take place with providers to establish the priorities for the year ahead based on the needs of the Council and the sector at a given time.

Change – This proposal will result in potential changes to the level of funding a number of organisations receive from the Council. A number of organisations will see increases to the funding they receive whilst others will see reductions.

Funding mechanism
It is proposed that funding will be delivered through a grant which will be supported by robust conditions of grant and/or service level agreement. It is proposed that concerns arising through using a grant for this purpose can be mitigated by appropriate tools, good communications and proper monitoring. It is recommended that given the overarching principles and the emergent nature of the work, grant funding would be the best tool to allow all parties to collaborate to establish an approach and allow it to adapt as the new model is implemented.

Change – This proposal will not result in any changes to the current approach.

Stage 2. The team carrying out the analysis

Name	Area of expertise/ role
(Chair) Rob Lowe	Policy Manager
Jodie Harrison	Policy Officer
Cath Walker	Senior Policy Officer

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Ruth Caunce	Contracts Manager
Emily Marshall	Policy and Research Analyst

Stage 3. The scope of the analysis – what it covers

The scope of the analysis covers the proposed model for the funding of VCS infrastructure support and the results of the 12-week period of consultation.

Stage 4. Data and consultation feedback

a. Sources of data and consultation used

Source	*Reason for using*
Needs based funding allocations research	Explore options for allocating funding across the county based on need, using a number of indicators to build allocation model
Informal engagement with infrastructure organisations	Establish overview of current situation and identify the sectors view on issues to be addressed in the review
Current Funding Data	Outlines the current funding structure for VCS infrastructure
Grant monitoring information	Provides overview of current infrastructure support
Infrastructure Proposal Public Consultation	Formal 12-week public consultation to establish satisfaction with proposals and invite comments and suggestions on how to mitigate any negative impacts

Stage 5. Analysing the impact or effects

a. What does the **data** tell you?

Protected Group	*Findings*
Age	Monitoring and informal engagement indicates that support, advice and guidance delivered by infrastructure organisations is delivered to groups including those that work with older people and young people. A significant number of older people benefit from work carried out by VCS organisations and there are many groups across Derbyshire which work to support older people, especially those who are more vulnerable.

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Disability	Monitoring and informal engagement indicates that support, advice and guidance delivered by infrastructure organisations is delivered to groups including those that work with people with disabilities. A significant number of people with different types of disability are assisted through a wide range of organisations across Derbyshire. Having a strong and effective infrastructure offer to support these groups is important, as many are small and many work with complex needs.
Gender (Sex)	This is not known to be a significant issue in relation to infrastructure support, however all groups working with members of the community from within a protected characteristic are able to access infrastructure services. A number of the VCS groups provide specialist services to women and families, often supporting them over a number of issues. It is important that the infrastructure providers have a good grasp of the additional barriers and inequality often faced by women.
Gender reassignment	This is not known to be a significant issue in relation to infrastructure support, however all groups working with members of the community from within a protected characteristic are able to access infrastructure services. The infrastructure providers are expected to be able to work across less visible diverse groups and issues, and if needs be help support the development of VCS groups representing them.
Marriage and civil partnership	This is not known to be a significant issue in relation to infrastructure support, however all groups working with members of the community from within a protected characteristic are able to access infrastructure services.
Pregnancy and maternity	This is not known to be a significant issue in relation to infrastructure support, however all groups working with members of the community from within a protected characteristic are able to access infrastructure services. Many VCS groups across the county work with young families to support them, so support for this work via the umbrella organisations is important.

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Race	The BME Forum is funded to provide targeted infrastructure support to BME and faith based community groups. A number of religious communities are also assisted by virtue of being members of the BME Community Forum.
Religion and belief including non-belief	The BME Forum is funded to provide targeted infrastructure support to BME and faith based community groups.
Sexual orientation	This is not known to be a significant issue in relation to infrastructure support, however all groups working with members of the community from within a protected characteristic are able to access infrastructure services.

Non-statutory

Socio-economic	Infrastructure organisations across Derbyshire support groups that deliver activities aimed at supporting the poorest people and most deprived communities.
Rural	Rural Action Derbyshire is funded to provide targeted infrastructure support for rural communities throughout Derbyshire. Many groups that receive support from infrastructure organisations

b. What does customer feedback, complaints or discussions with stakeholder groups tell you about the impact of the policy, practice, service or function on the protected characteristic groups? (if you carry out more than one stage you need to make clear which you are describing)

Consultation respondents were asked to identify themselves as either an infrastructure provider, partner, VCS group or resident. Each group of respondents were asked a specific set of questions relating to their relationship with infrastructure provision. Respondents were asked if there are any specific communities or groups of people that may be negatively or disproportionately impacted by the proposals. It is important to acknowledge that many respondents, particularly residents who formed the largest group of respondents, commented on the impact on specific groups in relation to reductions in direct service delivery, which may occur as a consequence of the proposals in those areas that would experience a reduction in current infrastructure funding.

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Protected Group	Findings
Age	Respondents (most notably residents) indicated that they thought older people, particularly those who are isolated or have poor health, would be the most negatively or disproportionately impacted group under the proposal. Respondents indicated that this was because many older residents rely upon services currently delivered by infrastructure organisations for carrying out routine daily activities such as shopping services, transport to medical appointments and befriending. Feedback indicated that many respondents believed that any decrease in these services, in areas that would see a reduction in current funding levels, could result in increased social isolation, significantly affect people's wellbeing and consequently increase pressure on services provided by partner organisations. A smaller number of respondents were also concerned that young people would be negatively impacted by the proposal, particularly young people from low income and 'deprived' households. A significant number of infrastructure organisations, partner organisations and VCS organisations commented that support for older people was a significant issue within their communities and that this should be reflected in a needs-based funding allocation. Respondents also expressed concern about the impact of potential reductions in support for older people when combined with reductions in statutory services.
Disability	Some respondents indicated that people with disabilities, particularly mobility issues, dementia, mental health issues and visual impairment, would be negatively impacted by the proposal if it resulted in a reduction in services such as transport to medical appointments, shopping assistance or befriending. There was also concern from residents, particularly those that currently use certain support services and groups, about the ability of this support to continue if funding for infrastructure was reduced. Groups to support people living with dementia were described as a 'lifeline' and other groups such as 'stroke clubs', 'craft groups' and 'lunchclubs' were cited as important for the mental and physical wellbeing of their users.

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Gender (Sex)	A small number of respondents indicated that women could be negatively affected by any reductions in services. Female victims of domestic abuse and single parents were indicated as possible groups that could be disproportionately impacted by reductions in community support.
Gender reassignment	Initial engagement and formal consultation indicate that this is not a significant issue in relation to infrastructure support, however all groups working with members of the community from within a protected characteristic are able to access infrastructure services. It is important to note that this protected characteristic is not monitored specifically in current arrangements. This group may not have been represented in the consultation due to the relatively small numbers of people and the lack of county based support organisations.
Marriage and civil partnership	Initial engagement and formal consultation indicate that this is not a significant issue in relation to infrastructure support, however all groups working with members of the community from within a protected characteristic are able to access infrastructure services.
Pregnancy and maternity	Initial engagement and formal consultation indicate that this is not a significant issue in relation to infrastructure support, however all groups working with members of the community from within a protected characteristic are able to access infrastructure services.
Race	The BME Forum provides support to some BME and faith based community groups. The forum is used to disseminate information to members of these communities and encourage them to engage with the Council on a number of issues. In response to the consultation one infrastructure provider suggested that the proposed reduction in funding for delivery of the forum would have an 'immense impact' on engagement of the BME and faith based communities and could have a negative impact on the achievements of the forum and the trust built between these communities and the Council through the forum.

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	Three residents also identified BME communities as likely to be negatively affected by the proposals. It should be noted that Christian and Jewish groups are not specifically represented within the BME Forum
Religion and belief including non-belief	The BME Forum provides support to BME and faith based community groups. The forum is used to disseminate information to members of these communities and encourage them to engage with the Council on a number of issues. In response to the consultation one infrastructure provider suggested that the proposed reduction in funding for delivery of the forum would have an 'immense impact' on engagement of the BME and faith based communities and could have a negative impact on the achievements of the forum and the trust built between these communities and the Council through the forum. Three residents also identified BME communities as likely to be negatively affected by the proposals.
Sexual orientation	Initial engagement and formal consultation indicate that this is not a significant issue in relation to infrastructure support, however all groups working with members of the community from within a protected characteristic are able to access infrastructure services. It is important to know that this protected characteristic is not monitored specifically under current arrangements.

Non-statutory

Socio-economic	Low income individuals and families and the unemployed were identified by respondents in the consultation as a group that would be negatively impacted by the proposals. Respondents suggested that if services such as support for food banks, transport services and employment support were reduced as a result of reductions in funding, that these groups would be disproportionately impacted.
Rural	Rural Action Derbyshire provides a range of support for rural communities including socio-economic support relating to rurality.

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	Consultation respondents across all groups identified rurality as a significant issue when delivering services and VCS infrastructure support. Many infrastructure organisations, partners and VCS organisations suggested that rurality should be considered as part of a needs-based funding allocation so that adequate provision could be provided.
	Residents also indicated that rurality, particularly in its links to isolation and low income, meant that service users in these areas could be negatively impacted by the proposals.
Geographical areas	Under the proposals, a redistribution of funding would mean that a number of areas would see an increase in funding while other areas would see a significant reduction.
	Many consultation responses related to the areas that would see the largest reductions in funding. Key concerns were that this would lead to reductions or loss of support and services for communities within those areas, increased pressure on statutory services, fewer volunteers to support residents and fewer volunteering opportunities for those that want to offer assistance, staff reductions within infrastructure organisations and the possible closure of infrastructure organisations.

c. Are there any other groups of people who may experience an adverse impact because of the proposals to change a policy or service who are not listed above?

In January 2018, Community Voluntary Partners, the infrastructure organisation for the voluntary community sector in Bolsover, closed leaving a gap in support for the sector. This has been filled in the short term by Bassetlaw CVS whilst work was undertaken to establish the needs of the sector and develop a plan for longer term VCS support. A long-term Bolsover Infrastructure provider will be needed in the future.

Many consultation respondents commented about the disproportionate impact on 'all vulnerable members of our community' and 'the people you should be looking after the most'. Respondents also commented that many VCS groups and volunteers that rely on infrastructure support, provide support to 'vulnerable groups'.

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Another key issue reflected in the consultation was the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, with respondents suggesting that it was likely that any impact on vulnerable or disadvantaged groups including those listed, could be even more pronounced as a result. Those responding later in the consultation period, as the pandemic developed, indicated that the needs of certain groups were likely to have changed and described the sector as being 'in crisis' due to the demands of meeting the needs of communities while facing unprecedented operational challenges.

d. Gaps in data

What are your main gaps in information and understanding of the impact of your policy and services? Please indicate whether you have identified ways of filling these gaps.

Gaps in data	Action to deal with this
It is difficult to ascertain exactly what an adequate infrastructure offer costs	• Work will be needed following the consultation to better understand how much funding is needed to deliver or ensure than expectations of what can be achieved by providers is commensurate to the funding available. • It is proposed that officers spend time speaking to other local authorities and visiting other areas to determine their approach to sector cost.
The needs of the sector	• Further work to understand the needs of community groups • Consider any barriers that the sector currently experiences and how infrastructure support might impact on this
The impact of Covid-19 on the needs of the VCS	• Further work will be needed following the consultation to fully understand the impact and additional demands of Covid-19 on the sector • Consider any impact on specific groups

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Stage 6. Ways of mitigating unlawful prohibited conduct or unwanted adverse impact, or to promote improved equality of opportunity or good relations (How can you reduce any negative impacts? These should be considered as alternative approaches or suggested changes)

The proposed model for VCS infrastructure seeks to ensure that resources allocated to the VCS in the future support the Council's ambitions and encourage the long term sustainability of the sector.. Underpinning these priorities is the need to secure improved outcomes for Derbyshire which reflect the level of investment whilst having a cost effective, coordinated and sustainable approach for the future.

Whilst these proposals are designed to strengthen the sector by creating greater transparency, clarity and security through use of the outcomes framework, longer term funding arrangements and consistent monitoring, a more equitable funding offer is also necessary.

It was proposed that the funding available for voluntary sector infrastructure services be redistributed equally throughout each district/borough. This will lead to some areas experiencing a significant reduction to their current funding levels.

The consultation has allowed a better understanding of how this may impact on organisations and the support that they deliver to the sector. It has also highlighted that any changes to infrastructure funding will inevitably have an impact on direct service delivery due to historic funding arrangements. This in turn would potentially impact upon protected groups (see 5b).

Now that the consultation is complete, measures to mitigate the potential negative impacts indicated by respondents such as the impact of reductions in funding, transitional periods and support for organisations to implement new ways of working and develop a better understanding of the short and longer term impact of Covid-19 on infrastructure organisations, will be considered.

Stage 7. Do stakeholders agree with your findings and proposed response? (For proposals once made)

Proposals for the future funding of VCS infrastructure were agreed in January 2020. A twelve-week consultation period on proposals commenced on 7 February 2020 and closed on 30 April 2020. The agreed timetable for the review was for Cabinet to approve agreed proposals in July 2020 and the new offer/approach being in place by the end of September 2020.

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During the consultation period, the Council received a formal request from 3D (the consortia of VCS support organisations across Derby and Derbyshire) and High Peak CVS for the infrastructure review to be postponed as a result of Covid-19 and current grant arrangements extended indefinitely. This request outlined a number of concerns that Covid-19 had presented the sector with overwhelming challenges, and had therefore made it difficult to engage with the consultation process. The Council's response – which confirmed that the consultation would run its course - was shared widely and this resulted in additional written correspondence and consultation responses.

More than 800 consultation responses were received. This was from a mix of both online responses to the consultation questionnaire and written submissions, primarily from those organisations who felt that they did not have enough time to respond to the consultation itself. The mix of responses made direct comparable analysis difficult.

Respondents:

Key stakeholders included:
- Infrastructure providers
- District and borough councils
- Derby and Derbyshire CCG and Tameside and Glossop ICFT
- MP's
- Active Derbyshire
- Erewash Primary Care Network
- Chesterfield Place Alliance
- Bolsover Partnership
- High Peak Alliance (infrastructure provider partnership)
- A range of small VCS organisations
- A range of medium and large VCS organisations

609 residents completed the questionnaire, this included:
- Service users
- Volunteers
- Those with caring responsibilities
- Older and vulnerable people

107 VCS sector organisations also completed the questionnaire, this included:
- Community groups
- Charities
- Voluntary organisations providing community services

Analysis

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Comments received as part of the VCS infrastructure consultation revealed a number of common issues for those who are likely to be affected by the implementation of proposals, these have been presented thematically as follows:

The role of infrastructure providers
- There is no clear shared understanding of VCS infrastructure provider role in supporting the sector.
- A small number of respondents recognised infrastructure as providing support for and development of voluntary groups and the sector, however, many more recognised the wider role of infrastructure in responding to community need and delivering services in response to gaps in service delivery. Residents especially, struggled to differentiate between the two and many concerns raised about the loss of service provision due to postposed changes to infrastructure funding.
- The lack of a shared understanding of the role of infrastructure impacts on the overall interpretation and understanding of the proposals, with many residents concerned about the knock-on effect of reductions of funding in some areas on service provision.
- A large number of responses from partners, groups and residents outlined the high value they place on the role of infrastructure organisations, supporting VCS groups and providing vital services for individuals, communities, and service partners.

The proposed Framework and Outcomes
- There was general support for the framework, from providers and partners in particular who highlighted that this aligned with their current approaches to core infrastructure provision.
- There were comments across all respondents that it was important that the framework and outcomes were not overly prescriptive, allowing organisations to retain the ability to be independent, flexible and responsive to local need.
- VCS groups in particular, requested that the outcomes should be based around the needs of the sector and co-produced if possible. It was also stated that organisations felt that any outcomes requested must be commensurate to the level of funding that would be provided.
- Some organisations felt that the framework was too narrow to fully represent infrastructure provider activities and key areas of impact. There was also concern amongst VCS groups that the framework does not consider current outcomes and was not in line with the support that they consider to be working well in their areas. There was concern that this would mean that key services including those that fall outside of the core infrastructure offer, would be lost.
- Some VCS groups suggested that the framework should be opened-up to a greater number of organisations, with the ability to 'bid' to deliver each of the key outcomes, with grants being awarded to those best placed to deliver support.
-

District delivery boundaries and provider collaboration

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- Most organisations indicated that they already work within districts and boroughs and that generally this approach was proven to work well.
- Collaborative working was also generally supported as a way of:
  - achieving better outcomes
  - working more efficiently
  - sharing best practice
  - providing consistency and;
  - avoiding duplication.
- There was a feeling amongst VCS groups that collaboration should not however, dilute specialist knowledge and expertise.
- There was some concern, particularly in the High Peak about how collaboration would work alongside proposed reductions in current funding levels.
- There was recognition amongst partners, the time it takes to build effective partnerships, and that this must be carefully considered in implementation plans. Issues such as rurality were also highlighted as potential challenges for collaboration.

Impact of changes to funding allocations
- Opposition to funding reductions and the equal allocation of funding across the county were the most commonly stated issues across all groups – however dissatisfied responses were disproportionally made from areas which would see a reduction in funding.
- Respondents indicated that there would be a significant impact in those areas that would potentially see the largest reductions in their current funding.
- Providers and partners in areas which would benefit from increased funding in the proposals welcomed this approach and the Council's plans to redress the current disparities of funding across the county. One letter stated that the lack of funding across one district has meant that increased funding for that area was 'so desperately needed'.
- A significant number of respondents suggested a 'levelling up' of funding rather than 'levelling down' so that good models of infrastructure support and service delivery can be replicated throughout the county. Equalising funding risked the loss of successful models that have been developed over many years.
- Several respondents commented on the unintended negative consequences of adopting a uniform allocation of funding across the county, highlighting that this methodology was flawed.
- A needs-based approach was a common suggestion throughout all groups of respondents with suggestions that allocations should be based on a variety of broad indicators such as health, deprivation and rurality – with no specific indication on how this could be done. A more specific indicator suggested was to allocate the funding based on population size.
- Several respondents indicated that an equal funding distribution was against the principles of the Derbyshire COMPACT.

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The proposed funding commitment
- Although many respondents opposed any funding reductions, there was general support for the longer-term funding commitment.
- Infrastructure organisations indicated that a longer-term commitment in funding from the Council would increase the stability of their organisations, improve staff retention and make it easier to secure additional funding.
- VCS organisations indicated that the commitment would enable continuity and ongoing development support for their groups.
- Residents and Partners also generally agreed that a longer-term funding arrangement was a positive step for all involved.

Impact on service delivery
- The most significant concern across all groups was the risk of losing the services currently delivered directly to the community by infrastructure organisations if funding was reduced.
- A number of infrastructure organisations stated that because infrastructure funding has historically also included an element of direct service delivery, any changes to existing arrangements would have a direct impact on the services and support currently delivered in the community. The extent to which this is the case varies throughout the county, but responses indicate that the impact would be significant, particularly in areas where there are multiple providers and other organisations which would not class themselves as a traditional 'CVS'.
- Respondents across all groups highlighted that a reduction in these services would likely lead to increased pressures in other areas such as the NHS, Local Government, CCGs and individuals within communities.
- Services aimed at tackling social isolation and loneliness, supporting those that use them to carry out the day-to-day tasks that enable them to live independently were the most cited. Amongst residents, many respondents indicated that they 'did not know what they would do' without these services and were extremely concerned about how the changes might impact on the services and support that they consider as essential to their wellbeing.
- There was widespread agreement that if services were to be reduced as a result of reductions in funding, vulnerable people would be most likely to be disadvantaged. Within this group, elderly and disabled people and those with mental health issues and dementia would be most at risk.

The impact of Covid-19
- The VCS's role in supporting communities in response to the Covid-19 pandemic was frequently mentioned by all respondents in the consultation.
- Respondents indicated that infrastructure organisations and the groups that they support had been instrumental in delivering services and coordinating support for communities.
- Partners suggested that the current emergency had highlighted the important role of the voluntary sector and infrastructure organisations. It was acknowledged that many statutory organisations have relied on them for fast

paced and responsive community support, and specialist knowledge of the communities they serve.

- Several organisations commented that they had been impacted financially by Covid-19, with reserves and any available funds being used to provide responsive support.
- Infrastructure organisations stated that the unprecedented demand for emergency support had led to a 'crisis' in the sector which made it difficult to fully consider and engage with consultation, which some suggested would affect the validity of its conclusions.
- Respondents across all groups suggested that the consultation and/or wider review should be postponed until a later date or abandoned altogether because of the current crisis. Residents commented that lockdown had resulted in limited opportunity and capacity for organisations and individuals to respond to the consultation.
- An alternative suggestion from both partners and infrastructure organisations was that the comments received through the consultation should be used as the basis for further discussions to develop a way forward. It was also suggested that the VCS would be instrumental in community's recovery following the pandemic. It was anticipated that the sector would need more support, not less, to achieve this.

Specific Comments

- The Council also received a number of very specific comments about elements of the proposal, specific concerns or specific comments on organisations through the consultation. Although too numerous to list in this report, all comments have been considered and where appropriate, will be responded to accordingly.

Stage 8. Main conclusions and recommendations

Key conclusions

- The formal 12-week consultation began 7 February 2020 and was completed on 30 April 2020
- Providers requested an indefinite delay of consultation due to Covid19 – this was not granted
- Local context has changed significantly from when consultation began
- More than 750 completed online questionnaires and 50+ emails and letters were received
- Respondents feedback shows broad support with principles and elements of the approach including:
  - o The use of an outcomes framework
  - o District/borough based delivery boundaries
  - o Increased collaboration to deliver outcomes

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> - o Continued use of grant funding mechanism
> - o Equitable funding in areas that would see an increase compared to current funding
> - o A longer-term funding commitment
> - There were significant concerns over funding reductions through redistribution in some areas
>
> Support for funding increases through redistribution in other areas
>
> - There has been a huge effort from the sector to support Covid19 mobilisation
> - There are concerns Covid19 had presented the sector with challenges to engage with consultation
> - There is a general feeling that Covid19 is a game changer and is 'not the right time' to be implementing funding reductions
> - There is an "Ask" for a 'levelling up' rather than 'levelling down' of funding.
>
> **Recommendations in relation to current proposals**
>
> - Continue to develop and strengthen the key elements of the proposals that were broadly supported in the consultation:
>   - o Shared principles
>   - o Outcomes framework - to increase transparency and better demonstrate the contribution of the sector
>   - o Collaboration – to reduce duplication and ensure the delivery of outcomes
>   - o District/borough based approach – to ensure a strong local presence
>   - o Equal funding in principle – particularly in areas that are currently underfunded
> - Carefully consider the impact of any changes to funding arrangements when making decisions about how to take the work forward
>   - o Ensure specific groups will not be disproportionately affected by any reductions in current funding
>   - o Where a significant potential impact has been identified, such as services for older/vulnerable people, seek to mitigate this impact
> - Give further consideration to how risks, in areas that would see a significant reduction in current funding levels, can be mitigated
>   - o Work with organisations to develop suitable transitional arrangements to minimise the negative impact of any changes
> - Continue to develop shared language around, and understanding of, the essential elements of the proposal
> - Continue to consider the impact of Covid-19 on communities and the voluntary sector, including the impact upon protected characteristic groups

Appendix B – EIA on Infrastructure arrangements

TO BE DEVELOPED
Stage 9. Objectives setting/ implementation (this should act as an action plan in relation to this EIA)

Objective	Planned action	Who	When	How will this be monitored?

Appendix B – EIA on Infrastructure proposals

Stage 10. Monitoring and review/ mainstreaming into business plans

Please indicate whether any of your objectives have been added to service or business plans and your arrangements for monitoring and reviewing progress/ future impact?

> In line with current arrangements, it is proposed that grant monitoring will take place on a six monthly basis. Organisations will be required to report on a number of KPIs as part of the monitoring process.

Stage 11. Agreeing and publishing the completed analysis

Completed analysis approved by   on

Where and when published?

> The proposal is currently a draft document and is subject to change.

Appendix C – Proposed Infrastructure Support Grant Payments – October 2020 – September 2021

Decision-making processes

Where linked to decision on proposals to change, reduce or withdraw service/ financial decisions/ large-scale staffing restructures

Attached to report (title):

Date of report:

Author of report:

Audience for report e.g. Cabinet/ date:

Web location of report:

Outcome from report being considered

Details of follow-up action or monitoring of actions/ decision undertaken

Updated by:

Date:

Appendix C –Proposed Infrastructure Support Grant Payments – October 2020 – September 2021

1.0 Adult Care Grant Payments for Infrastructure support		
Organisation Name	**Brief description of what the grant is provided for/activity it supports, including the type of service**	**October 2020 – September 2021**
Amber Valley CVS	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£32,518
Infrastructure support for Bolsover	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£7,110
Connex Community Support	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£27,236
Derbyshire Dales CVS	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£21,515
Derbyshire Voluntary Action	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£18,166
Erewash Voluntary Action CVS	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£57,095
High Peak CVS	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£4,124
New Mills Volunteer Centre	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£21,513

South Derbyshire CVS	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£36,884
The Bureau (Volunteer Centre Glossop)	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£19,175
Total		**£245,336**

2.0 Policy and Research grant payments for Infrastructure support		
Organisation Name	**Brief description of what the grant is provided for/activity it supports, including the type of service**	**October 2020 – September 2021**
Amber Valley CVS	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£15,378
Infrastructure support for Bolsover	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£15,378
Derbyshire Dales CVS	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£15,378
Erewash Voluntary Action CVS	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£15,378
High Peak CVS	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£15,378

Appendix C – Proposed Infrastructure Support Grant Payments – October 2020 – September 2021

Links CVS	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£30,755
South Derbyshire CVS	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£15,378
Rural Action Derbyshire	To support its core activities in developing local voluntary and community groups and strengthening the capacity of the sector as a whole within the rural areas of the county. Specific SLA to be developed.	£15,378
BME Infrastructure	Provides a corporate approach to engagement with BME groups across the county. It supports the two BME Forums operating in the north and the south of the county and engages with hard to reach communities in developing and shaping the authority's services in a coherent way.	£15,400
	Total	**£153,801**

Appendix D – Proposed General VCS Grant Payments – October 2020 - September 2021

3.0 – Proposed Adult Care Grant Payments to VCS organisations		
Organisation Name	**Brief description of what the grant is provided for/activity it supports, including the type of service**	**October 2020 – September 2021**
Age Concern (Chesterfield)	Information, advice and befriending services for older people	£10,741
Age UK Derby & Derbyshire	Countywide Mobile Information Service / Information Roadshow	£19,547
Age UK Derby & Derbyshire	Hulland Ward Day Care	£12,636*
Age UK Derby & Derbyshire	Bakewell Day Care	£83,451*
Age UK Derby & Derbyshire	Erewash Careline Service	£4,500
Age UK Derby & Derbyshire	Bakewell / Buxton Befriending Service	£48,099
Age UK Derby & Derbyshire	First Taste - Provision of arts education workshops for older people in residential establishments and day care centres located in the Derbyshire Dales area.	£5,200
Amber Valley CVS	Befriending service for older disabled people	£6,457
Barlborough Darby and Joan Luncheon Club	Luncheon Club	£1,568
Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise	Provides opportunities for people with learning disabilities to gain practical training and work experience in conservation and woodland management as well as managing Derbyshire's countryside.	£58,712
Borrowbrook Home Link	Offers support to older adults living in the Borrowash / Ockbrook area. Including the provision of advice and info., regular home visiting service for housebound older people, monthly community lunch club, drop in coffee mornings, a monthly Friendship / Befriending Club for older people and outings.	£2,800

Appendix D – Proposed General VCS Grant Payments – October 2020 - September 2021

Chesterfield and District African / Caribbean Community Association	Provides a range of activities for the African Caribbean community, with funding provided acting as a contribution to the Organisers salary and the provision of a range of activities, which includes a luncheon club for older African / Caribbean people.	£20,282
Connex Community Support	Contribution towards befriending services	£3,000
Connex Community support	Contribution towards the provision of a Volunteer Car Scheme	£16,306
Derbyshire Autism Services Group	Provision of services for vulnerable adults with autism spectrum conditions.	£26,084
Derbyshire Dales Careline	Telephone befriending service to elderly, disabled and vulnerable adults living in the south Derbyshire Dales locality.	£2,010
Dronfield Welcome Club.	Weekly Club for older people where they can meet and socialise, and includes the provision of lunch. The majority of the people who attend Dronfield Welcome Club are housebound and / or live on the own. Funding is used towards the cost of transport and carers.	£629
Eckington and District Monday Club	Provides a voluntary service each Monday for adults with learning disabilities. It is a social meeting but included in the club are Independent living skills, mentoring, befriending, advice and a different activity each week. Also we organise holidays and day trips out, otherwise denied to most members.	£3,216
Erewash Voluntary Action CVS	Shopping Service for older people and vulnerable adults.	£31,711
Erewash Voluntary Action CVS	Contribution towards befriending services	£3,000
Eventide Luncheon Club	Luncheon Club.	£10,000
Glebe Field Centre (Crich)	Provision of day services to older people.	£12,000
Glossopdale Furniture Project	To provide good quality affordable furniture and other household items to people on low incomes. Providing free furniture packs to people who have	£32,133

	previously been homeless and are given a new tenancy, but who are not eligible for any financial help.	
Greenaway Workshop	Greenaway Workshop provides therapeutic care in a meaningful structured day for people with long term health conditions be it physical disabilities, sensory impairment or mild learning difficulties, for those who reside in Mid-North Derbyshire, with printing and cane chair renovation being the main activities.	£10,161
Heanor Salcare	Contribution towards services, in particular the provision of recycled furniture and other household items to people on low income living in the Amber Valley area. General service info: Salcare provides a range of support and services incl.: Food bank, Community kitchen, Charity shop, Furniture warehouse, Drop in for welfare and benefit advice, Community laundry, Confidential space for clients to meet with other agencies, Work placements and volunteer opportunities.	£54,054
High Peak CVS	Contribution towards befriending services	£250
Ilkeston and District Centre for Voluntary Service - Flamsteed	Contribution towards Centre Manager salary	£5,021
Ilkeston and District CVS	Funding to support the provision of day care	£15,346
Mencap - Swadlincote Gateway Club	Everyone who attends is an adult with learning disability. A range of activities are provided that meet people's interests and support their wellbeing e.g. sports and crafts activities.	£2,675
Our Vision Our Future	A self-advocacy group run for and by adults aged 18 and over with learning disabilities, which including visual, sensory, physical disabilities, autism, Asperger's, limited mobility, memory and communication problems.	£30,375
Former lunch club Ripley	Former Ripley Neighbourhood Care Scheme, closed 2020. Holding in budget while review undertaken	£2,369
South Derbyshire CVS	Provision of a social car scheme	£7,406

South Derbyshire CVS	Provision of a volunteer befriending service for all adults in South Derbyshire (known as The Connect Befriending Service	£33,848
Stanley Common Eventide Community Hall	Provision of a range of activities for vulnerable people living in the Stanley Common and surrounding area, in particular the employment of a Community Development Worker	£10,000
Stepping Stones (Amber Valley)	Provision of day care for older people	£15,549
The Bureau (Volunteer Centre Glossop)	Contribution towards the provision of the Time Out shopping service	£21,936
The Volunteer Centre (Chesterfield)	Elderfriends befriending project and volunteer support	£17,036
	Total	**£640,108**

4.0 - Public Health grant payments to VCS organisations		
Organisation Name	**Brief description of what the grant is provided for/activity it supports, including the type of service**	
Derbyshire 50+ Forums: Ashbourne	50+ Forums give people the opportunity to: come together in their local area to take action on issues that are important to them; engage with and influence services that impact on older lives; get information and advice; and socialise and connect with others and build friendships.	£846
Derbyshire 50+ Forums: Belper	50+ Forums give people the opportunity to: come together in their local area to take action on issues that are important to them; engage with and influence services that impact on older lives; get information and advice; and socialise and connect with others and build friendships.	£672
Derbyshire 50+ Forums: Bolsover	50+ Forums give people the opportunity to: come together in their local area to take action on issues that are important to them; engage with and	£1,571

	influence services that impact on older lives; get information and advice; and socialise and connect with others and build friendships.	
Derbyshire 50+ Forums: Clay Cross	50+ Forums give people the opportunity to: come together in their local area to take action on issues that are important to them; engage with and influence services that impact on older lives; get information and advice; and socialise and connect with others and build friendships.	£616
Derbyshire 50+ Forums: Glossop	50+ Forums give people the opportunity to: come together in their local area to take action on issues that are important to them; engage with and influence services that impact on older lives; get information and advice; and socialise and connect with others and build friendships.	£1128
Derbyshire 50+ Forums: Heanor	50+ Forums give people the opportunity to: come together in their local area to take action on issues that are important to them; engage with and influence services that impact on older lives; get information and advice; and socialise and connect with others and build friendships.	£508
Derbyshire 50+ Forums: Ilkeston	50+ Forums give people the opportunity to: come together in their local area to take action on issues that are important to them; engage with and influence services that impact on older lives; get information and advice; and socialise and connect with others and build friendships.	£1050
Derbyshire 50+ Forums: Long Eaton	50+ Forums give people the opportunity to: come together in their local area to take action on issues that are important to them; engage with and influence services that impact on older lives; get information and advice; and socialise and connect with others and build friendships.	£620
Derbyshire 50+ Forums: Matlock	50+ Forums give people the opportunity to: come together in their local area to take action on issues that are important to them; engage with and influence services that impact on older lives; get information and advice; and socialise and connect with others and build friendships.	£352
	Total	**£7,363**

Appendix D – Proposed General VCS Grant Payments – October 2020 - September 2021

5.0 - Policy and Research grant payments to VCS organisations		
Organisation Name	**Brief description of what the grant is provided for/activity it supports, including the type of service**	
Asian Association of Chesterfield and North Derbyshire	To support the core costs of the organisation and strengthen the capacity of the BME sector as a whole within the county. They undertake variety of functions and organise activities to support their communities of interest	£3,744
Chesterfield African Caribbean Community Association	To support the core costs of the organisation and strengthen the capacity of the BME sector as a whole within the county. They undertake variety of functions and organise activities to support their communities of interest	£3,744
Chesterfield Muslim Association	To support the core costs of the organisation and strengthen the capacity of the BME sector as a whole within the county. They undertake variety of functions and organise activities to support their communities of interest	£1,821
Derbyshire Chinese Welfare Association	To support the core costs of the organisation and strengthen the capacity of the BME sector as a whole within the county. They undertake variety of functions and organise activities to support their communities of interest	£2,186
Muslim Welfare Association	To support the core costs of the organisation and strengthen the capacity of the BME sector as a whole within the county. They undertake variety of functions and organise activities to support their communities of interest	£1,821
BME Infrastructure	BME Consultation	£13,225
Derbyshire Law Centre	To support its core costs in providing specialist legal advice, assistance and representation through face-to-face and telephone services at its main office in Chesterfield and other locations throughout the county.	£90,124
Specialist Advice South Derbyshire CAB	To support its core costs in providing specialist employment advice in South Derbyshire.	£10,400
	Total	**£127,065**

Appendix D – Proposed General VCS Grant Payments – October 2020 - September 2021

6.0 - Arts Service grant payments to VCS organisations		
Organisation Name	**Brief description of what the grant is provided for/activity it supports, including the type of service**	
Buxton Festival	To carry out participatory arts work with disadvantaged groups	£5,723
Fleet Arts	To carry out participatory arts work with disadvantaged groups	£18,006
High Peak Community Arts	To carry out participatory arts work with disadvantaged groups	£18,006
Junction Arts	To carry out participatory arts work with disadvantaged groups	£15,200
Learning Through Arts	To carry out participatory arts work with disadvantaged groups	£16,028
Level Centre Ltd	To carry out participatory arts work with disadvantaged groups	£24,925
Live and Local	To carry out participatory arts work with disadvantaged groups	£13,582
Orchestras Live	To carry out participatory arts work with disadvantaged groups	£6,377
People Express	To carry out participatory arts work with disadvantaged groups	£16,323
Wash Arts	To carry out participatory arts work with disadvantaged groups	£3,642
	Total	**£137,812**