

Cabinet Member Decision Notice - Public

Part A – to be provisionally completed prior to the meeting and finalised after the meeting following agreement with the decision maker.

1. **Decision Maker:** Councillor Richard Cooper, Leader of the Council
2. **Date of the Decision:** Wednesday 13 October 2021
3. **Subject (title and description):** Voluntary and Community Sector Strategic Funding Arrangements 2022-24
4. **Did the decision maker declare an interest?** No
5. **Lead Officer:** Ann Duncan, Partnership & Engagement Manager
6. **Was all or any part of the report exempt?** No

If yes, is there an Exempt Decision Notice? N/A

7. **The Decision:** To agree to renew the strategic voluntary and community sector (VCS) service level agreements (SLA's) for a further 2 years, from 1st April 2022-31st March 2024.
8. **Reasons for the Decision:** By approving the extension period the voluntary and community sector organisations will continue to deliver key services across the Harrogate district within their available budgets. It also gives the organisations time to plan ahead for any possible changes in funding that may occur in the future following Local Government Reorganisation.

The budget will be allocated and committed for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

9. **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** Not to agree the allocations would mean that none of the ring fenced budget for the voluntary and community sector strategic SLA's would be committed within the budget. There would be a loss of service provision across the Harrogate District currently provided by the voluntary and community sector that complements and enhances the council's service provision. This would have a detrimental impact on council services. Those funded have provided key services throughout the pandemic and our communities are dependent on them to be there.

Should the VCS strategic partners not receive their funding, they will have a budget deficit and will have to make significant cuts to their services and inevitably to their already limited staffing pool in a very short time frame. Alternative fund raising opportunities have been hampered by the pandemic and they would struggle to fill any shortfall in the existing funding landscape.

10. **Is this a Key Decision:** Yes

If yes, please state Forward Plan reference number: 44CA21

Part B – Key Decisions Only – *to be completed by Democratic Services*

11. **Is the decision subject to call in:** Yes

12. **End of the Call-In Period:** Wednesday 20 October at 4.30 pm