



## **Department for Environment and Community Services**

### **Three Year Grants 2018/2021**

South Gloucestershire Council provides a diverse range of services itself but also recognises that an independent, sustainable and diverse voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector has a valued role in the lives of its residents and communities.

We view the VCSE sector as an essential part of a safer and stronger community, with the ability to raise important issues and provide opportunities on behalf of and for the benefit of individuals and communities.

Expressions of interest are being sought from VCSE organisations in South Gloucestershire to provide services and/or activities that will help us to continue to support our communities.

The Three Year Grant budget is subject to the continuing availability of Council funding and will be confirmed each year when the Council sets its budget. The first year's funding 2018/19 will be confirmed in February 2018 for 2018/19 and annually thereafter for the term of three years.

Submissions from a collaboration or other types of partnership or sub-contracting arrangements will be considered if appropriately constituted for any of the work areas. Therefore, potential organisations wishing to work in this manner should satisfy us that a written agreement is in place, although the arrangement does not in itself have to be a separately constituted body. A lead organisation should be agreed, giving a single point of contact for monitoring, negotiation and communication purposes.

### **Expression of interest for Voluntary sector infrastructure support**

Expressions of interest for this work area are being sought from organisations that can provide services that will support the community of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in South Gloucestershire. Funding allocated to this work area is in the range of £75,000.

The submission should detail how it will advocate on behalf of the sector at a strategic level, giving the sector a voice and a means to influence issues that are important to this community; how it will help build and maintain an independent, strong and resilient sector and what it will do to achieve this.

Knowledge of the specific needs of the VCSE sector at a national and local level and the use of this in determining initiatives to be employed to support the sector should be evidenced.

The outline proposal should show how the activity will be delivered and explain how it will be effective, cost efficient, innovative in its methods of delivery appropriate to the sector and sustainable.

As the delivery of work will be under negotiated terms, interested organisations must demonstrate how their proposed services or activities will meet the agreed outcomes which are:

- to build a strong and resilient VCSE Sector in South Gloucestershire
- to improve the sustainability of VCSE organisations in South Gloucestershire and reduce the reliance on South Gloucestershire Council as a funder
- to improve the governance and operation of VCSE groups
- to increase knowledge of good practice when South Gloucestershire VCSE organisations recruit and manage their volunteers
- to increase volunteering opportunities across South Gloucestershire.

The cost of the proposal must be given within the submission and a more detailed budget may be requested during the negotiation. This must be based upon full cost recovery principles.

We recognise the importance of sustainability within the sector, and we encourage organisations to seek alternative means of support to reduce reliance or dependency on Council funding or any other single source of funding. Therefore, this fund can be used to leverage additional resources which will be of benefit to the community and the submission. Additional resources can be in the form of benefits from other projects delivered by the organisation, or an organisations own activities to increase its sustainability, volunteering or additional funding from other funding streams. However, there must be no duplication of use of these.

The submission must also set out the organisation's track record and experience of the management of contracts of comparable scale and financial value.

Targets will be negotiated during the assessment stage of the process. These performance indicators will demonstrate how the proposal will be measured and achieve the given outcomes across the funding term.

### **Strategic documents**

Under the theme Our Place, the Sustainable Community Strategy identifies that a thriving community and voluntary sector help to strengthen community cohesion establishing and encouraging a sense of local pride.

The Council Plan 2016/2020, under the heading of Place, also states that one of its key priorities is "to have a voluntary and community sector which contributes to local communities by stimulating the sector and strengthening resilience and robustness". It emphasises the need for strong, resilient and cohesive communities to which voluntary and community sector projects are a contributing factor.

The aims and objectives of these key strategic documents influence this process; and are available from the [Three Year Grants](#) webpage.

### **Selection process**

As the Three Year Grant process is not a procurement process, the basis for decision making and the award of this grant will be through a negotiated process.

Submissions will be evaluated, recommendations made and grants awarded on the basis that the organisation's services will benefit the community and achieve the Council's outcomes.

All completed Expression of Interest Forms should be completed electronically and submitted to [grants@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:grants@southglos.gov.uk) in accordance with the given deadlines.

This document should be read in conjunction with the document entitled [Three Year Guidance](#). All documents can be requested via email [grants@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:grants@southglos.gov.uk)