

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

8th September 2022

Funding to Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Organisations – Summary of Outcomes for 2021/22

Report of Councillor Alan Powell, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Communication

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Tris Burdett, Partnership Development Officer

Contact Officer: Tris Burdett, Partnership Development Officer

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To provide an overview of the outcomes achieved in 2021/22 by voluntary and community sector infrastructure support organisations funded by the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Members are asked to note the content of the report.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Cllr. Alan Powell

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

There are no financial implications in the current financial year. Any recommendations that may have future financial and risk implications will be considered at a later date in the commissioning cycle.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

The monitoring arrangements form part of legally binding Service Level Agreements with the Council. All data monitoring information and agreements are stored securely.

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

There are no human resource implications as a result of this report. This activity is delivered through existing resources.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies</p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	All
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	Yes Details: Cllr. Alan Powell and Steve Lee, Assistant Director Transformation and Communication.

<p>Links to Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.</p>
<p>Key Council Plan priorities delivered through these commissions are: Protecting the most vulnerable in our community, actively seeking to prevent homelessness, tackling issues such as childhood obesity and lack of exercise and empowering and supporting local volunteers and organisations.</p>

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** (reasons for bringing the report)

1.1 At Minute No. 186 (2013/14), Cabinet approved new commissioning and monitoring arrangements following a review of funding to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. From 2013 Members received a series of annual presentations from the groups funded by the Council. In 2019 Cabinet agreed to receive an officer summary report whilst retaining the option of requesting the organisations to present to Cabinet or Council as required.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1.1 Investment in these voluntary organisations is measured in accordance with the Council Plan 2019/23 target to assist over 20,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged households year on year. The following illustrates the Council's available investment and households assisted since 2014/15:

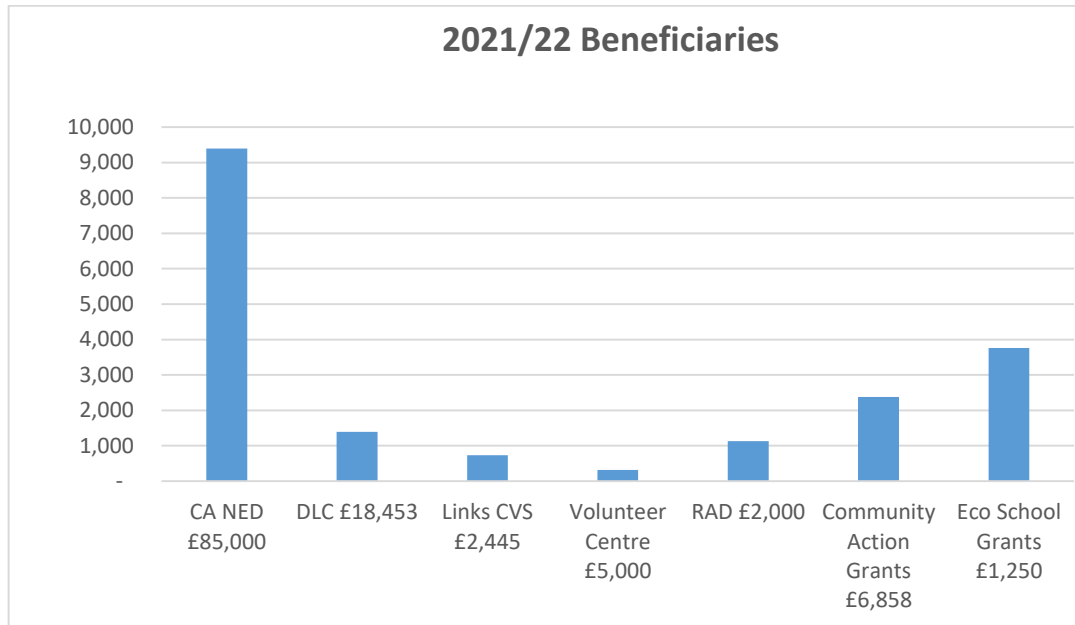
<u>Council Investment</u>	<u>Households assisted</u>
2014/15: £131,312	13,565
2015/16: £132,799	18,319
2016/17: £132,799	19,861
2017/18: £132,799	20,832
2018/19: £132,799	22,944
2019/20: £135,752	29,896
2020/21: £136,085	18,981
2021/22: £136,085	19,096

2.1.2 The number of voluntary and community infrastructure support organisations directly funded during 2021/22 has changed. The Council embarked on a different approach to supporting some elements of the voluntary and community sector (VCS). In June 2021, Cabinet agreed to commission an external organisation to deliver an outcome based approach to support the VCS in North East Derbyshire. The tender did not attract any submissions, therefore impacting on the wider reach of services funded by NEDDC.

2.2.3 The monitoring exercise has shown a variation in customer demand for these services in recent years. It is noted that the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the number of households seeking advice and support during 2021/22. Further details on the type of advice and services residents sought can be found in section 2.5:

- £10.00 per household in 2014/15
- £7.00 per household in 2015/16
- £6.70 per household in 2016/17
- £6.40 per household in 2017/18
- £5.79 per household in 2018/19
- £4.55 per household in 2019/20
- £7.17 per household in 2020/21
- £7.13 per household in 2022/23

2.3 The data collected helps to highlight demand on specific issues, and services within communities and enabling the identification of 'hot-spot' areas within the District. The data also includes beneficiaries from the Community Action and Eco Schools Grant Schemes, which is funded via this VCS budget. The graph below illustrates the number of beneficiaries each organisation or grant scheme has supported, together with the amount of grant funding received:



2.4 The VCS infrastructure organisations re-commissioned in April 2021 have provided information on how their activity has helped deliver the Council Plan 2019/23, further information can be found in Appendix 1. The outcomes of the current commissions for 2022/23 will be reported in autumn 2023.

2.5 A summary of the core aims of the organisations and the top three issues as to why residents/groups sought advice or support is as follows:

2.5.1 Citizens Advice - North East Derbyshire (CA NED)

Provides free, confidential, impartial and independent advice to enable local residents to deal with a wide range of issues from money advice to housing, employment, consumer issues and benefits.

Assisting 9,391 beneficiaries in 2021/22, the top three issues identified were:

- 1) Benefits
- 2) Debt
- 3) Housing

2.5.2 Derbyshire Law Centre (DLC)

A not-for-profit legal practice providing free legal advice and representation to disadvantaged people. This ensures local communities, in particular disadvantaged communities, have access to the law and legal redress to enforce their civil rights. The work is also key to avoiding homelessness within the district.

Assisting 1,394 beneficiaries in 2021/22, the top three issues identified were:

- 1) Housing
- 2) Debt
- 3) Employment

2.5.3 Volunteer Centre

Providing a brokerage service to potential volunteers including support and advice. Funding was utilised to undertake an audit of volunteering groups who remained active during and after COVID-19. The information was utilised to populate a new software tool called Volife which helps to match volunteers with opportunities across District and beyond. Activities include supporting vulnerable and isolated residents, Safe and Sound Service and Home from Hospital Service.

Assisting 317 beneficiaries in 2021/22, the top three issues identified were:

- 1) Seeking volunteer opportunities
- 2) Providing assistance with shopping
- 3) Providing assistance with one-off tasks

2.5.4 Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD)

Support a range of services and co-ordinated activity to support communities in North East Derbyshire District. Rural Action Derbyshire provides services to the whole of Derbyshire and represents the interests of the rural community countywide. In recent years provided a greater focus on economic partnerships and the needs of the rural economy particularly food and farming.

Assisting 1,127 beneficiaries in 2021/22, the top three issues identified were:

- 1) Affordable food
- 2) Rural isolation
- 3) Transport for employment

2.5.5 Links CVS

Helping voluntary and community groups by providing advice, support and training. Also working in partnership with a network of agencies.

Assisting 728 beneficiaries via group support, the top three issues identified were:

- 1) Funding
- 2) Reopening safely after COVID-19
- 3) Charity Registration

2.5.6 Community Action Grants

20 groups and organisations were awarded funding in 2021/22. The type of groups supported ranged from youth, sports and community clubs with litter picking, Women's Institute and community allotment groups also funded.

A total of 2,381 beneficiaries were directly supported and these activities were likely to have had a wider impact on the community.

2.5.7 Eco-Schools Grants

Four schools were awarded funding during 2021/22 to undertake activities ranging from school wide recycling schemes, improving wildlife habitats and

educating children on the benefits of garden wildlife on climate change. A total of 3,758 beneficiaries were directly supported, with one school being Dronfield Henry Fanshawe who have a large number of students.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council maximises efficiencies and outcomes through commissioning voluntary sector organisations to help achieve the Council's Priorities.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 No alternative options are considered appropriate as the aim of the aforementioned review was to increase transparency and accountability of commissioned services.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Funding to Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Organisation – Summary of Outcomes 2021/22
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
n/a	