

Report to: ELT/

Date of Meeting: 5 August 2025

Confidential: No

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Directorate: Governance



Executive Summary

This report is provided to request that a budget is agreed for 2026/27 to continue the funding of the CVS service provided by Devon Communities Together.

Recommendation(s)

- That a budget line is added to the 2026/27 budget for £60k to continue the funding of the CVS service by Devon Communities Together for another year.

Main body of report

1. The Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) provided by Devon Communities Together (DCT) has been a vital support for the voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in East Devon. The service has been funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the past three years, enabling significant progress in community support and engagement. However, with the conclusion of the UKSPF funding, it is imperative to secure continued financial support to ensure the sustainability of this essential service.
2. The CVS service has played a crucial role in enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of VCSE organisations in East Devon. By providing governance, training, and funding advice, the CVS has helped these organisations to better serve their communities. The service has also facilitated coordination among various VCSE groups, enabling a more unified and effective response to community needs.
3. The impact of the CVS service over the past three years has been substantial. It has:
 - Supported VCSE organisations in submitting strong and successful funding applications.
 - Ensured that community and voluntary services operate in a more coordinated manner.
 - Provided opportunities for support in areas such as governance, training, and funding advice.
4. Specific Examples of CVS Impact
 - The CVS service has helped and supported organizations with their funding bids, increasing the likelihood of them submitting strong and successful applications.
 - The development of a new CVS has ensured that community and voluntary services can operate in a more coordinated manner, with more opportunities to

unlock funding and provide other services to improve the quality of provision across East Devon.

- The CVS service has made great connections and had a real positive impact on the sector in East Devon.
- The CVS service has become a coordinating force for the sector, with greater attendance at training events and better coordination of support.
- The CVS service has provided a coordinating service for the VCSE sector in response to wider campaigns and initiatives that may benefit from a multi-organisational response.

5. To continue this vital work, it is requested that a budget is allocated funding for the CVS service in the 2026/27 financial year. The proposed funding of £60,000 per year will ensure that the CVS can maintain its support for the VCSE sector and continue to build on the successes achieved so far.
6. It is important to note that East Devon is one of the only districts in Devon that does not have a CVS service. This puts the district at a disadvantage compared to other areas that benefit from the coordinated support and resources provided by a CVS. By funding the CVS service, East Devon District Council will ensure that the district is not left behind and that its communities continue to receive the support they need.
7. The continuation of the CVS service by DCT is essential for the ongoing support and development of the VCSE sector in East Devon. With the conclusion of the UKSPF funding, it is crucial that East Devon District Council steps in to provide the necessary financial support. By doing so, the Council will ensure that the vital work of the CVS service continues, benefiting the entire community.

More information about the service can be found in their last report [Q1 2025/26](#)

Financial implications

2.1 Impact on the 2026/27 budget

Legal implications

3.1.

HR implications (if applicable)

4.1 None applicable

Resource, asset and climate implications (if applicable)

5.1 None applicable

Equality Impact Assessment outcomes (if applicable)

6.1 Continuing the funding of the CVS project will ensure that the VCSE sector in East Devon continues to receive the support it needs to thrive. This will have a positive equity impact by enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of these organisations, enabling them to better serve their communities and operate in a more coordinated manner.

Next steps

1. ELT agreement
2. Budget line included in the 2026/27 budget

Director approved date:

ELT approval date:

Additional information required