

West Lindsey   
Community & Voluntary Sector



Funding Review 2018

Introduction

West Lindsey District Council has a range of funding agreements in place to support community and voluntary sector organisations deliver services in the district. Over the past 3 years we have awarded over half a million pounds to support community services and activity.

As an Entrepreneurial Council we recognise the importance of investing to maintain and enhance a strong and vibrant community and voluntary sector. Whilst recognising this importance we also face continued challenges to provide a wide range of services with reducing financial resources.

The Funding Review 2018 looked in detail at the current funding agreements we have and determined whether to continue funding, make changes to past arrangements or cease funding altogether. We understand that making these decisions has an impact and therefore have conducted this review with utmost transparency and participation.

In this document you will find full details about our current funding agreements and how the review process was conducted.

Decisions on our future funding commitments will be embedded into our Community and Voluntary Sector Strategy and help us deliver our Corporate Plan priorities.

Should you have any queries about this review please feel free to contact us.

Grant White
Enterprising Communities Manager

Contact details

If you have any queries about this review please contact us via e-mail.

E-mail: funding@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Current Agreements

The table below details all the existing Community & Voluntary Sector funding.

Organisation	Service	Annual Value	Total Value	End of agreement
Act Now	To run a disabled theatre group at the Trinity Arts Centre, Gainsborough	£1,000	£3,000	March 2019
Citizens Advice Lincoln	Advice and support services for West Lindsey residents	£12,700	£38,100	March 2019
Citizens Advice Lindsey	Advice and support services for West Lindsey residents	£47,500	£142,500	March 2019
Community Lincs	Support for Village Halls, Community Events and Neighbourhood Planning	£20,000	£60,000	March 2019
Gainsborough Adventure Playground	Provision of safe play and support services to families with young children	£15,000	£45,000	March 2019
Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride	Provide dial-a-ride transport service to villages surrounding Lincoln	£9,000	£27,000	March 2019
Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride*	Support expansion of Community Car Scheme north of Lincoln	£20,000	£10,000	December 2019
Lincolnshire County Council*	Call Connect Gainsborough Area	£35,000	£105,000	March 2019
Lincolnshire County Council*	Call Connect North of Lincoln Area	£46,000	£92,000	November 2019
Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service*	Support for the delivery of the Lincolnshire Wolds Management Plan	£17,830	£35,660	March 2020
The Conservation Volunteers*	Conservation management at woodlands sites in Gainsborough	£30,000	£90,000	March 2020
Voluntary Centre Services	Volunteer brokerage, community group support and sector training	£25,000	£75,000	March 2019
West Lindsey Churches Festival	To support the Churches Festival event	£7,000	£21,000	March 2019
TOTAL VALUES		£286,030	£744,260	

*These funding agreements are subject to review through other arrangements and working groups. This have been listed here to show the full range of existing agreements.

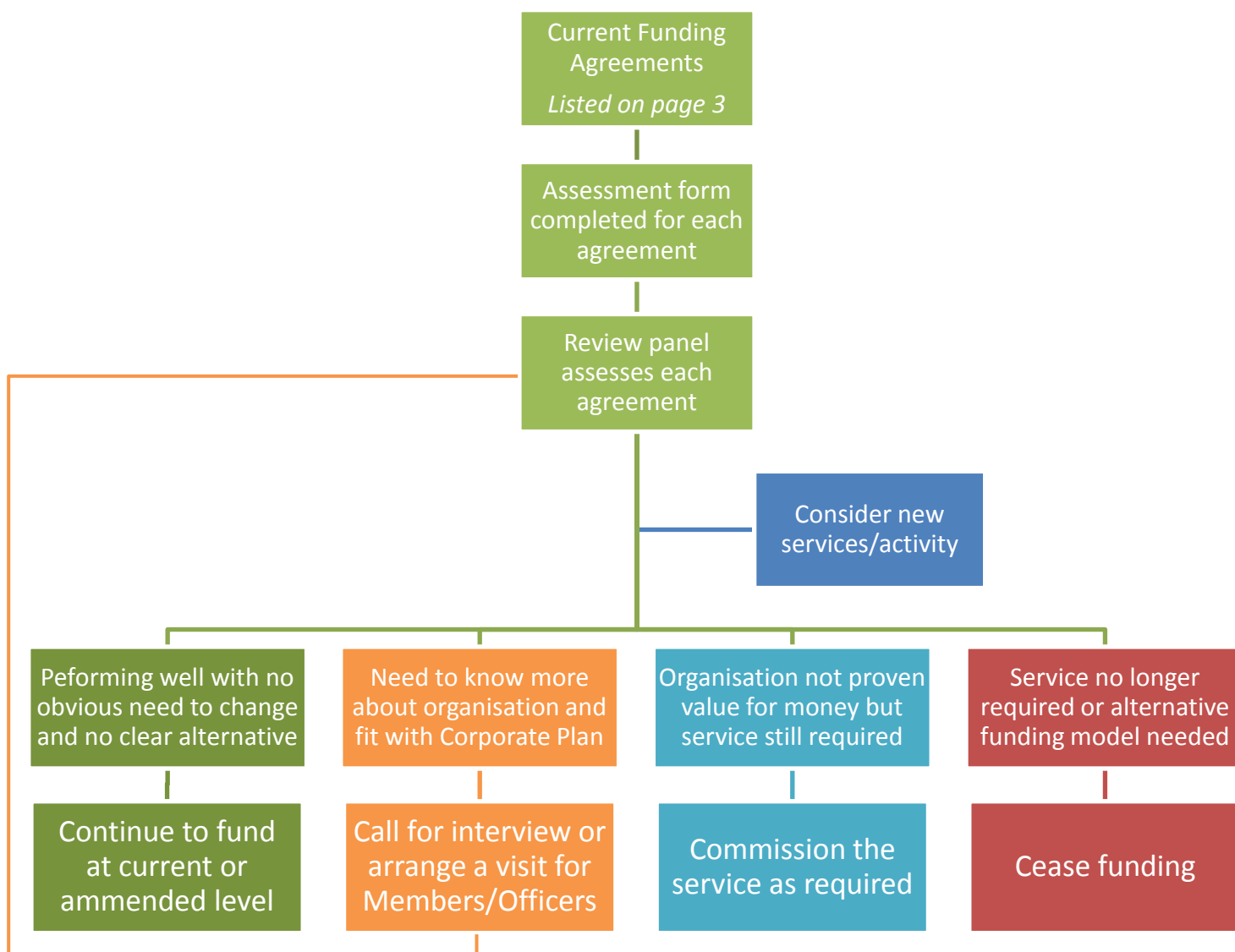
Review Process

To ensure this review was conducted effectively we followed a set process that ensured all organisations were treated equally and fairly. The review included input from officers, elected Members and organisations we work with.

Our Community Funding Panel conducted the review. This panel is made up primarily of elected Members and selected officers for additional advice and support.

The panel make decisions as part of this review which are then endorsed and approved by the Prosperous Communities Committee.

The following chart shows the decision making process our Community Funding Panel used when reviewing existing funding agreements:



Assessment Form

An assessment form was completed for every agreement being reviewed. Where possible the organisation delivering the service completed this form. This ensured our review panel had the most up to date information and representation from the people delivering services.

If an organisation did not complete an assessment form we completed it with the information we had available.

The assessment form is an organisations opportunity to provide further information about themselves, the services being delivered and how they have impacted on local people and communities in West Lindsey.

APPENDIX A – Assessment Form Template

Review Panel

Our Community Funding Panel is an established Member Working Group. It consists of up to 5 elected Members appointed annually along with key officers from our Enterprising Communities Service.

APPENDIX B – Review Panel Form Template

Commitment to Organisations

In addition to our decision making process we committed to the following:

1. Organisations will be entitled to complete and edit their own Assessment Form with details of their services and outcomes
2. If the initial decision is made to Tender for Service or Cease Funding the organisation will be entitled to present to the panel before the decision is finalised
3. If the initial decision is made to Continue to Fund the organisation will be entitled to meet with the panel to discuss future funding arrangements
4. If your organisation is requested to present to the panel we will offer further support to help you deliver key information about your service
5. If the final decision is made to Tender for Services or Cease Funding we will provide advice to help you identify other sources of funding or income

Review Timeline

We understand the importance of having funding sources confirmed for effective service planning. This review aims to ensure that organisations receive confirmation about future funding at least 3 months prior to the end of the current agreement. This is in line with the Compact principles.

Our timeline for this review aims to provide greater notice than 3 months prior to end of the current agreement. This may be subject to change should the review process experience any delays.

The following timeline was used for this review:

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| 1. Start of Funding Review
Assessment forms distributed | Monday 20 th September 2018 |
| 2. Deadline to submit assessment form | Friday 21 st September 2018 |
| 3. Review Panel – Initial Assessment | Tuesday 25 th September 2018 |
| 4. Interviews and/or Member visits
If required | Wednesday 26 th September 2018
to Friday 28 th September 2018 |
| 5. Review Panel – Recommendations
Confirmation of panel recommendations | Monday 1 st October 2018 |
| 6. Prosperous Communities Committee
Recommendations submitted for approval | Tuesday 23 rd October 2018 |

Any decisions on future funding would then take effect from 1st April 2019 at the earliest or a date after then depending on the remaining length of existing grant agreements.

New Funding Agreements

After any funding recommendations have been approved we shall contact organisations to complete new grant funding agreements.

The funding agreement will detail the measures used to monitor the services being delivered.

Review Panel Decisions

Act Now

Assessment form provides details of the benefits provided to a specific group of clients and users. No other organisation offers this type of activity for adults with disabilities in the area. The value of this core funding agreement is low compared to other agreements and represents a good return on investment for the number of clients and benefits realised.

A documentary video (link in assessment form) provides further information and insight into this organisation and the types of activities they provide. This organisation and their activities fully support our Corporate Plan aims along with helping to address wider issues around physical and mental wellbeing.

The panel felt this organisation delivers services of unique value for adults with disabilities in Gainsborough and the surrounding area.

Continue funding £1,000 pa - 3 year agreement (Total: £3,000)

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice Lindsey covers all the district. Some areas such as outlying Lincoln villages are served by a telephone advice service. Actual appointments for clients in the Lincoln surrounding areas are then provided by the Lincoln service. This represents good service delivery and value taking into consideration the travel distances required from some parts of West Lindsey.

Citizens Advice continue to provide essential advice and advocacy services to clients. Additional value has been achieved in West Lindsey with them securing grant funding to expand specific projects and the successful award of a contract to deliver a national telephone based advice service. This telephone advice service is based in the Guildhall providing the Council with additional rental income and securing a number of jobs locally.

Both service managers work closely with each other. As the type of services being delivered are the same/similar, officers recommend to move to a single grant agreement to provide Citizens Advice services to residents of West Lindsey. As Citizens Advice Lindsey is the organisation based in the District and providing the majority of services here, the proposal is to grant fund this organisation and allow them to arrange the funding split with the Lincoln service. This split would be agreed with the Council and form part of any future grant funding agreement.

The total value of a single grant agreement will need to reflect the level of service and demand both services are currently responding to. It is proposed to maintain the grant funding at the current levels in a single agreement.

The panel recognised the important role and value services provided by Citizens Advice. The panel agreement with officer recommendation to move to a single grant agreement for the total provision of Citizens Advice services across West Lindsey. This agreement would be with Citizens Advice Lindsey as the organisation providing majority of service to residents in the district.

The panel agreed to allow for flexibility in the agreement to enable Citizens Advice Lindsey and Citizens Advice Lincoln to agree how best to work in partnership and determine allocation of awarded funding.

Continue funding £60,200 pa - 3 year agreement (Total: £180,600)

Community Lincs

WLDC are no longer looking to run Parish Forum events in the format of previous years. This is due to past poor attendance and the ability to engage through other channels such as social media and other events organised by partners.

Community Buildings support is an area of activity that was delivered by Community Lincs prior to WLDC beginning to provide a portion of core funding towards this. It was a service the council offered to provide some support after decline and eventual stop of providing support to create Local Plans in communities. The officer recommendation is not to continue providing funding for this element of service as it is not funded by any other District Council in Lincolnshire yet the level of service remains the same.

Officers do not believe the CVS Core Funding should continue to support any Neighbourhood Planning support activity. This is due to the Council receiving funding support to allocate specifically relating to Neighbourhood Planning. The delivery of any type of Neighbourhood Planning support must be in line with budgets specifically for that purpose.

The panel recognised the important role this organisation plays in supporting local and rural communities through the various activities and services delivered. However many activities referenced are not the ones within the current funding agreement. The panel acknowledged that WLDC are no longer planning to run parish forum events and move to a different format of engagement therefor support for their organisation is no longer required.

The panel agreed that the work delivered by this organisation to support communities undertaking Neighbourhood Plans has been of good quality and value. A number of positive examples across the district were referenced. The panel felt this support should continue but should be aligned to the council's Neighbourhood Planning work and budgets.

The panel agreed with the officer recommendation subject to agreeing a continuation of the Neighbourhood Planning support element from this organisation contracted/awarded via the Council's Neighbourhood Planning Team. Officers are requested to begin dialogue immediately to explore the options and reach an agreement.

Do not continue funding. Explore options to fund specific activity from Neighbourhood Planning budgets.

Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association

GAPA provides a range of services that benefit children and families in the Gainsborough and surrounding area. Service users also attend with other challenges that GAPA staff and volunteers support.

GAPA provides volunteering and training opportunities. Previous case studies have demonstrated volunteers undertaking training and then going into employment. The volunteer hours generated are very high.

The organisation has a well-built reputation amongst children and families in the area. The wider impact they have helps to tackle social issues such as isolation, mental health issues and crime & disorder.

The panel acknowledged the on-going work of this organisation with positive impacts for children, young people, parents, families and volunteers. The panel noted that this organisation has had significant funding withdrawn by Lincolnshire County Council over the last 3 years. It was also noted that this organisation continues to explore new areas of working and provides benefits to residents across the whole of Gainsborough and surrounding areas.

Continue funding £15,000 pa - 3 year agreement (Total: £45,000)

Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride

LADAR provide services within a 6 miles radius from Lincoln. This includes a number of populated areas in West Lindsey including Saxilby, Welton, Nettleham, Cherry Willingham. The district has a higher population of older people so transport services such as this are essential for access to other services such as the hospital whilst enabling people to remain more independent for longer.

LADAR are also supported by Lincolnshire County Council, City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven District Council.

They have a good track record of providing transport services. Our funding contribution is comparatively low for the amount of service provided to residents in West Lindsey. This lower contribution may appear to provide WLDC with good value for money return however it serves to impact on the organisations financial sustainability. Our lower funding contribution has also resulted in other Local Authorities to review their funding contribution and seek to reduce as a result of WLDC not increasing in the past.

NKDC has budgeted to maintain funding for a further 2 years although the agreement is only signed annually which means they can review, reduce or remove this funding. Based on levels of service being provided, the officer recommendation is to increase our funding contribution to become more in line with neighbouring authorities and as a result help to secure financial stability and equity of service delivery.

The panel recognised the vital role this organisation plays in supporting health and wellbeing. Whilst the coverage of this organisation is limited to a 6 mile radius of Lincoln this does cover a significant population within the West Lindsey area including Lincoln fringe villages.

The panel acknowledged that the WLDC funding contribution is lower than neighbouring Local Authorities despite us receiving comparable levels of service demand. The panel agreed with the officer recommendation to increase the grant funding contribution to reflect this but requested the total increase be £4,000 introduced in a phased approach.

The panel agreed to introduce a phased grant increase over the duration of a 3 year agreement as follows:

Year 1: £11,000

Year 2: £12,000

Year 3: £13,000

Total: £36,000

Voluntary Centre Services

VCS offer a very wide range of services that benefit residents, volunteers and community groups in the district. Provide a range of training which helps to enhance the wider community sector and thus help many other organisations to grow and develop.

Thorough and comprehensive reporting provided on a regular basis demonstrates the impact being made and underpins the value for money.

Services provided help to attract and encourage people to volunteer for roles and organisations across the district. This then represents added value in volunteer time, local communities getting involved and people doing things for their own physical and mental wellbeing.

The panel acknowledged the quality and value services delivered to support both volunteer brokerage and wider community group support and development in the district.

The panel noted the additional activities and services delivered in the district over the last 3 year including training course, voluntary sector forums and the introduction of social prescribing in certain areas.

Continue funding £25,000 pa - 3 year agreement (Total: £75,000)

West Lindsey Churches Festival

The West Lindsey Churches Festival offers excellent value for money in delivering a well-known event spanning 4 days each year. The reporting statistics demonstrate a continued overall growth in visitors, participating churches and income generated.

The festival provides a key opportunity for churches to raise vital funds. This is important to enable churches to be maintained for the benefit of both worship and wider community use.

Funding from WLDC is used to cover costs such as publicity and brochure printing which are critical to the success of the festival. The organisers have a long track record of delivery and the local support is demonstrated with nearly 100 churches now taking part in the festival each year.

Whilst the festival helps to promote tourism and the visitor economy it also benefits local communities supporting churches to engage with local residents.

The organisation has requested an increase in funding in order to meet increasing costs associated with printing, publicity and promotion. The increase would be an additional £1,000 pa taking the total grant to £8,000.

The panel recognised the range of benefits this organisation provides to the district including around tourism, visitor economy, community involvement and volunteering. The panel noted that overall increases since the beginning of the festival in both visitor numbers and income generated which helps to maintain church buildings across the district.

The panel also noted that due to the success of the festival similar events have since been set up in other parts of Lincolnshire using this one as a model to copy.

The panel acknowledged that an increase in publicity and printing costs over the years requires additional funds to address. The panel agrees that the publicity and marketing of this event is critical to its continued success and further growth. This was demonstrated following the introduction of extra promotional marketing in 2015 with increased stats.

The panel agreed to increase the grant award by £1,000 pa.

Continue funding £8,000 pa - 3 year agreement (Total: £24,000)

Financial Profile for 2019-2022

The table below shows the allocated funding and these amounts are within our current Medium Term Financial Plan. The Council may choose to look at this further in future years, but this review has been sufficiently rigorous to ensure that we are supporting organisations appropriately and in line with our Corporate Plan priorities.

Organisation	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL
Act Now	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£3,000
Citizens Advice (Lindsey & Lincoln)	£60,200	£60,200	£60,200	£180,600
Community Lincs	Explore continued funding support for Neighbourhood Planning work			
Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association	£15,000	£15,000	£15,000	£45,000
Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride	£11,000	£12,000	£13,000	£36,000
Voluntary Centre Services	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£75,000
West Lindsey Churches Festival	£8,000	£8,000	£8,000	£24,000
	£120,200	£121,200	£122,200	£363,600

All funding agreements confirmed as part of this review will be created for a maximum of 3 years.

Each agreement will use the latest Funding Agreement template and ensure effective and efficient monitoring processes are adopted by service providers.

APPENDIX C – Funding Agreement template