



TOURISM COMMUNITIES CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9 March 2023

REPORT TITLE:	THIRD SECTOR COMMISSIONING AND COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR (CVF) SUMMARY UPDATE REPORT
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report has been produced in accordance with the agreed work programme and following a request from the chair of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee for a summary update of spend and activity on the Community, Voluntary and Faith (CVF) Sector and 3rd Sector commissioning. The Wirral Plan 2021-2026 sets out the Council and partners vision to secure the best possible future for our residents, defined by the community prosperity we create and supported by our excellent people and services. The associated work of the CVF and Third Sector assists in the implementation of the five key themes within that plan:

- Sustainable Environment
- Brighter Futures
- Inclusive Economy
- Safe and Pleasant Communities
- Active and Healthy Lives

This matter affects all wards. It is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Tourism Communities Culture and Leisure Committee is recommended to consider the summary report as an interim position statement and request that a further update report be presented to Committee within 6 months.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To enable the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee to consider a summary of activity, procurement, and commissioning of CVF and the 3rd Sector undertaken by the Council.
- 1.2 This report is being considered by the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee in accordance with section 6.2 (b), of the constitution, which charges the committee with community engagement, incorporating the Council's approach to equalities, inclusion communities, neighbourhoods and the voluntary and charitable sector, community wealth building and social value.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options were considered as part of this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The contribution and partnerships that the CVF sector make to improving the lives of Wirral residents are valued and long standing.
- 3.2 The CVF sector is dynamic, diverse, and varied, and there is a wide range of CVF activity taking place right across the Borough, enabled in part by a complex range of Council support including grants, commissioned services, voluntary activity and partnership working. Investment by the Council also results in significant additional income generated by the CVF sector. Many of the CVF groups are required, as part of their contract agreement, to actively seek additional funding through grants, philanthropists, and funders to increase the capacity of community-led activity.
- 3.3 CVF activity cuts across the whole Council and is helping us to deliver on a wide range of Council priorities – including support to children and families; adult social care and public health; environmental sustainability; safe and clean neighbourhoods; economic growth, skills and employment. This complex and rich picture means there is no one single contract or model of performance framework, and this Committee report therefore illustrates just some of the current landscape.
- 3.4 Work is underway to enable a more strategic and co-ordinated approach going forward. This includes the extensive review of CVF commissioning and infrastructure, initiated by the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) in March 2021, and since then reported regularly to the HWB. This work will assess requirements and inform any future commissioning model.

- 3.5 The partnership working and joint development work outlined above has re-affirmed the complex and wide-ranging interrelationships between all parties, including the council, in trying together to provide the best support to residents. There are interfaces between the council and the sector across almost the entire range of activities the council does to varying degrees and at all levels within the council. Clearly, there are parts of the council structures, both organisational and political which are core foundation areas in the work the council does alongside and with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector. However, all parts of the council have a contribution to make, from the high-level strategy development and implementation, through matters such as contracting and commissioning, to small scale day to day operational support from the council.
- 3.6 The current key elements of the council's structures and operations with the sector are set out below. Whilst it is anticipated that some of these are longer term, some will be very significantly reduced going forward with particular reference to Covid activity.
- 3.7 The outcome of the current review will help inform a shared vision, a set of joint principles for recommissioning and appropriate levels of investment, innovative ways of procurement and performance monitoring.
- 3.8 This is part of wider strategic planning for Wirral and the next stage of developing the Wirral Plan, to take place during 2023, reflecting the strong appetite across the public, private, and voluntary sectors for a shared strategic Vision for our Borough.
- 3.9

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD REVIEW

- 3.10 An extensive review of CVF commissioning and infrastructure was initiated by the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) in March 2021, and since then a series of workshops and engagement activities have reported regularly to the HWB. Five areas were identified for further development and task and finish groups established for each on:
- Volunteering
 - Collaboration and Social Action
 - Strategic Influence and Development support
 - Tackling Inequalities Together
 - Collaboration and Equal Partnerships
- 3.11 An extensive programme of work has been undertaken with the sector to produce the Coming Together Plan. This has ensured collaboration across the sector and the various groups and forums. In June 2022 a paper taken to HWB outlined progress against the Coming Together Plan and HWB was asked to endorse the plan and ongoing work programme. Later in 2022, the Council's Strategic Leadership Team recommended a cross-directorate group develop potential options for

commissioning. This group met in October 2022 and an options appraisal is being developed to inform commissioning decisions regarding future models of working with the CVF.

3.12 Based on this work, some key principles for CVF partnership working are emerging, including:

- Acknowledge, recognise, and appreciate the CVF architecture – the overarching CVF Forum will act as the forum for partner organisations to engage with a wide group of CVF organisations.
- Create the right conditions and culture for collaboration – noting the development of the Collaboration Framework and new Social Contract
- Endorse the sector designed representative mechanism for the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector to influence in a formal way.
- Embed this work programme within the Wirral Plan refresh and strategic partnerships review – the opportunities for this strategy and associated developments fit well with the plans and ambitions of Wirral Council and the wider system.
- Early intervention will enable independence, improve lives, and be more efficient with resources. This approach is best achieved in collaboration with the efforts of partner agencies and by building resilient communities.

The full list of HWB update reports can be found in the list of background papers included in this report.

3.13 **CURRENT ACTIVITY**

Alongside the current review of CVF infrastructure outlined above, extensive good practice and examples of excellent CVF partnership activity continue to take place across the Borough.

(a) Partnership Summits

This includes the role of the sector in supporting residents to face increasing Cost of Living challenges in recent months. Some of this activity was showcased at the Cost-of-Living Partnership Summit that was held in November 2022 and highlighted the positive and diverse range of activity that we are collectively working on to support residents and businesses across the borough. Partners agreed that further Partnership Summits should take place in the coming months.

(b) Community Asset Transfers

The council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) approach is about giving local people and community groups greater control in the future of their area. It gives local groups the chance to own or manage community buildings, such as community centres or village halls, and helps to encourage a stronger community spirit by bringing people from different backgrounds together to work towards a shared goal. The CAT policy has enabled an increasing number of success stories in recent months.

For example, the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee has agreed to transfer the former libraries at Pensby and Prenton to community groups and subject to a report elsewhere on this agenda is recommended to transfer the former libraries at Irby, Wallasey Village and Higher Bebington to community and education groups for community benefit. The former library at Woodchurch will now be used for activities supporting special education needs. The work on other transfers continues to progress through this committee.

(c) Responding to Covid and COMF

As a response to the COVID pandemic in 2020, the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) provided local authorities with financial support to deliver public health and outbreak management activities. The COMF Grant has helped the Council continue its intensive work, in partnership with local agencies, third sector groups and organisations to support the most vulnerable residents and communities with the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic. The final allocation of COMF was received by Wirral Council in April 2021. A summary of the 2022/23 funding for the community, voluntary and faith sector from the Public Health Grant and the COMF Grant is in Appendix 2.

(d) Adult Social Care

The total contracts commissioned by Adult Social Care equate to £2.23m. These can be split across the CVF sector and Early Intervention and Prevention. There are also several funding streams as identified in Appendix 1. The Local Reform and Community Voices grant is received by adults each year supporting the cost of additional local Healthwatch funding and independent NHS complaints advisory services. These contracts are also included in the table appended table.

(e) Children and Families

In 2019, the Community Matters initiative, supported by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Children, Young People & Education Committee, set out a 2-year plan to work with residents and stakeholders to develop a new model for community-led early intervention. The commitment of the contract to pay so far is £670,000, which will run for a period of 5 years, with the option to extend for a further 2 periods of 2 years each. In October 2021, the Policy and Resources Committee gave agreement to award a 5-year alliance contract, awarded to an alliance of established local community organisations.

The Family Toolbox Alliance gives access to a wide variety of supportive experiences – things families have said would help them to thrive. The Family Toolbox Alliance, as part of their contract agreement, are expected to actively seek additional funding through grants, philanthropists, and funders to increase the capacity of community-led earliest help. In addition to this, the alliance will use the Family Toolbox membership mark to recruit local organisations as part of the network for children and families in Wirral.

In addition to the DSG spend and the council's budget for providing services for children, Children's Services has previously been awarded grants and frequently bids for additional money from the Department of Education and the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities as well as other sources. An example of this is the Holiday Activity Fund where the Council ask organisations who may be from the CVF sector to bid for money to run activities for children.

(f) Regeneration and Procurement

The Council's Social Value Policy asks that social value is considered in every procurement for a service contract or service framework agreement valued at £100,000 and above, subject to the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

Where appropriate, tender submissions are scored on the delivery of social value components at a level between 5% and 20% (determined during tender compilation) of the total tender score. The core themes utilised in consideration of social value to be delivered through procurement exercises are:

- Promoting Local Supply & Environment,
- Supporting Growth of Responsible Regional Business,
- Healthier, Safer & More Resilient Communities,
- Decarbonising & safeguarding our World.

Social Value through Planning

Wirral's Local Plan submission includes a Social Value Policy. Aligned with the timetable for adoption of the Local Plan, work is currently underway to develop the most appropriate monitoring framework to ensure that the Council has a clear approach to delivering social value through the planning process.

A review of the Council's Social Value Policy and Framework is currently underway to review options for maximising social value return.

(g) Merseyside Pension Fund

More money being paid out in pensions to Wirral residents means more money potentially being put back into the local economy. Therefore, the higher the value of pensions paid out; the more potential community wealth is generated.

The Merseyside Catalyst Fund was established to meet Merseyside Pension Fund's criteria of investing in projects to help deliver economic growth to the Liverpool City Region, with particular regard to environmental and social impacts. This includes upgrading the housing offer, regenerating deprived communities, and maximising the use of new spaces.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications to the recommendations of this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In Commissioning Services from the CVF Sector, the Local Authority must comply with the public contract regulations 2015 and Wirral Council Contract Procedure Rules.
- 5.2 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places great emphasis on the role of the third sector and explicitly states that local authorities have a duty to inform, consult and involve local citizens, local voluntary and community groups and businesses. It sets out clear expectations that the third sector should be involved in designing and shaping key decisions across the country, and that the sector should be a key partner to local government in creating strong and sustainable communities.
- 5.3 The Council has power to provide grants to voluntary and community sector organisations under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 This report is for information purposes and as such, there are no direct resource implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 This report is for information purposes and as such, there are no direct risk implications.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Meeting structures have been organised with the Director of Regeneration and Place, the Leader of the Council, the Chair of the PCN, Senior Council Officers, HWB Reference Group, and Elected Members. They will need to include other key partners represented on the HWB in due course. Any proposals will also need to align with other emerging work streams and delivery infrastructures being developed by the National Health Service and Wirral Borough Council which are currently in progress.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report is for information only and there are no direct Environment or Climate Implications, however grants used to fund activities can have a range of environmental impacts which may help reduce carbon emissions. These include energy and water use in buildings, the purchase of goods with supply chain impacts and the generation of waste.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 By its nature, the activity identified in this report will take place across Wirral and will be based around the local public sector and community organisations active in the Borough.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of Contract Spend 2022-23

Appendix 2 – Summary of Grant Funding 2022-23

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Health and Wellbeing Board 31st March 2021 Working with the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector

Health and Wellbeing Board 20th July 2021 Working with the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector

Health and Wellbeing Board 29th September 2021 Working with the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector

Health and Wellbeing Board 15th December 2021 Working with the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector

Health and Wellbeing Board 15th June 2022 Working with the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee in accordance with section 6.2 (b) of the constitution, community engagement, incorporating the Council's approach to equalities, inclusion communities, neighbourhoods and the voluntary and charitable sector, community wealth building and social value.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Health and Wellbeing Board	31 March 2021 20 July 2021 29 September 2021 15 December 2021 15 June 2022

Summary of Significant Contracts in Respect of the CVF Sector in 22/23 April - Jan

Directorate/ Subject area	Thematic sub-heading	22/23 CVF funding/ payments £	22/23 CVF funding/ payments £
Adults' Care & Health			
	Adult Social Care	788,500	
	Better Care Fund	1,335,900	
	Public Health Commissions	7,900,883	
Adults' Care & Health Sub-total			10,025,283
Children, Family & Education			
	Early Intervention	329,300	
	Domestic Abuse	259,133	
	Youth and Family Support	1,081,736	
	Health and Wellbeing	330,000	
Children, Family & Education Sub-total			2,000,169
Total			12,025,452

Appendix 2

Summary of Significant Grant Funding in Respect of the CVF Sector in 22/23 April - Jan

Directorate/ Subject area	Thematic Sub-Heading	22/23 CVF funding/ payments £	22/23 CVF funding/ payments £
Neighbourhoods			
	Community Grant- Domestic Violence	20,817	
	Community Safety Grant- Community Safety Partnership	28,600	
Neighbourhoods Sub-total			49,417
Resources			
	Energy Support	42,224	
	Household Support	1,195,306	
	Winter Support Grant	656,566	
	Summer Support Grant	556,326	
Resources Sub-total			2,450,422
Covid 19			
	COMF- One off Funding to Voluntary Bodies to Assist with COVID Response	1,502,737	
	CVF- Community Centre Funding to Support Vulnerable Residents.	36,000	
	Household Support	97,281	
Covid-19 Sub-total			1,636,018
Total			4,135,858