North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

27 July 2023

Funding to Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Organisations – Summary of Outcomes for 2022/23

Report of Councillor Jayne Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets

<u>Classification</u>:   This report is public

<u>Report By</u>:   Tris Burdett, Partnership Development Officer

<u>Contact Officer:</u>   Tris Burdett, Partnership Development Officer

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PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To provide an overview of the outcomes achieved in 2022/23 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. Jayne Barry

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 later 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.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

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	
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: **NEDDC:** **Revenue - £100,000 ☐ Capital - £250,000 ☐** ☒ *Please indicate which threshold applies*	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	All
Consultation: **Leader / Deputy Leader ☐ Cabinet / Executive ☐** **SMT ☒ Relevant Service Manager ☐** **Members ☒ Public ☐ Other ☐**	Yes Details: Cllr. Jayne Barry and Steve Lee, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Programmes.

Links to Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.
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.

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 as required. At present none of the organisations funded have been asked to present this year.

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:
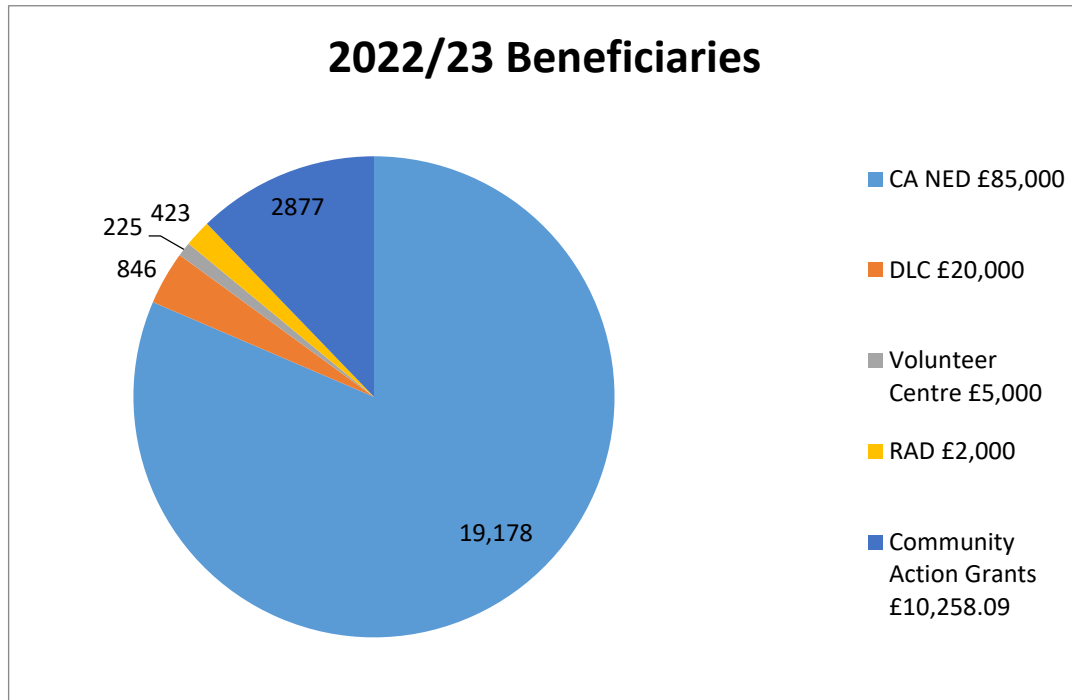
Council Investment	Households assisted
2014/15: £131,312	13,565
2015/16: £132,799	18,319
2016/17: £132,799	19,861
2017/18: £132,799	20,832
2018/19: £132,799	22,944
2019/20: £135,752	29,896
2020/21: £136,085	18,981
2021/22: £136,085	19,096
2022/23: £136,085	23,594

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 in the following years. The increase in residents and households supported during 2021/22 has seen numbers return to pre pandemic levels.

2.2.3   The monitoring exercise has shown a variation in customer demand for these services in recent years, seeing an increase in residents and households seeking advice and support during 2021/22. Further details on the top three reasons residents sought advice from these organisations 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 2021/22
- £5.77 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 Grants, which is funded via this VCS budget. The chart below illustrates the number of beneficiaries each organisation or grant scheme has supported, together with the amount of grant funding received:

2022/23 Beneficiaries

Legend:
- CA NED £85,000
- DLC £20,000
- Volunteer Centre £5,000
- RAD £2,000
- Community Action Grants £10,258.09

Pie chart values: 2877, 225, 423, 846, 19,178

2.4   The VCS infrastructure organisations re-commissioned in April 2022 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 2023/24 will be reported in autumn 2024.

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 19,178 beneficiaries in 2022/23, the top three issues identified were:
1) Benefits including Universal Credit
2) Debt
3) Charitable Support (i.e. food bank referrals)

Additional funding was granted in 2022/23 to pay for a part time Volunteer Co-ordinator who aims to recruit, support and retain volunteers. There are 16 active volunteers covering the drop-in centre, advice line, social media, research/campaigns with 5 additional volunteers currently in training.

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 846 beneficiaries in 2022/23, the top three issues identified were:
1) Housing
2) Debt
3) Employment

2.5.3 Volunteer Centre
Operating as a local volunteering development agency working independently to support organisations from the voluntary, community and public sector across North East Derbyshire. Supporting the most vulnerable residents, services range from befriending to reduce social isolation and providing volunteers for the Home from Hospital Service. Residents are helped on a regular basis so it is likely that many will have support from the Voluntary Centre multiple times.

Assisting 225* beneficiaries in 2022/23, the top three issues identified were:
1) People being referred into the Home From Hospital Service and providing assistance with shopping
2) People looking to access volunteering
3) People being referred into our befriending service.

*This is figure is likely to be higher for North East Derbyshire. A reporting issue with the system has been identified and work is underway to resolve this.

2.5.4 Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD)
Offer 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, the RAD has provided a greater focus on economic partnerships and the needs of the rural economy particularly food and farming.

Assisting 423 beneficiaries and 93 groups/organisations supported in 2022/23, the top three issues identified were:

1) Affordable food
2) Affordable energy
3) Affordable transport

2.5.5 Community Action Grants
24 community groups and organisations were awarded funding in 2022/23 totalling £10,258.09. Activity funding included Jubilee and Coronation events, equipment and materials.

A total of 2,877 beneficiaries were directly impacted and these activities were likely to have had a wider impact on the community.

Many groups have yet to report their final beneficiary figures due to a delay in monitoring. For information, the total number of beneficiaries supported in 2021/23 totalled 7,099 including schools supported through the Eco-School grants.

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 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 2022/23
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	