



Agenda Item 9

EXECUTIVE
10 December 2020

Title: Contract Extension to VCS

Lead Officer: Marianne Rolfe

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Judy Falp

Public report

Wards of the District directly affected:

Contrary to the policy framework: No

Contrary to the budgetary framework: No

Key Decision: Yes

Included within the Forward Plan: Yes

Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken: Yes

Consultation & Community Engagement: No

Final Decision: Yes

Accessibility checked: Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval

Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	11/11/20	Andy Jones
Head of Service	11/11/20	Marianne Rolfe
CMT	11/11/20	
Section 151 Officer	11/11/20	
Monitoring Officer	11/11/20	
Finance	11/11/20	
Portfolio Holder(s)	11/11/20	Cllr Judy Falp

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to request the Executive to agree to an extension to the current Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Contracts for the period of one year.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Executive Committee agree to extend the contracts with the voluntary and Community sector from 1st April 2021 until 31st March 2022.
- 2.2 That the Executive agree that as part of the arrangements to the contract extensions that the current outcomes in the Service Agreements are reviewed to include any additional areas which are a result of COVID or the pandemic response.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

3.1 Existing Contracts:

- 3.2 Warwick District Council has made a longstanding commitment to helping its most vulnerable residents to improve their lives and circumstances. Following on from its Sustainable Community Strategy, the Council has reaffirmed this commitment in its Corporate Strategy 'Fit for the Future'. Although there is no statutory requirement to provide this type of support, the Council's clear rationale is that, in addition to improving the quality of life of its residents, investment in social and financial inclusion services can improve the capacity and resilience of communities and helps to reduce the pressure on other public services provided by the Council and its partners, not least by expanding the capacity of VCS organisations and improving the wellbeing and self-reliance of individuals

- 3.3 In 2018, the Council continued its investment in the Voluntary and Community Sector commissioning to the value of £1,050,000 (annual expenditure over the three-year period is no greater than £350,000).

- 3.4 Appendix 1 attached provides a summary of the contracts and a brief outline of the good work being delivered under the contracts.

3.5 Extension & Outcome Review:

- 3.6 The current VCS contracts are due to end of 31st March 2021, however, as a result of the impact of COVID it has not been possible as per the Health and Community Protection Service Plan to review the commissioning arrangements in order to provide a recommendation in regards to an extension or a re-procurement exercise for the existing contracts. It is envisaged that this review will now occur in 2021/22 subject to the agreement to extend until 31st March 2022.

- 3.7 The pandemic has had a significant impact on the ability of our voluntary and community sector contract holders to deliver the terms of their service level agreements.
- 3.8 Over the period June to August, our VCS Contract holders have been developing and implementing their recovery approaches and plans. It is proposed that in both the review of these and the current service level agreements, a set of revised outcomes for each of the contracts is established to ensure that the Council's investment continues to make a measurable improvement.
- 3.9 It is proposed that the Health and Community Protection Project Advisory Board review and agree the amended outcomes in relation to Covid for the extended contracts.

4. Policy Framework

4.1. Fit for the Future (FFF)

- 4.1.1. The FFF Strategy has 3 strands, People, Services and Money, and each has an external and internal element to it, the details of which can be found [on the Council's website](#). The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

4.2. FFF Strands

4.2.1 External impacts of proposal(s)

People - Health, Homes, Communities – The recommendations seek to deliver interventions that will have a positive impact on outcomes relating to Improved health for all and cohesive and active communities.

Services - Green, Clean, Safe – None identified

Money- Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment – The recommendations seek to deliver interventions that support that will have a positive impact on our local economy and deliver outcomes which support the needs of our communities including returning to the work environment.

4.2.2. Internal impacts of the proposal(s)

People - Effective Staff – None identified

Services - Maintain or Improve Services - The recommendations seek to ensure that contracted voluntary support service are targeted in the correct manner to ensure that they are fit for the demands of those whom they support and who may require access to them.

Money - Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term - The recommendations seek to ensure that the VCs contracts are robustly evaluated to ensure the ongoing value of the investment.

4.3. Supporting Strategies

4.3.1 Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting approaches; the relevant ones for this proposal include Health and Wellbeing and Sustainability. The proposals are in line with the Council's approaches and seek to underpin the Council's commitment as outlined in the FFF.

4.4. Changes to Existing Policies

There are no proposed changes to existing policies.

4.5. Impact Assessments

4.5.1. An Equality Impact Assessments has been undertaken and no negative impacts have been identified.

5. Budgetary Framework

5.1 The proposals that were agreed in February 2018. The existing contracts are due to expire on 31 March 2021.

5.2 If the contracts are extended for the suggested period this would cost £282,000.

6. Risks

6.1 Without a review of the outcomes required by the contracts there is a risk that vulnerable residents' changing needs are not addressed by the service provision. In the development of the contract specifications the needs were carefully considered through research and consultation. The contracts provide flexibility to enable service providers to tailor provision to the needs of their clients. The proposed approach ensures that there is sufficient flexibility and outcome measures to tackle the additional Covid impacts experienced by clients.

6.2 In not extending the contracts there is a risk that the reduced support for vulnerable communities at this current time attracts unfavourable comments and damages the Council's reputation. Care has been taken to ensure that the contracts focus resources where they are most needed, including addressing issues that were increasing in importance. With the COVID pandemic service providers have continued to focus their resources to support the areas of greatest need.

6.3 Service providers as part of the contracts provide evidence of the positive impact they achieve for residents and as with the review of outcomes the council can be reassured of evidenced positive impacts in the current climate.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 The contracts could be allowed to cease. However, this does not allow the council to provide services to the deprived communities which have been identified as council priorities.