Leicestershire Communities Strategy (Refresh 2017-21)

SHIRE Community Grants 2017-18

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Grants and Funding Officer

Leicestershire County Council

Leicestershire Communities Strategy (Refresh 2017-2021)

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Key achievements delivered to date:

- Supported communities to take over the management of over 30 libraries
- Delivered a successful SHIRE Community Grants programme, which supported over 90 projects in 2016-17
- New website has been established: www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk
- Invested in organisations such as VAL and CASE, to provide direct support and assistance to community groups and social enterprises
- Supported community buildings to sustain and expand their role as community hubs
- Supported and empowered Town and Parish Councils across Leicestershire, through our work with the LRALC

Leicestershire Communities Strategy (Refresh 2017-2021)

What Have We Learned?

- Investment – of time, money and capacity is required in order for changes to happen
- We need to take a long-term view around how communities can be best supported now and in the future
- We need to tailor our approach to meet the needs of different communities
- Working in collaboration with communities is essential to help deliver change and build strong communities
- A strong VCS provider market is crucial to delivering the Communities Strategy
- We all need to explore more opportunities for working in partnership with the private sector

Leicestershire Communities Strategy (Refresh 2017-2021)

The updated version of the Strategy is based around 4 Priorities:

Priority 1: Communities support themselves, individuals and families

Priority 2: Communities in collaboration with public services, are supported to design and deliver better outcomes for the people of Leicestershire

Priority 3: The voluntary and community sector in Leicestershire is an effective provider of services in a diverse market

Priority 4: The council continues to be outward focused, transparent, and open to new ways of working

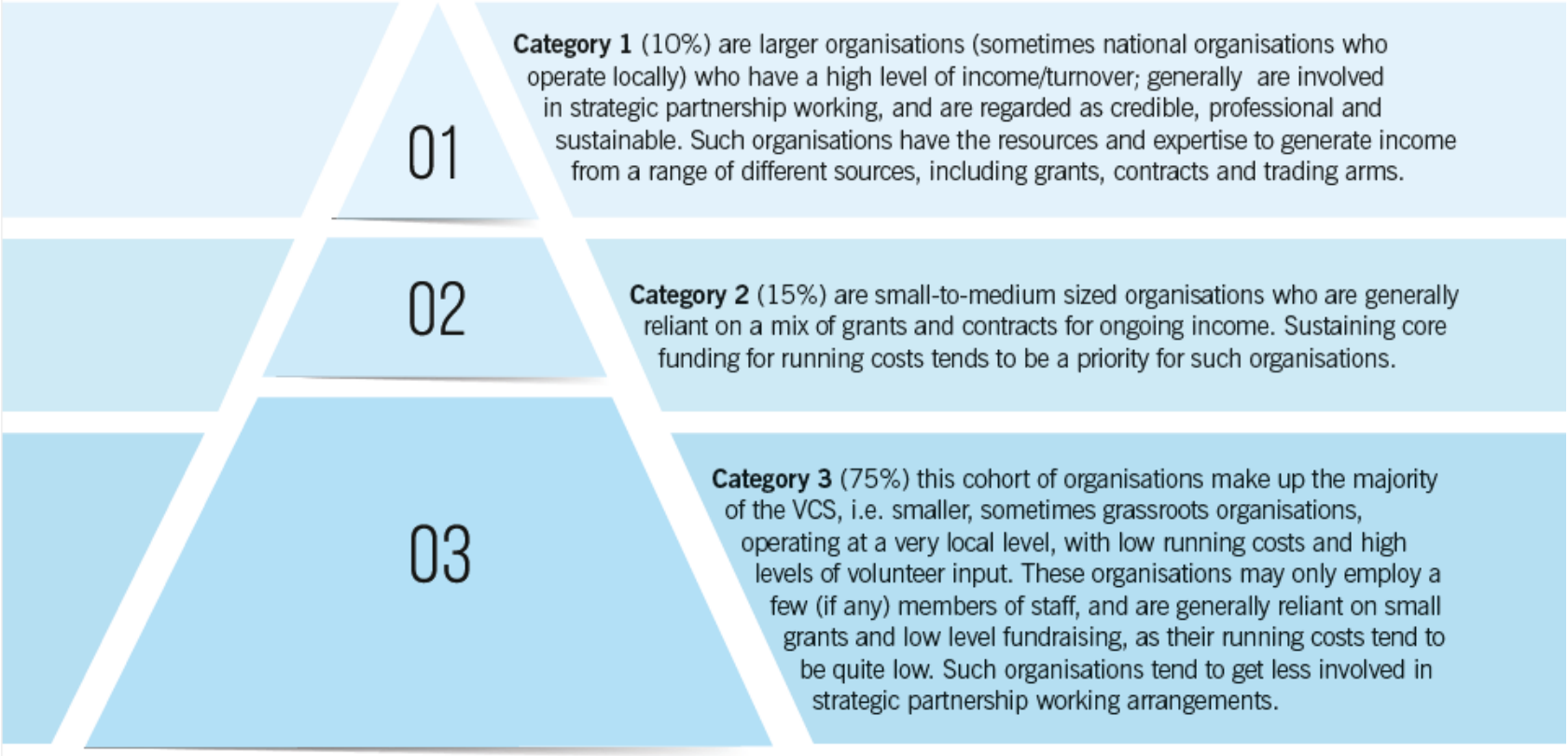
Priorities for the VCS

- Priority 3 of the Communities Strategy is to develop the voluntary and community sector in Leicestershire as an effective provider of services in a diverse market

- A strong VCS provider market is crucial to helping us to achieve our ambition of having 'great communities', that are resilient, active, empowered and able to deliver outcomes for communities

- The Council and its partners need to support the VCS to ensure it is in an optimum position to provide services for those most in need and the wider community

A ‘VCS Pyramid’ concept has been developed to describe and categorise VCS organisations, as follows:



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It is underpinned by:

1. Social Action -This approach recognises the power of what can be achieved when people come together to tackle problems collectively in their communities

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2. An 'Asset Based' approach

- Rather than starting from the perspective of the problems in a community (a 'deficit-based' approach), the **asset-based** approach aims to explicitly value the strengths that exist in people and places
- These strengths include:
  - Personal Assets (knowledge, skills and talents)
  - Social Assets (relationships between family, friends and neighbours)
  - Community Assets (e.g. VCS organisations, faith groups, public services)
  - Neighbourhood Assets (physical assets, such as community buildings, parks, etc.)
- The asset-based approach can help to mobilise social action at a local level, helping to prevent the need for more formal or costly services

Leicestershire Communities Strategy (Refresh 2017-2021)

Recent Activities

- A first draft of the revised Communities Strategy has been taken through the Council's decision making processes Scrutiny and Cabinet (last week)

Next Steps

- An Action Plan for the refreshed Strategy is in the process of being developed
- **The Communities Strategy and Action Plan requires the collaboration, and commitment of a wide range of stakeholders and that engagement and dialogue will be key to success**.
- **We are planning to speak to relevant partners, including the VCS, around the contents of the draft Strategy and Action Plan, in the summer with a Communities Summit planned for September (date TBC)**

For more information, go to:

Web: www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk

Email: leicestershirecommunities@leics.gov.uk

SHIRE Community Grants 2017-18

SHIRE Community Grants 2017-18

The SHIRE Community Grants programme are a key feature of the Council's support to the voluntary and community sector (VCS)

The SHIRE Grants budget for 2016-17 was £420,000, all of which was fully committed to 93 projects.

Theme (i.e. area of vulnerability/disadvantage)	**Number of projects supported***	**Amount of grant allocated**
Older People	10	£34,753
Children, young people and families	37	£188,011
Adults (including disabilities)	10	£38,487
Mental Health (young people and adults)	10	£43,999
General Community Vulnerability (including areas of multiple deprivation)	30	£150,800

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In terms of geographical spread, in 2016-17, grants were awarded across the District/Borough areas as follows:

District /Borough	No of projects supported*	Grant amount allocated
Blaby	5	£7,834
Charnwood	20	£97,007
Harborough	9	£49,338
H&B	14	£70,092
Melton	8	£47,106
NWL	22	£105,412
O&W	6	£20,336
Countywide	25	£135,818

Whitwick Parish Council
COMMUNITY
OFFICE

Phoenix Children's Foundation

Olive Branch

L&R Re-Map

ACCEPT Allotment

SHIRE Community Grants 2017-18

To help us achieve the Communities Strategy priorities, from April 2017, we will again be offering small grants of **up to £3,000** and larger grants of **up to £10,000**

We are interested in funding **new** projects which achieve the following:

- Support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities
- Provide early intervention and prevention solutions, which help to reduce demand on Council/other Public Services
- Complement existing services already being delivered

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Eligible Organisations:

- Registered charities
- Community groups/organisations with a constitution
- Social Enterprises / CICs
- Parish Councils / Town Councils
- Schools/Colleges/Academies – only for non-curricular activity which supports vulnerable members of the community

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Beneficiaries / Target Client Groups for Projects:

- Frail Older People
- People with physical disabilities and/or other long terms health conditions
- People with learning disabilities or other special educational needs
- People with mental health conditions
- Vulnerable and disadvantaged young people (e.g. those who are at risk of crime/offending, NEET, or experience other challenges/issues)
- People with caring responsibilities
- People experiencing financial hardship due to socio-economic or welfare status
- Residents of communities in areas of multiple deprivation/poverty

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Outcomes:

- Improved health, wellbeing and quality of life in communities
- Positive lifestyle choices, improved confidence and independence
- Vulnerable groups are empowered to participate fully in society
- Less reliance on Council and other public services
- Communities/community organisations take responsibility for identifying local solutions to community issues
- Stronger voluntary and community sector
- Innovation: new ideas/models of service delivery are tested, including opportunities to devolve services to communities

SHIRE Community Grants 2017-18

Application Process:

- Contact the Grant Officers to discuss your project proposal
- If eligible, you will be asked to complete the online application form
- Applications will be discussed with relevant colleagues/partners, to obtain expert feedback
- Applications will be forwarded to lead elected member (up to £10,000) or Head of PEC Service (up to £3,000) for a final decision
- Projects need to be completed within 12 months of the grant award

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Application Deadlines:

- Monday 22nd May 2017
- Monday 31st July 2017
- Monday 25th September 2017
- Monday 27th November 2017

- A decision on your application will be communicated 2-4 weeks after the deadline date

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For more information, contact:

Andy Hayes or Noel Singh

Tel: (0116) 305 7269 or 305 7020
Email: shiregrants@leics.gov.uk
Web: www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/grants