



Report to Policy Committee

Emma Dickinson, Commissioning Manager
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Report of: *Joe Horobin, Director of Integrated Commissioning*

Report to: *Strategy and Resources Policy Committee*

Date of Decision: *5th December 2022*

Subject: **Grant Investment Programmes with Voluntary and Community Partners 2023-2028**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken? Yes No

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 842

Has appropriate consultation taken place? Yes No

Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-

*“The (**report/appendix**) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (**insert relevant paragraph number**) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”*

Purpose of Report:

The Council has a strong history of grant investing in voluntary and community organisations (VCS). This paper seeks to collate together in one place and provide an overview of much of that grant investment activity. It also seeks approval to continue this grant investment for a further period of time.

The breadth of the investment is **£3,507,436 per year with 56 VCS** partners and over 20 lunch clubs.

The grant agreements for the organisations listed in the Report are due to expire in March 2023.

Recommendations:

Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid Programme

1. Approve the continuation of the Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid Programme as detailed in this report at a cost of £1,467,104 per year for the next five years (2023-2028) including where required under the Constitution:
 - I. the extension of the grant agreements currently funded from the Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid Fund, as detailed within this report, for five years until March 2028; and
 - II. the grant funds detailed in this report.
2. Authorise the use of the Tackling Inequalities Fund and any underspend in the funding for the Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid Programme as a whole to support the impending Cost of Living Crisis which will include new approaches to community development and social eating and to the extent not already delegated by the Constitution delegate authority to the Director of Integrated Commissioning to determine any necessary eligibility criteria and award any necessary grants from this funding for this purpose.

People Keeping Well Programme

3. Approve the continuation of the People Keeping Well Programme as detailed in this report at a cost of £1,518,268.53 per year for the next five years (2023-2028) including the extension of the People Keeping Well grant agreements detailed within this report for five years until March 2028.

Equality Partnerships Programme

4. Approve the continuation of the Equality Partnerships Programme at a cost of £71,250 per year for the next three years (2023-2026) as detailed within this report including where required under the Constitution the extension of the Equality Partnerships Programme grant agreements detailed within this report for three years until March 2026.

Associate Libraries Programme

5. Approve the continuation of the Associate Libraries Programme enabling direct grants totalling £135,213 for the next year (2023-2024) as detailed within this report.

Supporting Vulnerable People Programme

6. Approve the continuation of the Supporting Vulnerable People Programme at a cost of £139,300 per year for the next five years (2023-2028) as detailed within this report including the extension of the Supporting Vulnerable People agreements detailed within this report for five years until March 2028.

Working with communities in Sheffield's Green Spaces Programme

7. Approve the continuation of the Sheffield Green Spaces Programme including where required under the Constitution
 - I. the extension to Sheffield's Green Spaces grant agreements with Green Estate, Sheffield Countryside Conservation Trust and Steel Valley Project, detailed within this report, for 1 year until March 2024 at a cost of £156,300

- II. the extension of the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust grant agreements detailed within this report for 5 years until March 2028, at a cost of £20,000 per year.

General management and approval of grants

- 8. Where no such authority already exists under the Constitution delegate authority to the relevant Director for each grant programme to:
 - I. award new grants from any programme underspend (returned or unpaid funding)
 - II. withdraw funding as necessary and in line with this report and the conditions of the grant funding agreements

Background Papers:

Grant Aid Investment

2022-23

[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Tackling Inequalities in the city through investing in Grants to the Voluntary and Community Sector 2022-2023](#)

2021-22

[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Investing in Grants to the Voluntary and Community Sector 2021-2022](#)

2020-21

[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Tackling Inequalities in the City through investing in Grants to the Voluntary and Community Sector 2020-2021](#)

2017-18

[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Grant Aid Funding 2017-18 Onwards](#)

People Keeping Well

2020-2023

[Sheffield City Council - Decision - People Keeping Well - Next Steps \(2020-2023\)](#)

2016

[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Better Health and Wellbeing - Working Better Together in Communities](#)

Equality Partnerships

[The Sheffield Equality Partnership | Sheffield City Council](#)

[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Equality Hub Network](#)

Volunteer Led Libraries

2022-2023

[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Continued Support for Volunteer Run Libraries 2022 - 2023](#)

2020-2021

[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Funding and support arrangements for Associate and Co-delivered Libraries for 2020/21 and 2021/22](#)

2016

[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Library Review 2016 - Future Support Arrangements for Volunteer Run Libraries](#)

Lead Officer to complete:		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: Liz Gough
		Legal: Rike Ridings and Sarah Bennett
		Equalities & Consultation: Ed Sexton
		Climate: Jessica Rick
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	SLB member who approved submission:	<i>Joe Horobin, Director of Integrated Commissioning</i>
3	Committee Chair consulted:	<i>Cllr Terry Fox, Leader of the Council</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: <i>Emma Dickinson</i> <i>Sam Martin</i>	Job Title: <i>Commissioning Manager</i> <i>Head of Service Vulnerable People</i>
	Date: <i>25th November 2022</i>	

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 The Council has a strong history of grant investing in voluntary and community organisations and we should be proud of long-standing partnerships with the voluntary and community sector (VCS). This paper is proposing to continue that existing long-standing relationships with those partner VCS organisations.
- 1.1.2 The grants described in this paper cross 5 different Services (3 Directorates: Integrated Commissioning, Culture and Environment and Policy and Performance) and relate to three policy committees (Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee, Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee and Strategy and Resources Committee).
- 1.1.3 This is the first time, in a long time, that the long-established partner grants with Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) partners are listed together. It is the start of a more strategic understanding of the Council's investment and relationships in the VCS. Over the next 12 months, this work in progress will involve the development of a grants register, review of processes / paperwork and reduce duplication.
- 1.1.4 Grant investment funding is about mutual relationships with partner organisations with whom we share the same outcomes for the city and residents.
- 1.1.5 Voluntary and Community organisations are in a unique position to support people. They were at the forefront of helping people throughout the covid pandemic¹ and are now dealing with the dual issues of poor mental wellbeing and increasing poverty / cost of living rise.
- 1.1.6 Monies provided to these organisations support specific outcomes and contribute to activities and core costs. Through providing long term stable funding, partners can lever in other monies and assets to continue to support people, communities and green space of Sheffield.
- 1.1.7 Together the total grant investment programme contributes to the strategic goals the Council holds dear to enable people and communities to thrive. Outcomes support the strategic goal of the Council's [Delivery Plan](#).

¹ For further information and details of how VCS organisations supported people of Sheffield throughout the covid pandemic. [COVID19-VCS-report.pdf \(vas.org.uk\)](#)
[Capacity through crisis: The Role and Contribution of the VCSE Sector in Sheffield During the COVID-19 Pandemic | Sheffield Hallam University \(shu.ac.uk\)](#)

1.1.8 The table below lists the grant, the policy committee area, the council service area, number of organisations supported and monies allocated:

Grant	Committee Area	Service Area	Number of organisations	Total monies per year
Grant Aid	Communities, Parks and Leisure	Integrated Commissioning	9 grants to 8 organisations, a BME partnership of 3 organisations and over 20 lunch clubs	1,467,104
People Keeping Well	Adult Health and Social Care	Integrated Commissioning	12 lead organisations with further 11 partners receiving funding	1,518,268.53
Equality Partnerships	Strategy and Resources	Policy and Partnerships	6 grants to 5 organisations	71,250
Volunteer led libraries	Communities, Parks and Leisure	Libraries, Archives and Information Service	11 volunteer led libraries	135,213
Supporting Vulnerable People	Adult Health and Social Care	Integrated Commissioning	3 organisations	139,300
Working with communities in Sheffield's Green Spaces	Communities, Parks and Leisure	Parks and Countryside	4 organisations	176,300
Total	56 organisations and 20 lunch clubs			3,507,436

1.1.9 Many of the grants in this paper are long standing having been extended or renewed multiple times. However, each time this has generally been for only a short duration (eg 1 or 2 years). This is not a good use of Council resources and doesn't give stability to organisations to plan or seek further funding. Therefore, we are proposing longer term grant agreements (maximum term of 5 years for most organisations and in response to the Race Equality Commission) but with the addition of a new clause that means the agreement can be ended early should this become necessary. The new clause is: *"Without affecting any other right or remedy available to it, [Sheffield City Council] may terminate this agreement on giving not less than [6] months' written notice to Party x."*

1.1.10 We are reviewing and updating good grant giving processes and will act on the recommendations from the Race Equality Commission. As part of this, the guidance will include involving organisations that represent different communities in the early development of grant opportunities to ensure:

- a. Long term and sustainable funding approaches
- b. Outcomes are representative and inclusive of the city's diversity and make up
- c. Funding criteria reflecting all communities
- d. Ensuring processes don't preclude or unintentionally cause barriers for organisations to apply for funds

- e. Working with partners to diversify assessment panels
- f. Work infrastructure organisations to support prospective bidding organisations

1.1.11 It is worth noting that the Council also has a number of other discretionary grant pots and grant arrangements, these are included in the paper for noting and completeness only.

- a. Community dementia
[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Commissioning and Procurement of Community Dementia Support](#)
- b. Holiday Activities and Food
[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Holiday Activities and Food 2022-24 \(HAF - 2022\)](#)
- c. Food Access Plan
[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Cost of Living Crisis Strategy and Action Plan](#)
- d. Local Area Committee ward pots and action plans
[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Empowering Communities: Shifting Power from the Town Hall to Communities in Every Part of Sheffield](#)
[Ward pots | Sheffield City Council](#)
- e. Community Safety
- f. Asylum Dispersal Grant
- g. Youth Strategy
[Sheffield City Council - Decision - Sheffield Community Youth Strategy 2022-25](#)

1.2 Specific Programmes

Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid Programme

1.2.1 This Programme is managed by the Integrated Commissioning Service and comes within the remit of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee. In summary:

- Funding of **£1,467,104** for 10 grants for 9 organisations, a BME partnership of 3 partners and over 20 lunch clubs

Grant Theme	Organisation	Monies
Capacity building, support and infrastructure for the VCS	VAS	131,564
	SYFAB	40,117
Supporting communities and health and wellbeing	Over 20 Lunch clubs	93,900
	SAVTE	35,298
	Roshni	34,744
	BME Elders Partnership led by Firvale Community Hub (with Roshni and Aspiring Communities Trust - the partnership approach will be aligned with the new projects listed below support social eating and community development	30,000
	(NEW) Supporting the Cost of Living through social eating and community development [underspend of lunch clubs and ending TIF]	116,700
Working with CAB to tackle the cost of living and poverty	Citizens Advice Bureau	827,895
Supporting vulnerable people	St Vincents furniture store	53,283
	Bens Centre	52,284

Support people newly arrived to Sheffield	City of Sanctuary	37,453
	VAS New Beginnings	13,866
Total		1,467,104

- **It is proposed to continue to work with existing partners at the same financial envelope for a further 5 years²**

- 1.2.2 The Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid Programme funding supports delivery and infrastructure organisations. These are vital contributions to the city of high quality and great value. They support the Council’s objectives and have a track record in delivering positive outcomes for Sheffield citizens.
- 1.2.3 It is proposed that the Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid Programme grants are continued for a further 5 years at the current monies. As the grant agreements are extended, we will take a co-design approach with partners to review and refresh their content, focusing on shared priority outcomes for residents.
- 1.2.4 We continue to be committed to support the existing funded lunch clubs. However, as lunch clubs reach their natural end, we are not proposing to have an open call to start any new lunch clubs. We would propose that the Director of Integrated Commissioning is given discretion as to whether or not to support existing lunch clubs we do not currently fund (within the current funding approach) as part of a proposed funding stream around developing social eating and community development (see below).
- 1.2.5 **NEW: Supporting the cost of living and developing social eating and community development:**
 We are proposing that the current Lunch Club underspend (approx. £50,000) and any further underspend on lunch clubs or in other areas of the Programme is used to support the impending Cost of Living Crisis, including on new approaches to community development and social eating that support different ages and cultures of Sheffield.
 Social eating and developing community activities are asset based approaches to tackling loneliness and social isolation, both of which are as dangerous to physical health as smoking and cardio vascular disease³.
- 1.2.6 **NEW: We are proposing not to re-run the Tackling Inequalities Grant Pot (£66,700):** We would recommend that this fund is repurposed and utilised to support Cost of Living implications and community development as above.

² Impact report: [Voluntary grants and funds | Sheffield City Council](#)

³ [Connectedness & Health: The Science of Social Connection - The Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education \(stanford.edu\)](#)

- 1.2.7 For completeness, several council Services also fund CAB alongside the core grant. This funding is incorporated and managed alongside the core grant:
- Building Successful Families (MAST, Childrens Services) – £33,000 (external monies)
 - Adult Social Care - £50,750
 - Housing Income Management - £39,000
 - Domestic Abuse - £71,000 (external monies)

People Keeping Well Programme (PKW)

- 1.2.8 This Programme is managed by the Integrated Commissioning Service and comes within the remit of the Adult Health and Social Care Committee. In summary:

- Funding of **£1,518,268.53** for 12 organisations and 11 partners

Grant Theme	Organisation	Monies
Capacity building, support and infrastructure for the PKW	Voluntary Action Sheffield	22,000
Supporting communities and health and wellbeing	Age UK Sheffield	61,903.42
	Darnall Wellbeing	121,100.00
	Heeley City Farm	76,349.63
	Heeley Trust with partners: FURD, Heeley Asian Womens Group, Roshni, Shipshape	57,000.00
	Manor Castle Development Trust	181,900.00
	The Terminus Initiative ⁴	78,436.01
	Shipshape with partners: Archer Project, Employers Forum, Broomhall Forum, Apna	123,900.00
	SOAR with partners Firvale Community Hub and Aspiring Communities Trust	428,578.71
	Stocksbridge Leisure Centre	53,668.73
	Woodhouse Community Development Forum	164,926.30
	Zest with partner St Johns	148,505.73
	Total	

- It is proposed to continue to work with existing partners at the same financial envelope for a further 5 years**

- 1.2.9 It is proposed that the PKW grants are continued for a further 5 years at the current monies. As outlined in the previous Cabinet paper, we are proposing to continue funding PKW partners. The sustainability of this funding enables organisations to attract further funding eg most of the NHS funded social prescribing link workers in primary care are built on and underpinned via PKW delivery.

⁴ When Reach South Sheffield became insolvent, The Terminus (who were the local partner) stepped up to take the leadership of the partnership. We are proposing The Terminus Initiative replaces the previous South partnership partner.

1.2.10 PKW is part of Sheffield’s community-based approach to improving people’s health and wellbeing (sometimes referred to as social prescribing). Local community anchor organisations use PKW grants to tackle the social and commercial determinants of health. They are part of the landscape and system which contributes to outcomes for the Better Care Fund and integrated joint funding approach between the Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.

Equality Partnerships Programme

1.2.11 This Programme is managed by the Policy and Performance Service and comes within the remit of the Strategy and Resources Committee. In summary:

- Funding of **£71,250** for 6 grants to 5 organisations

Grant Theme	Partnership	Organisation	Monies
Empowering people and communities through voice, influence and insight	Intergenerational Age	Age UK	11,250
	BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic)	DiverseCity Development Trust (previously Faithstar)	15,000
	Religion and or Belief Hub (includes people with no religious belief)	Faithstar	10,000
	Disability	Disability Sheffield	15,000
	LGBT+	LBGT Sheffield	10,000
	Women’s	Together Women	10,000
Total			71,250

- **It is proposed to continue to work with existing equality partnership partners at the same financial envelop for a further 3 years**

1.2.12 The Equality Partnership is designed to provide a route for the Council to engage with all communities of Sheffield to help shape policy and services in the city. The organisations support communities to come together with decision-makers to work for positive change.

1.2.13 The Partnership is open to anyone who is interested in equality, diversity and fairness. It brings together individuals and organisations from all sectors - VCS, public and private - to make a real difference in Sheffield. It enables communities to make the city’s decision makers aware of the issues that affect them.

1.2.14 A Cross Partnership Working Group provides opportunities to work together to explore common issues. Events bring the whole partnership together around a theme that people care about, such as health, employment, poverty and hate crime.

1.2.15 The organisations are representative of communities of identity and are specifically identified as a protected characteristic within the Equality Act 2010⁵. Please note, the Council's Youth Services now undertake the work with young people since returning to the Council.

Associate Libraries Programme

1.2.16 The Associate Libraries Programme is managed by the Libraries, Archives and Information Service and comes within the remit of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee. In summary:

- There is an overall package of support of £209k of which, **£135,213** is provided in grants directly to 11 associate libraries

Theme	Library	Organisation	Monies
Supporting communities and health and wellbeing	Newfield Green	Heeley Trust	8,838.00
	Jordanthorpe	South Sheffield Community Initiatives Limited	10,655.00
	Stannington	Stannington and District Library Group	6,650.00
	Totley	Totley Community Resource and Information Centre	16,198.00
	Gleadless	The new Gleadless Library and Community Hub	11,297.00
	Greenhill	Friends of Greenhill Library	17,069.00
	Frecheville	Frecheville Library and Learning Centre	6,251.00
	Ecclesfield	Friends of Ecclesfield library CIO	9,336.00
	Upperthorpe	ZEST	25,000.00
	Walkley	Walkley Carnegie Library	14,959.00
	Tinsley	Tinsley Forum	8,960.00
	Total		135,213.00

- **Proposal to continue to work with existing Associate Libraries at the same financial envelop for a further 1 year**

1.2.17 The intention is for volunteer led libraries to develop their financial sustainability to invest in the building and the community. The grant funding and the Council support package has meant that no community run libraries have closed.

1.2.18 Since 2014 good progress has been made with the introduction of new and innovative ways to fundraise, but this has been impacted by the pandemic and increase in utilities and other costs.

1.2.19 The funding of £209k for the Associate Libraries Programme includes capacity and training support, book budget and continued support with library management (eg Library Management System).

1.2.20 It is proposed that the Associate Library grants are continued for a further one year at the current monies, to cover running costs whilst they establish and develop their own financial sustainability.

⁵ More details about the Equality Partnerships [The Sheffield Equality Partnership | Sheffield City Council](#)

Supporting Vulnerable People Programme

1.2.21 Supporting Vulnerable People is managed by the Integrated Commissioning Service and comes within the remit of the Adult Health and Social Care Committee. In summary:

- Funding of **£139,300** for 3 organisations

Theme	Organisation	Service Area	Monies
Supporting vulnerable people	Sheffield Working Womens Opportunities (SWWOP)	Sexual Health/PH	55,800.00
	SAYIT	Sexual Health/PH	25,000.00
	Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	Domestic Abuse	58,500.00
Total			139,300

- **It is proposed to continue to work with existing organisations at the same financial envelop for a further 5 years**

1.2.22 Sheffield Working Women's Opportunities (SWWOP) provide intensive and practical support to a socially isolated and vulnerable group of women involved in street prostitution. Women involved in street prostitution are likely to suffer physical deprivation, homelessness, lack of food, violence, illness and injury, drug and alcohol abuse, isolation/ostracization/social exclusion. An increase in risk-taking behaviour increases their risk of harm; this risk particularly impacts on their mental and emotional health. The grant enables SWWOP to provides on-site and outreach support, provision of harm reduction advice, referral into other services and STI testing.

1.2.23 SAYit are a lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, plus (LGBTQ+) young people with the core function is to transform the lives of LGBTQ+ young people, up to the age of 25 through supportive group work, youth action, education and influence. The grant enables SAYit to provide young people and their families, support with relationships, emotional health and well-being and provision of positive activities.

1.2.24 Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre are the city's only dedicated specialist support service for sexual abuse and violence. The grant funds are a contribution to their counselling and therapy service which supports people to recover from their traumatic experiences and move on with their lives. In the first 2 quarters of 2022, 89 people have started counselling with them. Clients report a high level of satisfaction with the service.

1.2.25 They are also commissioned by the SY Police Crime Commissioner to provide the Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy Service for the city which offers practical and emotional support to people considering /

going through criminal justice processes for sexual abuse and violence. The organisation also receives national funding as a rape crisis centre however the demand on them still outstrips their capacity. They also support our work on prevention / education around sexual abuse and violence e.g. developing and delivering training on the Ask for Angela initiative.

Working with communities in Sheffield’s Green Spaces Programme

1.2.26 The Programme is managed by the Parks and Countryside Service and comes within the remit of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee. In summary:

- Funding of **£176,000** for 4 organisations

Grant Theme	Organisation	Service Area	Monies
Working with communities in Sheffield’s Green Spaces	Green Estate	Parks	124,300
	Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust	Parks	20,000
	Sheffield Countryside Conservation Trust	Woodlands	10,000
	Steel Valley Project	Woodlands	22,000
Total			176,300

- **Proposal to continue to work with Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust at the same financial envelope for a further 5 years**
- **Proposal to work with Green Estate, Sheffield Countryside Conservation Trust and Steel Valley Project for a further one year**

1.2.27 Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust take cares of local nature reserves in Sheffield. The grant of £20k per year for the next five years is a contribution to the conservation work and connecting Sheffield’s communities to local green spaces.

1.2.28 Green Estate take care of Manor Fields and connect local people to green spaces. Manor Fields is 50 acres of parkland in an area of the city of high deprivation and poor health outcomes. The grant enables Green Estate to manage the green space for the benefit of local people, with lots of space to run, bike, walk and play. The agreement will be renewed for a further one year to 2024 whilst a review is undertaken about the long-term future of this approach.

1.2.29 Funding for Steel Valley Project and Sheffield Countryside Conservation Trust enables them work with volunteers and local communities to help improve our woodlands and green spaces. The current funding contributes to the cost of materials, staff time managing volunteers and where appropriate act as ‘match’ funding for wider grant opportunities. Each of the organisations’ work is targeted in areas of the city where they have long standing links with woodland and countryside sites and the communities that use them. The agreements will be renewed for a

further one year to 2024 whilst a review is undertaken about the long-term future of this approach.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 The Grant Investment Programme is supporting the commitment to be a Strategic Partner with the Voluntary and Community Sector, as outlined in the Council's One Year Plan: *we will be a strong, trusted partner, working with Sheffield's public institutions, the city's partners and communities to lead the city's recovery from Covid and create a shared plan for Sheffield's future. We will reset the way we work with our voluntary, community and faith sector partners, building a new strategic relationship.*
- 2.2 The VCS is a key partner at a neighbourhood and city level in tackling inequalities in the city. The sector is valued and is quick to identify solutions to numerous challenges, supports communities to develop connections, and promotes inclusivity. To respond to the challenges the city has ahead, requires a range of partners working together with the people of Sheffield.
- 2.3 The commitment to the VCS has been strengthened and developed further in the recently published Delivery Plan⁶.
- 2.4 The Grant Investment programme not only supports the area of development of community empowerment but also the cost of living goal too.
- Area of development: *community empowerment.*
 - o Strategic Goal: *inclusive and empowered communities.*
 - o Key milestone: *Develop a shared action plan with the VCF to shape relationships and ways of working on priority areas that empowers and enable community organisations*
 - Urgent Challenge: *cost of living*
 - o Strategic Goal: *Tackling inequalities and supporting people through the cost-of-living crisis*

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 The last State of the Sector report by Voluntary Action Sheffield (VAS), highlighted the already (pre pandemic) increasing demand on the voluntary sector to fill the gap between the private sector and statutory services.
- 3.2 Respondents to surveys undertaken during showed a decrease in income from contracts and public donations with many spending more of their financial reserves to maintain the quality of their provision. This essentially means the sector was spending more money than they had coming in.
- 3.3

⁶ [10 - Council Delivery Plan - SR Committee 30.08.22.pdf \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](#)

Qualitative reporting by all elements of the sector have described that demand is increasing post covid and we envisage that will go up exponentially this winter given the energy crisis.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

4.1.1 Funding to the voluntary and community sector through Grant Investment Programme contributes to the Public Sector Equality Duty which requires us to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advance equality of opportunity,
- foster good relations.

Grant Investment also contributes to and is aligned with the Council's broader equality considerations, including unpaid carers, health, poverty and cohesion.

It is proposed to be a standstill budget and therefore no cut in monies we know this will be real terms cut due to the rising energy and workforce costs for VCS organisations

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2.1 This is a standstill budget

Grant	Committee Area	Total monies per year
Grant Aid	Communities, Parks and Leisure	1,467,104
People Keeping Well	Adult Health and Social Care	1,518,268.53
Equality Partnerships	Strategy and Resources	71,250
Volunteer led libraries	Communities, Parks and Leisure	135,213
Supporting Vulnerable People	Adult Health and Social Care	139,300
Working with communities in Sheffield's Green Spaces	Communities, Parks and Leisure	176,300
Total		£3,507,436

4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 The Council does have some specific powers to provide funding, for example:

- under s9 Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 the Council has the power to make contributions towards the expenses of any other person providing library facilities for members of the public
- s19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits a local authority to provide (including by the provision of "assistance of any kind", a wide range of recreational facilities

- 4.3.2 Some grant funding may also support the delivery of general duties e.g. the duty within the Care Act 2014 to promote people’s wellbeing and would therefore be permitted in accordance with s111 Local Government Act 1972 (power to do any thing which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions).
- 4.3.3 Where no specific power (or limitation) exists the legal power for the Council to establish, administer and make awards from the various grant funds as described in this report is provided by the general power of competence, contained in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 4.3.4 The Council must at all times be mindful of the requirements imposed by the public sector equality duty enacted in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 4.3.5 Any existing grant recipients or new recipients will be issued with a revised grant agreement / extensions that contain the relevant Sheffield City Council Terms & Conditions for such awards.
- 4.3.6 Upon delivery of the funded projects, the Council must ensure that any delivery partners will adopt such policies and procedures that are required to ensure value for money has been obtained in the procurement of goods or services funded by the grant.

4.4 Climate Implications

- 4.4.1 Given the nature of the proposal a full Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) is not considered appropriate. It is however acknowledged that the activities delivered by the voluntary sector using these grants will have an impact on emissions.
- 4.4.2 Grant recipients will be encouraged to consider the climate impact of their services through the review of grant agreements and plans each year.

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 **None**
The ***Do Nothing*** option was discounted as to cut or change grant funding support would be detrimental at this time to the organisations, the people they work with and ultimately Council services.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations were at the forefront of helping people throughout the covid pandemic and are now supporting people with the dual crisis of poor mental wellbeing and increasing poverty / cost of living rise (expected to continue for 3 years). The city and residents are more than ever reliant on VCS organisations enabling and walking alongside them.

- 6.2 We have long standing relationships of over 10 years with many of the organisations and they continue to support the outcomes need for people and our communities, green spaces to thrive.
- 6.3 As outlined in the One Year Plan and new Delivery Plan, we are committed to working with the VCS and continuing to fund our strategic partners at the same level through the modest Grant Investment Programme outlined in this Report helps to demonstrate that commitment whilst recognising the financial constraints the Council is under.