

A VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR FIT FOR PURPOSE

DEFINING THE ROLE OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Herefordshire Council is committed to contributing to a *strong, dynamic, diverse and independent* Voluntary and Community Sector that plays its full role in improving the quality of life in Herefordshire.

The Council’s contribution has four building blocks.

<p>SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ACTIVITY</p> <p><i>What the Council is trying to achieve:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A single gateway for small, mainly one off grants, which is easily accessible to local communities and groups. ➤ Community groups well supported with the advice and information they need to thrive. ➤ Community buildings and other facilities used flexibly to meet the needs of local people and generating enough income to run independently. <p><i>Links to government’s policy on building community capacity - Firm Foundations</i></p>	<p>OPENING UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE VCS TO DELIVER PUBLIC SERVICES</p> <p><i>What the Council is trying to achieve:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Voluntary and Community Organisations delivering services that are in service delivery and commissioning plans of Council and other public bodies. ➤ Consistent and agreed procurement and contracting processes that comply with Compact principles operating across the Council <p><i>Links to government policy on modernising delivery of public services – based on 2002 Treasury cross cutting review and subsequent guidance.</i></p>
<p>INVESTING IN SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR THE VCS</p> <p><i>What the Council is trying to achieve:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A single cross sector delivery plan for infrastructure support to include all information, support and advice services including training for local VCS organisations. The plan would spell out roles, responsibilities and resources over a 3-year period and be clear about how generalist and specialist infrastructure bodies worked together. ➤ VCS infrastructure organisations co-located and sharing back office functions where this makes sense. <p><i>Links to government policy on building the capacity of the sector – Change Up</i></p>	

BUILDING A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VCS

What the Council is trying to achieve:

- **Partnership based Compact and Codes of Practice agreed and being implemented.**
- **Strong VCS representational structures.**
- **Excellent collaborative working with good understanding in both Council and VCS about respective functions, culture and constraints.**

Links to government policy in relation to VCS involvement in planning and commissioning public services and to the development of local Compacts.