



Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Review

Consultation Response Report

Produced by Mark Simons
for Dorset Council

April 2020

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What was the consultation about?	Dorset Council is currently reviewing the grants the former sovereign councils gave to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in order to offer equal opportunities to VCS organisations in all of Dorset Council's areas to access support. This is also aimed to ensure that all grants given help Dorset Council to meet its priorities. Further to this the council needed to understand more about the possible impacts of any changes and if so whether these could be mitigated.
Over what period did the consultation run?	The consultation ran from 15 January 2020 to 11 March 2020.
What consultation methods were used?	The consultation was available both electronically online and in paper form from local libraries. The consultation was promoted widely through both the local press and social media. Several sessions were held in with officers in attendance. These were well attended. The consultation had a separate communications plan prepared beforehand.
How many responses were received overall?	1,619 overall responses were received.
How representative is the response to the wider population?	The response size is good for a consultation of this type with 1,619 responses. 9% responded as an official representative of an VCS organisation, 20% as someone involved in a VCS organisation (volunteer or service user) and 63% as Dorset residents. A further 8% were Other, which included organisations like parish councils and elected members.
Where will the results be published?	Results will be published on the council's website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
How will the results be used?	The results will be used to guide councillors' on deciding a new fair framework for funding voluntary and community organisations
Who has produced this report?	Mark Simons, Consultation Officer, Dorset Council April 2020

Background

Prior to the creation of Dorset Council, all six of the predecessor councils in the Dorset Council area prioritised and supported the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS). Each district, borough and the county council allocated their funds to their local VCS using criteria in order to meet their corporate priorities. All predecessor councils set out to support building capacity in communities, and to support individuals to reduce demand on public services and the requirement of high cost interventions in Dorset.

In the financial year 2019/20 a combined total of £1.9 million was invested in the VCS. Of this, £216,000 was capital funds and £1.8 million was revenue funds.

Below is the financial commitment (currently owned) in grants across the former councils:

Former council area	Total amount invested
Dorset County Council	£915,464
North Dorset District Council	£71,343
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council	£95,220
East Dorset District Council	£240,925
West Dorset District Council	£600,567
Purbeck District Council	£84,527
Total invested	£1,932,369

Invested across all themes for example museums, heritage, community, leisure, arts, culture and environment.

The purpose of the review is to reconsider the amount of direct financial contributions offered to VCS organisations by the council which will include the provision for information, advice and guidance - currently provided by Citizen’s Advice, as well as ensuring Dorset Council is funding organisations which meets the council’s priorities and supports those more disadvantaged communities.

See the [Dorset Council Plan 2020 to 2024](#).

The council consulted stakeholders on the amalgamation of a range of existing funds into three categories:

- **Earmarked funds for:**

Information, advice and guidance
 Support of arts sector
 Voluntary sector support
 Four museums and two community buildings which we have a direct reversion interest for

- **Revenue grant scheme** for local voluntary and community groups to apply to
- **Capital grant scheme** for voluntary and community sector organisations to bid into for capital projects and for match funding for attracting external funding

The council also consulted on the grant allocation criteria used to allocate the grants pots across all its themes.

The Consultation

This consultation survey was directed at all those who either work for or who benefit from any of Dorset's valued voluntary community sector organisations. These are defined as organisations whose sole purpose is to enrich and benefit Dorset resident's lives and which create 'social wealth' and who operate without support from central Government and which all profits are put back into the community.

We invited and encouraged engagement from all those people who are involved in or who benefit from the services and events provided by our voluntary community sector (VCS). The VCS is made up of the following types of organisations - charities, foundations, community groups, sports organisations, faith groups, housing associations, social enterprises, grant making trusts and resident groups.

There were several events happening across the Dorset Council area throughout the consultation period which Dorset Council Officers were on the agendas to give information about the consultation. However, the online survey was fully explanatory, so it was not imperative to attend an event to submit a response. The only way to respond to the consultation was via the official survey, either online or paper copies were available in all Dorset Council libraries and either handed in there or sent back to Dorset Council.

Analysis Method: Questions were considered on an individual basis. Overall responses were examined and also specific responses from a variety of groups. The official organisational responses were looked at separately as were the responses from volunteers and users in VCS organisations. The main method of analysis was looking at the percentage of respondents who expressed a view on each question. For some questions the percentage strongly supporting and supporting are calculated. Those opposing and strongly opposing are also recoded. One is taken from the other giving a net agreement figure. This could be positive or negative. A figure of zero would mean an equal number of people supported and opposed a statement.

For each open question the text comments have been studied and coded depending on what issues were raised. The coded comments are then reported on based on the amount of times those individual issues have been raised. Total redacted comments are provided in an appendix. Note: some figures may not sum due to rounding.

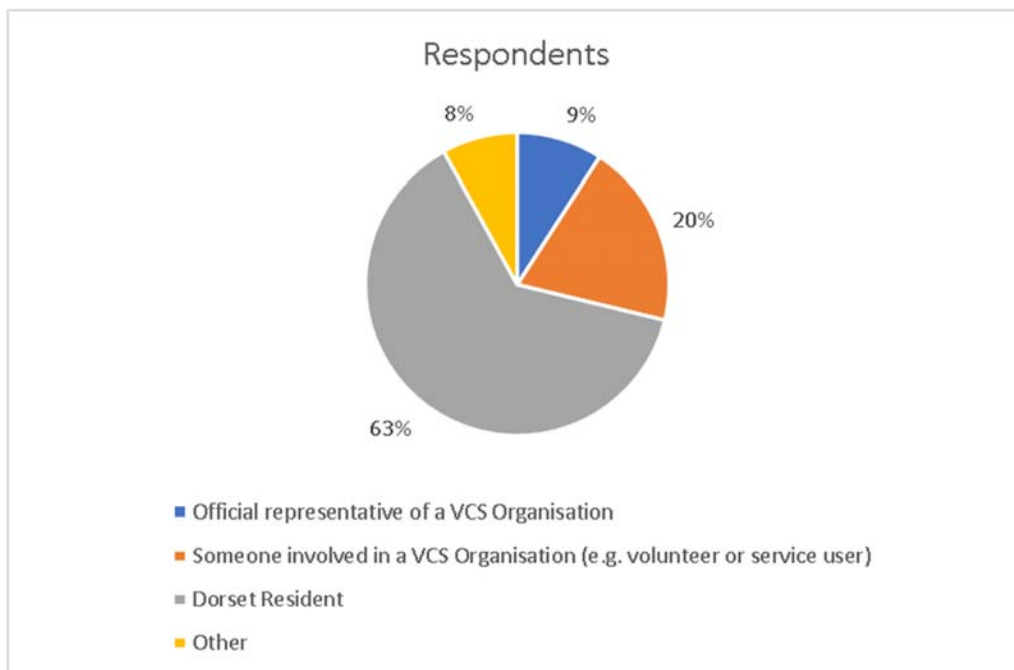
About respondents

1,619 overall responses were received.

Q Are you responding as:

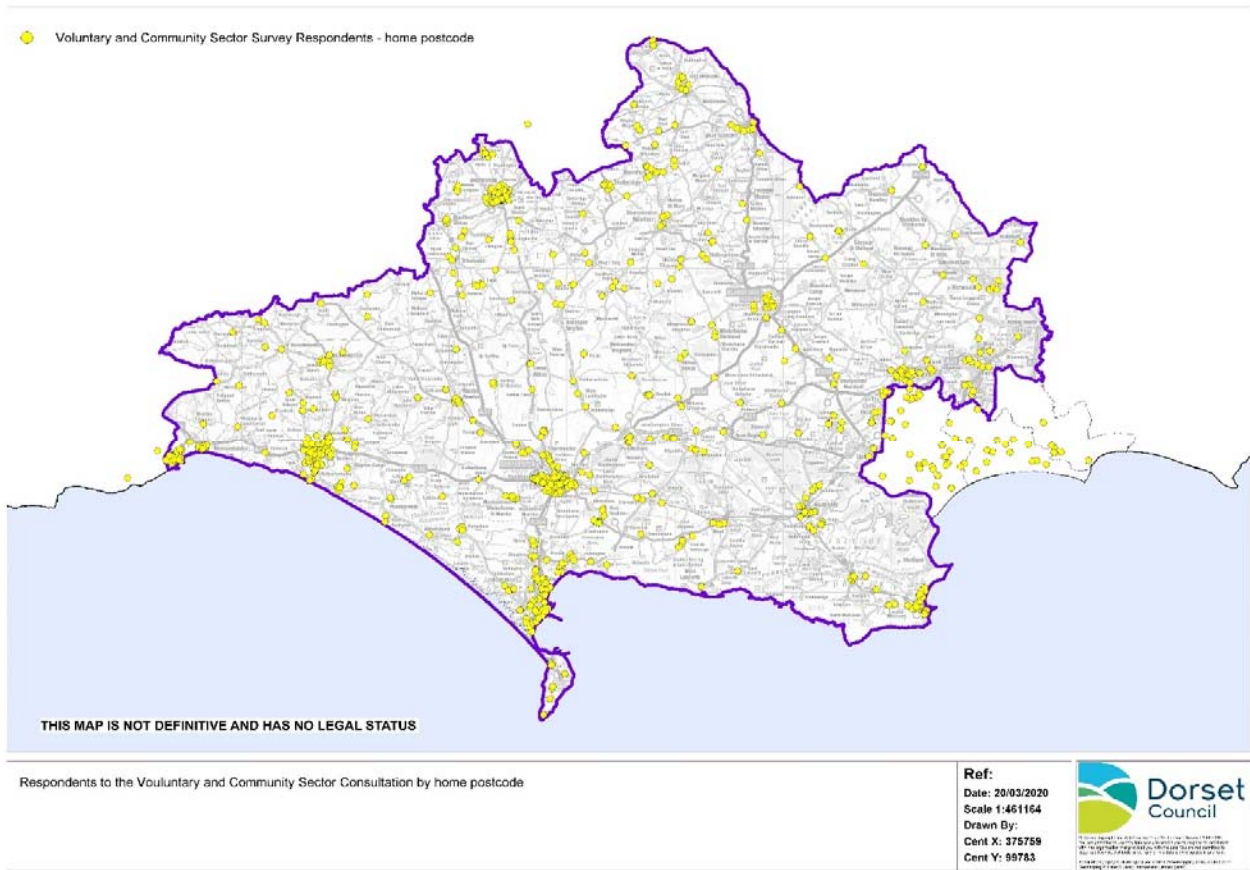
Respondents:

	% of all respondents	Number
Official representative of a VCS Organisation	9.1%	148
Someone involved in a VCS Organisation (e.g. volunteer or service user)	19.6%	318
Dorset Resident	63.2%	1,023
Other	8.0%	130



63% of responses came from individuals. There were also 9% giving the official view of a VCS organisation, and a further 20% involved as a volunteer or service user of a VCS. The official responses will be looked at separately for each proposal to see if they differ from individual residents' responses.

Map of responses to the consultation



The above map shows the distribution of overall responses to the consultation demonstrating a good spread across the geographical area. Promotion of the consultation appears to have been successful across all areas.

Responses

Over 1,000 of the responses came from individuals, with 1,023 responses. Individuals received a limited deck of questions as many of the questions were specifically aimed at Voluntary and Community Sector organisations. The key questions for all groups follow.

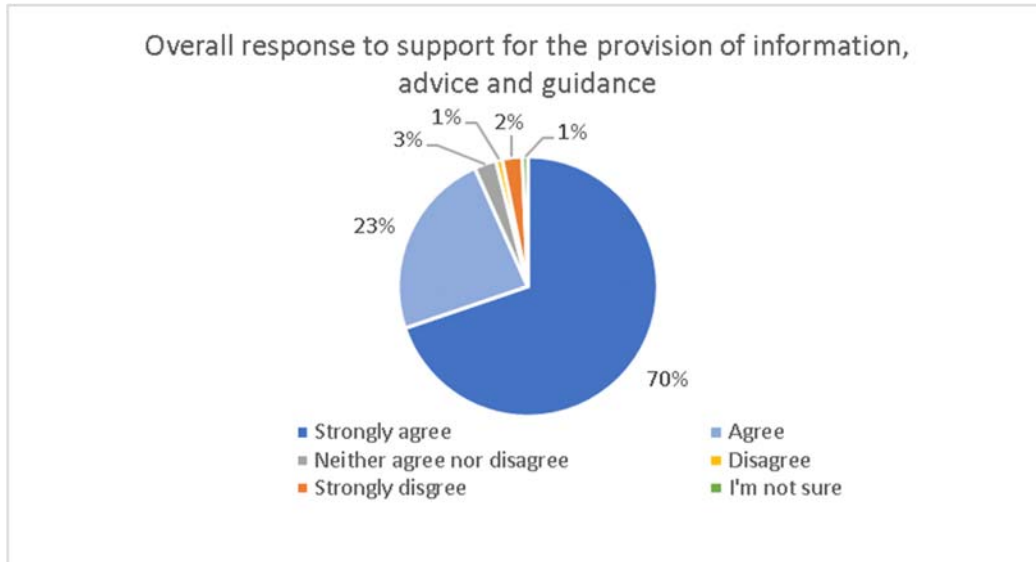
Q20 Dorset Council currently supports the provision for information, advice and guidance (currently provided by Citizen's Advice) for the general population to have access to housing, employment, debt and benefits advice. Dorset Council is considering continuing to offer this for the next five years. Do you agree with this in principle?

Overall responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
Number	1,123	379	44	13	40	11
% of all who responded	69.8%	23.5%	2.7%	0.8%	2.5%	0.7%

The overall responses show strong net agreement to this proposal to continuing providing support to provide information, advice and guidance. Net agreement is plus 90%. Very few people (3.3%) opposed the suggestion and only a small percentage (2.7%) neither agreed or disagreed with it. A large proportion of people strongly agreed with it and many also agreed.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
Resident responses	70.3%	24.0%	1.7%	1.0%	2.6%	0.5%
VCS (volunteers & users) responses	73.7%	21.6%	2.2%	0.3%	1.6%	0.6%
VCS (official organisational) responses	60.1%	27.7%	7.4%	0.7%	2.7%	1.4%

The VCS organisations, volunteers and users showed very strong support for this proposal as shown in the table above. Resident responses show strong net agreement (+91%) to this proposal to continuing providing support to provide information, advice and guidance. Net agreement is +93% for volunteers and +84% for organisations themselves.



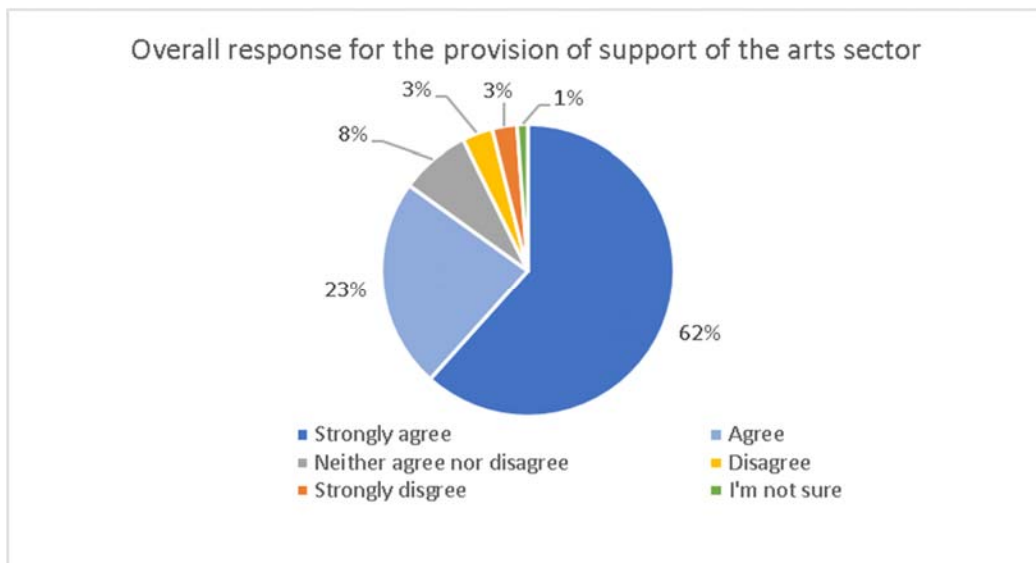
Q21 “Dorset Council currently supports the provision for support of the arts sector (currently provided by The Arts Development Company). Dorset Council is considering continuing to offer this for the next five years. Do you agree with this in principle?”

Overall responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I’m not sure
Number	988	374	124	54	44	19
% of all who responded	61.6%	23.3%	7.7%	3.4%	2.7%	1.2%

The overall responses show strong net agreement to this proposal to continue offering support for the arts sector. Net agreement is + 78.8%. This is a strong figure. Only 8% neither agreed nor disagreed. In this proposal a high proportion of people strongly agreed with the suggestion.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
Resident responses	68.1%	18.9%	5.0%	3.9%	3.1%	0.6%
VCS (volunteers & users) responses	51.3%	33.8%	10.8%	1.6%	1.3%	1.3%
VCS (official organisational) responses	37.4%	33.1%	20.4%	4.1%	3.4%	1.4%

The VCS organisations, volunteers and users also showed strong support for this proposal as shown in the table above. Responses show strong net agreement to this proposal to continuing providing provision for the arts sector. Net agreement is +82.2 for volunteers and +63.0 for organisations themselves. The reduced support from the VCS organisations themselves is noticeable.



Q22 “Dorset Council currently supports the provision for Voluntary sector support (currently provided by Dorset Community Action, Volunteer Centre Dorset and Dorset Race Equality Council). Dorset Council is considering continuing to offer this for the next five years. Do you agree with this in principle?”

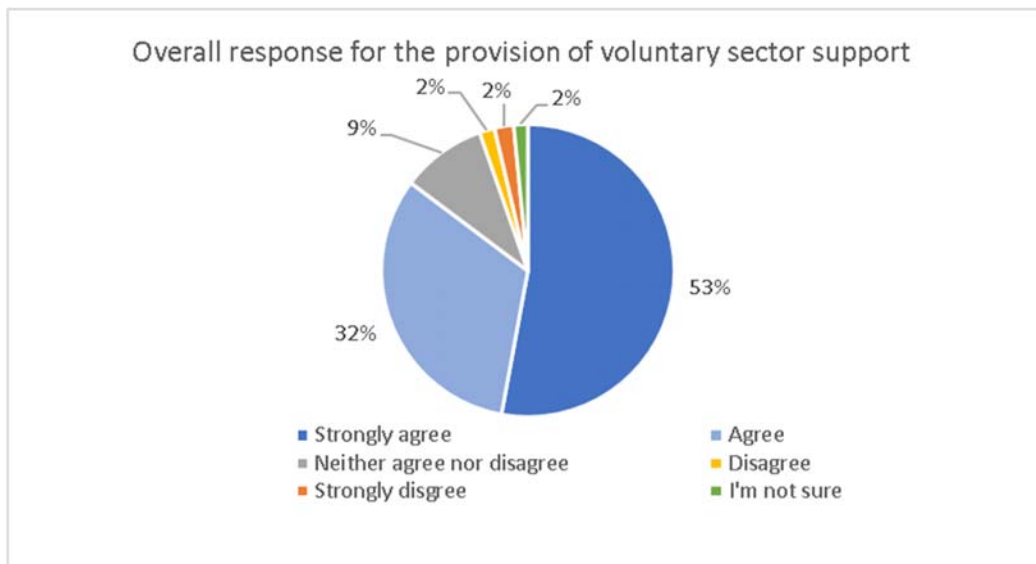
Overall responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I’m not sure
Number	850	520	151	27	34	25
% of all who responded	52.9%	32.4%	9.4%	1.7%	2.1%	1.6%

The overall responses show strong net agreement to this proposal to continue offering support for the arts sector. Net agreement is +81.5%. This is a strong figure. 9.4% neither agreed nor disagreed. Just over half strongly agreed with the proposal.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I’m not sure
Resident responses	51.5%	32.5%	10.2%	2.2%	2.4%	1.0%
VCS (volunteers & users) responses	55.4%	34.2%	7.0%	0.9%	0.6%	1.9%
VCS (official organisational) responses	57.9%	27.6%	9.7%	0.7%	2.8%	1.4%

The VCS organisations, volunteers and users also showed strong support for this proposal as shown in the table above. Responses show strong net agreement to this proposal to continuing providing support for Voluntary sector (currently provided by Dorset Community

Action, Volunteer Centre Dorset and Dorset Race Equality Council). Net agreement is +88.1 for volunteers and +82.0 for organisations themselves.



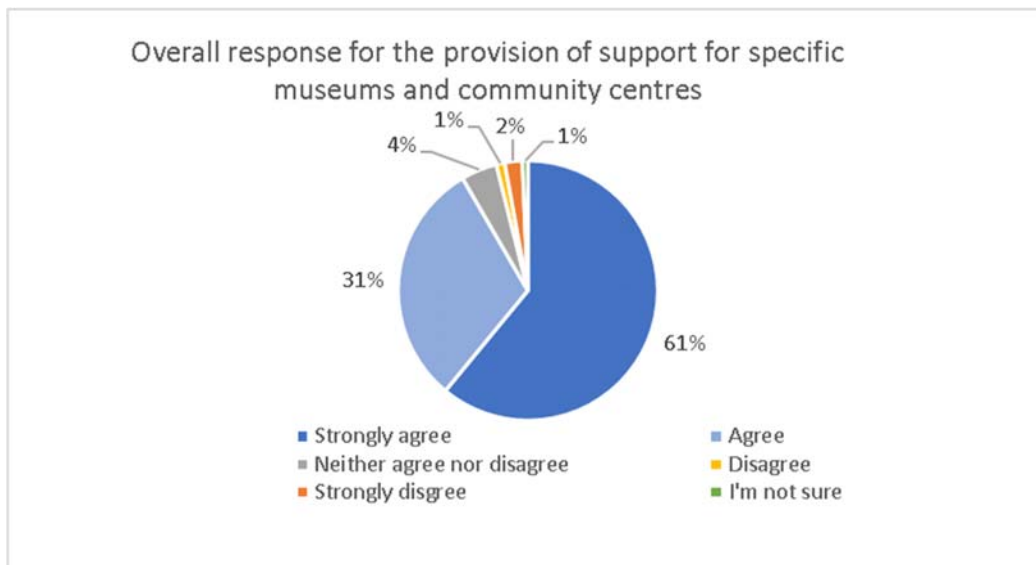
Q23 “Dorset Council currently has 4 Museums and 2 Community Centres which we have a reversionary interest for (this means we own the building or collection at each of these). We currently offer support grants to help maintain these. Dorset Council is considering continuing to offer this for the next five years. Do you agree with this in principle?”

Overall responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I’m not sure
Number	981	493	72	17	35	11
% of all who responded	61.0%	30.6%	4.5%	1.1%	2.2%	0.7%

The overall responses show strong net agreement to this proposal to continue offering support for the 4 museums and 2 community centres. Net agreement is +88.3%. This is a very strong figure. Only 4.5% neither agreed nor disagreed. Nearly two thirds strongly agreed with the proposal.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
Resident responses	63.8%	28.8%	3.2%	1.4%	2.5%	1.0%
VCS (volunteers & users) responses	59.0%	31.9%	6.3%	0.3%	1.3%	1.3%
VCS (official organisational) responses	40.1%	44.9%	10.2%	1.4%	1.4%	2.0%

The VCS organisations, volunteers and users also showed strong support for this proposal as shown in the table above. Responses show strong net agreement to this proposal for continuing providing grants towards 4 Museums and 2 Community centres which Dorset Council have a reversionary interest. Net agreement is +89.3 for volunteers and +82.2 for organisations themselves.



Q24 Tell us more about your answer

377 residents, 53 Others, 56 representatives of official organisations and 137 involved in a VCS organisation, responded to this opportunity to discuss the 4 proposals brought forward in the previous questions. There were many concerns about ensuring continuing support for art and culture but there was also a lot of support for all four areas proposed for funding. Likewise, there was support for heritage and museums and the Citizens Advice Bureau. The whole range of concerns and thoughts by respondent type are highlighted in the following table and the full comments are included in the appendix.

Issue	Mentions				
	Residents	Other	Volunteers	Organisations	Overall
Accessible arts and culture are important	135	15	25	10	185
All four areas are good to fund	86	9	21	10	126
Heritage and museums are particularly important	60	14	24	8	106
CAB important as problem of low wage, debt and reduced public services	47	3	31	6	87
Other	20	2	7	7	30
Community support important	16	2	3	5	26
Bridport Museum is good	9	2	10	1	22
Arts could be better and self-supporting	14	2	3	0	19
Longer up to 5-year period supported	10	0	5	3	18
Mental health important	12	1	0	0	13
Voluntary equals vital	5	2	8	0	15
Arts important in rural area	7	0	2	3	12
DCA is good	2	1	8	1	12
Try different method	5	2	0	4	11
All should have a climate plan	10	1	0	0	11
Arts should be self-funding	2	2	3	3	10
Community Centres are important	6	0	1	2	9
Local is sustainable/best	8	0	0	0	8
These four are all essential	6	0	1	0	7
Rural issues need more support	3	3	0	0	6
More transparency	3	1	0	1	5
CAB not accessible or good enough	2	1	0	1	4
Review buildings	2	0	0	0	2

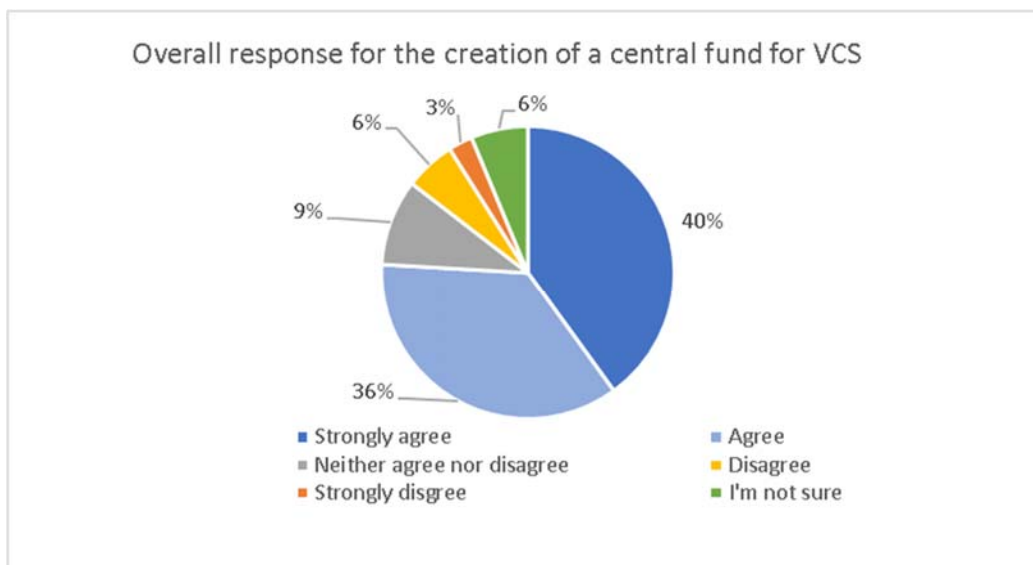
Q25 “It is proposed that there will be a central pot of grant money that all VCS organisations operating in the Dorset Council area can apply to for projects that deliver against the Dorset Council priorities. There will be funds available for local revenue and capital projects. These can be allocated on a 1 to 3 year term. Do you agree with this proposal?”

Overall responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
Number	643	577	153	90	43	101
% of all who responded	40.0%	35.9%	9.5%	5.6%	2.7%	6.3%

The overall responses show strong net agreement to this proposal to offer a pot of money for all VCS organisations working across the Dorset area. Net agreement is +67.6%. This is a reasonably strong figure. Only 9.5% neither agreed nor disagreed.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
Resident responses	37.0%	37.7%	10.2%	5.4%	3.0%	6.8%
VCS (volunteers & users) responses	42.9%	34.4%	9.5%	6.0%	1.6%	5.7%
VCS (official organisational) responses	57.1%	29.9%	2.7%	2.0%	2.7%	5.4%

The VCS organisations, volunteers and users also showed strong support for this proposal as shown in the table above. Responses show strong net agreement to this proposal to have a central pot of grant money that all VCS organisations operating in the Dorset Council area can apply to for projects. Net agreement is +69.7 for volunteers and +82.3 for organisations themselves.



Text question

Q26 “Please use the box below to tell us anything else about the above question;”

322 responses were made in this section from people responding as Dorset residents. There was a general feeling that the time period, suggested at 1-3 years was too short, with 5 years often suggested as a better alternative. Other comments focused on money for the arts in Dorset and how important it was not to reduce the amount of money available. Quite a few people were unclear if this pot of money was in addition to those proposed in 4 previous questions but if it was they supported the idea. People working in or using the voluntary sector were mainly concerned about a similar range of issues. Official responses, whilst generally supporting the idea focused on longer time period for grants, and the need to get money to cover running costs rather than project funding. The full range of issues raised are listed below with the full comments published in the appendix.

Issue	Mentions				TOTAL
	Residents	Other	Involved in voluntary Sector	Official organisational response	
Should be longer period preferably 5 years	85	8	17	13	123
More/continued funding for arts organisations	36	4	10	2	52
Depends how much/ don't reduce the money	34	3	4	4	45
Generally, agree with the idea	11	4	4	14	33
Need fair and equitable process	18	4	5	3	30
If previous 4 grants mentioned are done this is ok	19	0	9	0	28
Suits bigger organisations as wastes time applying	16	3	8	1	28
Needs to be easy to apply and understand	8	5	6	7	26
Fair rural/geographical spread	15	2	2	6	25
Better to provide grants for running costs	6	3	2	11	22

Difficult to understand proposal/don't have enough info	5	3	10	0	18
Don't know Dorset Council priorities	9	0	3	1	13
Include small organisations	4	0	0	7	11
Should be a mixture short- and long-term funding	8	0	0	2	10
Must have a climate plan	8	0	0	0	8
Volunteer organisations should get all the money	4	0	3	0	7
Need flexibility	2	0	2	3	7
VS need to follow non-DC priorities	5	1	0	0	6
Projects need to improve natural environment	4	0	0	0	4
All need to become more business-like	0	0	0	4	4
Devolve decisions	0	0	0	2	2
Where is the funding from?	0	0	0	2	2

All applicants for any grants will need to evidence all of the following:

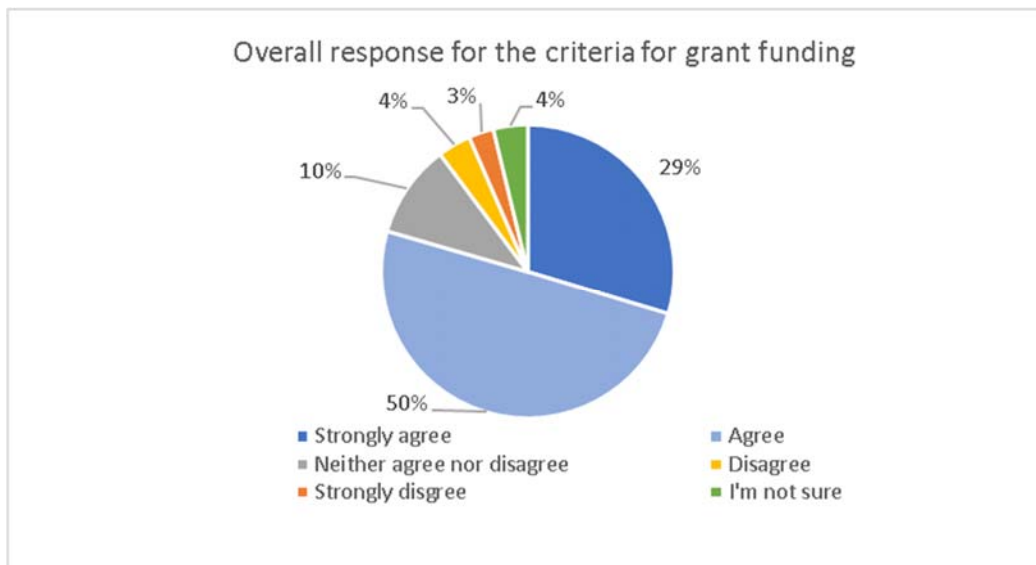
- 1. Applications will assist Dorset Council to deliver its Corporate Priorities**
- 2. Applications will help to develop capacity in their sector and directly deliver benefits to people in the Dorset Council area**
- 3. Applications will actively promote diverse and inclusive communities**
- 4. Applications will have measurable outputs and outcomes that feedback Insight information regarding Dorset Councils communities, trends and where applicable identify gaps in provision**
- 5. Applications will demonstrate long-term good practice and/or sustainability**
- 6. Provide evidence that the organisation will be fit for purpose and resilient**
- 7. Any building or premises should have reasonable tenure for a minimum of 20 years (capital applications)**

Q27 How much do you agree or disagree with the criteria above?

Overall responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
Number	475	798	165	59	44	61
% of all who responded	29.7%	49.8%	10.3%	3.7%	2.7%	3.8%

The overall responses show strong net agreement to this proposal for general criteria for all organisations applying for grants. 79.5% agreed or strongly agreed to the overall proposals but have used the following text box to qualify their answers. Net agreement is +73.1%. This is a strong figure. Only 11.5% neither agreed nor disagreed. Net agreement from residents, VCS volunteers and VCS organisations were all similarly high.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
Resident responses	27.6%	49.7%	11.5%	3.9%	3.3%	4.1%
VCS (volunteers & users) responses	36.3%	49.5%	7.3%	3.2%	0.9%	2.8%
VCS (official organisational) responses	34.5%	49.3%	6.8%	3.4%	2.0%	4.1%



Q28 Tell us more about your answer

279 residents, 47 Others, 60 representatives of official organisations and 113 involved in a VCS organisation, responded to this opportunity to discuss the 7 funding criteria listed in question 27. The key issues are highlighted in the table below.

Issue	Mentions			TOTAL
	Residents	Other	Voluntary sector	
1- Applications will assist Dorset Council to deliver its Corporate Priorities				
Agree	27	0	9	39
What are the Priorities?	24	3	2	29
Dorset Council regularly changes Corporate Priorities	11	1	4	17
Disagree – it's about community aspirations	2	5	1	11
Most important statement	5	0	0	5
2- Applications will help to develop capacity in their sector and directly deliver benefits to people in the Dorset Council area				
Agree	32	2	9	47
Support shortfalls	22	0	0	22
Protect skills	21	0	0	21
What capacity	4	0	0	4
Disagree	0	1	1	2
3 - Applications will actively promote diverse and inclusive communities				
Agree	28	1	10	44
May overlook those who don't class as diverse	27	1	1	29
Doesn't apply to Dorset	9	4	1	14
4 - Applications will have measurable outputs and outcomes that feedback Insight information regarding Dorset Councils communities, trends and where applicable identify gaps provision				
Agree	28	1	13	48
Shouldn't be included	12	4	5	23
Share funding	15	0	0	16
How will they be measured	8	5	0	13
What is 'Insight information'	5	1	0	6

5 - Applications will demonstrate long-term good practice and/or sustainability					
Agree	31	0	9	4	44
How can it show if the funding is limited	7	2	2	2	13
Not always good practice	11	1	1	0	13
6 - Provide evidence that the organisation will be fit for purpose and resilient					
Agree	29	0	13	4	46
More favourable to established projects/businesses over small/independent projects	15	2	1	2	20
7 - Any building or premises should have reasonable tenure for a minimum of 20 years (capital applications)					
Too long of a time period	32	4	7	6	49
Shouldn't be included	28	4	5	3	40
Agree	26	0	8	3	37
Other					
Support for Community and Voluntary Sector	49	1	5	4	59
Corporate jargon	51	2	1	2	56
Support Arts	30	4	15	5	54
Some may not be able to meet all 7	22	4	10	8	44
Be reasonable in requirements for small grants/small organisations	5	7	14	11	37
Climate change/emergency/environment	15	3	1	3	22
Be more flexible	3	7	5	4	19
Other	0	2	9	8	19
Different testing method should be used	11	2	3	0	16
Support businesses and tourism	2	2	3	0	7

Applications for community development, community events, play and sports development will need to evidence the following:

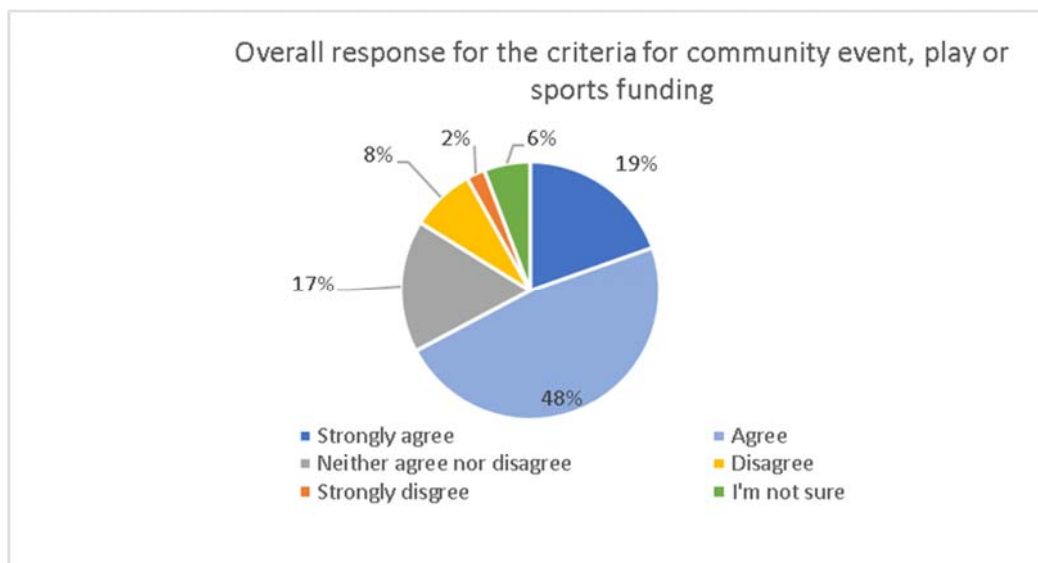
1. Target disadvantaged areas (thematic or geographical)
2. Community events will become sustainable as a result of the funding (one-off funding permitted)
3. Sports must be recognised by Sports England (Sport applications only)

Q29 “How much do you agree or disagree with the criteria above?”

Overall responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I’m not sure
Number	312	759	265	128	37	92
% of all who responded	19.6%	47.6%	16.6%	8.0%	2.3%	5.8%

The overall responses show strong net agreement to this proposal for general criteria for community development, community events, play and sports development evidence criteria. 67.2% agreed or strongly agreed to the overall proposals but have used the following text box to qualify their answers. Net agreement is +56.9%. This is a fairly strong figure. 16.6% neither agreed nor disagreed. Net agreement from residents, VCS volunteers and VCS organisations were all similarly high.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I’m not sure
Resident responses	19.7%	47.5%	15.7%	9.1%	2.9%	5.1%
VCS (volunteers & users) responses	23.7%	45.2%	18.9%	5.4%	0.6%	6.1%
VCS (official organisational) responses	14.5%	56.6%	12.4%	4.8%	0.0%	11.7%



Q30 Tell us more about your answer -

208 residents, 34 other, 57 volunteers and 40 official organisations responded to this question, taking the opportunity to explain their answers. Their main concerns were about the insistence that the events become sustainable. Many felt this wasn't necessary. They also felt the conditions were too restrictive, particularly involving Sport England in the recognition of sports. The full list of concerns are included below and the full comments are included in the appendix.

Comment	Mentions				
	Residents	Others	voluntary Sector	Organisations	TOTAL
Community events are not always sustainable but can be good	47	11	10	17	85
Too restrictive	41	7	5	6	59
Sports England approval is too restrictive	28	9	10	11	58
Defining and measuring deprivation is difficult	16	8	4	11	39
Community includes everyone	5	1	9	2	17
Doesn't allow for new sports	7	0	3	6	16
Other	5	2	8	1	16
Needs discretion	10	0	4	1	15
Targeting disadvantaged area is good	8	3	0	1	12
Poor question/don't understand	7	2	1	0	10
Need climate plan/ecologically sound	4	3	0	0	7
Looks fair	6	0	2	0	8
Aim to become sustainable events in time	5	0	0	1	6
Needs to be fair	3	1	0	0	4
Sustainability of events supported	2	1	1	0	4
Recommended by Sports England is good	2	0	0	0	2
Use different method	0	0	2	0	2

Applications for capital leverage (by capital leverage we mean investing a small amount of money to enable another funder to invest a large amount of money into a capital project in Dorset) will need to evidence the following:

1. Maximum commitment of 20% of the total project cost
2. Will have the capability to be allocated up to 3 years in advance – this could include provisional allocations while applicants develop supporting funding arrangements
3. There will be a demonstrable impact on the local economy
4. There will be evidence-based community benefits in terms of skills development and/or improved well being

Q31 “How much do you agree or disagree with the criteria above?”

Overall responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
Number	329	812	242	58	26	129
% of all who responded	20.6%	50.9%	15.2%	3.6%	1.6%	8.1%

The overall responses show strong net agreement to this proposal for applications for capital leverage grants. 71.5% agreed or strongly agreed to the overall proposals but have used the following text box to qualify their answers. Net agreement is +66.3%. This is a strong figure. 15.2% neither agreed nor disagreed. Net agreement from residents, VCS volunteers and VCS organisations were all similarly high.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
Residents	21.3%	52.4%	14.0%	3.8%	1.8%	6.7%
VCS (volunteers & users) responses	22.5%	47.8%	16.5%	2.2%	0.9%	10.1%
VCS (official organisational) responses	16.9%	54.1%	10.8%	6.1%	0.7%	11.5%

Q32 Tell us more about your answer –

137 residents, 34 other, 57 volunteers and 40 official organisations responded to this question, taking the opportunity to explain their answers. The main issues were the concerns over demonstrating the impact on the local economy and whether the 20% contribution was too low. Whilst many thought the idea was good there were some concerns that it is too rigid and needs to be more flexible. The full list of issues is shown in the table below and full comments are included in the appendix.

Comment	Mentions				
	Residents	Others	Voluntary Sector	Organisations	TOTAL
How do you measure demonstrable impact on the local economy and is it necessary?	21	5	4	7	37
Good important idea	15	2	11	7	35
20% contribution is too low/high	18	3	7	4	32
Other	20	3	4	3	30
Don't understand/not enough info	9	4	6	4	23
Too rigid - needs to be more flexible	10	4	2	2	18
How do you measure community benefits and well being	7	0	2	3	12
Evidence	2	2	2	4	10
Waste of money/too complex	2	3	4	0	9
Need to include a climate plan/ environmental plan	7	1	0	0	8
Refundable or a grant if doesn't go ahead?	2	1	1	1	5
Some conditions can only be measured afterwards	3	1	0	0	4
Social capital important	3	1	0	0	4

Applications for museums, cultural and heritage will need to evidence the following:

1. Not for profit organisations are an accredited museum, cultural or heritage organisation
2. Evidence that a range of Dorset residents will have participated in the cultural organisations offer/programme.
3. The offer will be distinctive and form a critical component of the town or Dorset wide cultural provision, that is not duplicated elsewhere
4. There will be a demonstrable impact on the local economy
5. There will be evidence-based community benefits in terms of skills development and/or improved well-being
6. There will be a strong track record of inward external investment over the last three years.

Resident responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
Number	247	503	136	49	26	45
% of all who responded	24.6%	50.0%	13.5%	4.9%	2.6%	4.5%

The resident responses show strong net agreement to this proposal for the proposed criteria for all applications for museums, cultural and heritage applying for grants. 74.6% agreed or strongly agreed to the overall proposals but have used the following text box to qualify their answers. Net agreement is +67.1%. This is a strong figure. 13.5% neither agreed nor disagreed.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I'm not sure
VCS (volunteers & users) responses	31.4%	44.4%	14.3%	3.5%	1.6%	4.8%
VCS (official organisational) responses	17.2%	49.7%	13.8%	5.5%	1.4%	12.4%

Q34 Tell us more about your answer

230 residents, 42 other, 83 volunteers and 43 official organisations responded to this question, taking the opportunity to explain their answers. The main issue was concerns over whether the inward investment rule was feasible and reasonable. There were many concerns over whether smaller organisations could evidence the community benefits and the inwards investment. The difficulties of showing economic benefits seemed to favour the larger organisations. The full list of issues is shown in the table below and full comments are included in the appendix.

Comment	Public	Other	Voluntary sector	Organisations	TOTAL
Will not be able to show economic benefit (especially smaller organisations.) It is unrealistic.	26	5	10	9	50
Smaller/new organisations will struggle with evidencing 5 &6	21	6	8	5	40
Arts organisation/museum particularly important/good	5	5	20	5	35
Do not agree with inward external investment requirement (whatever that means)	24	1	5	4	34
Other	18	6	5	1	30
Too prescriptive - needs flexibility and discretion	15	6	2	4	27
Very difficult to evidence all for small organisations, villages etc	11	8	0	3	22
Visitors important too	11	5	4	2	22
Poorly worded, too vague, too complicated	16	3	1	0	20
Accreditation not always possible/necessary	11	3	3	3	20
Duplication is not a bad thing. Everything does not need to be unique	14	1	4	1	20
Seem to bias against small and local	12	1	3	2	18
In a big organisation easier to evidence all six	10	0	0	3	13
Need to define things better e.g. participation, community development	9	2	2	0	13
Improved well-being hard to evidence	7	2	2	1	12
Difficult to measure all	6	2	0	4	12
Form filling for its own sake	4	0	4	2	10
Focus on critical services not museums etc	5	0	0	0	5
Need to link to climate/environmental plan	2	1	0	1	4
Should focus on disadvantaged & diverse groups	2	1	0	1	4
How will communities be involved	3	0	0	0	3

Q35 Tell us anything else

163 residents, 29 other, 65 volunteers and 42 official organisations responded to this opportunity to explain anything else. The top 4 issues raised were supporting the arts, supporting local communities, spread the money around and how important the grants are for cultural benefits. The whole list of issues raised are included in the table below and the full comments are in the appendix.

Comment	Residents	Other	Voluntary sector	Organisations	TOTAL
Support arts	42	10	19	5	76
Support organisations	11	8	22	17	58
Support local communities/ community groups	39	4	5	8	56
Important for cultural benefits	27	3	3	5	38
Spread the wealth	28	1	1	2	32
Shouldn't compete for funding/ease to apply	7	3	3	7	20
Working with similar groups to share good practice/avoid duplication	12	2	2	2	18
Residents and visitors would suffer without	15	0	1	0	16
Must improve environment/ climate	12	1	2	0	15
Benefit health and mental welfare	14	0	0	0	14
Support to rural communities	8	2	3	1	14
Need to support lower income communities	10	0	0	0	10
Assist learning	8	0	0	0	8
Keep funding up/ long term too	2	1	2	2	7
Shouldn't have to demonstrate all areas	5	0	0	0	5

Developing a VCS funding offer in the future

People were asked if they “Would you be happy for us to contact you to either talk more about your answers or to work with us on developing the VCS funding offer in the future?”

420 (26.5%) were happy to discuss their answers.

42 (2.9%) were happy to be contacted to discuss working together in the future

227 (14.3%) were happy to be contacted about either of the suggestions above

This shows strong commitment to developing the DC VCS funding offer.

The organisations themselves

This following section looks at responses directly from organisations specifically about how they function and their funding.

There were 148 official representations from VCS organisations.

- 86 (59.3%) A specific area in Dorset**
- 19 (13.1%) All of Dorset Council Area**
- 37 (25.5%) All of Dorset Council area and beyond**
- 3 (2.1%) Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch area**

Those that covered a specific area of Dorset explained the areas covered included:
15 mile radius of Sturminster Newton
Alderholt and surrounding villages: Previously EAST DORSET
ALL AREAS WITHIN NORTH WEST DORSET (10/15 MILE RADIUS OF STALBRIDGE DT10 AREA)
All Dorset Council areas with the exception of the old East Dorset area
All of East Dorset, and Bearwood
Askerswell and neighbouring parishes including Briport.
BH21
BH23
Blandford and surrounding villages
Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch and extending across the Purbecks, Wimborne, Ferndown and Verwood
Bridport
Bridport
Bridport
Bridport and surrounding villages
Bridport parish area
Bridport Town and 13 other parishes from Charmouth to Pucknowle and Swyre.
Bridport, Dorchester, Weymouth and Lyme Regis plus towns and villages in between
Broadwindsor
Castle Cove Beach, Rodwell, Weymouth
Chesil Bank Parish
Chideock & surrounding district
Colehill, Wimborne
Corfe Castle Parish, Wareham, Swanage
Cranborne, Edmondsham & Environs
Dorchester, Weymouth, Blandford, Purbecks
Dorchester, Weymouth, Blandford, Purbecks
DT8 3
East Dorset

Ferndown
From Lyme Regis in the West to Swanage in the East - from Portland to North Dorset - not East Dorset
Gillingham and surrounding villages
Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Mere, Marnhull, Sherborne, Wincanton and neighbouring villages.
Halstock and surrounding villages but we do get people from further afield for events like Artsreach
High Street and Old Weymouth (not Melcombe Regis_
Loders and West Dorset
Lyme Regis
Lyme Regis and surrounding parishes
Melplash and surrounding area
Morden & nearby Red Post villages
North Dorset
North Dorset
North Dorset
North Dorset predominantly, but have members from Wiltshire, Somerset and Bournemouth
North Dorset, Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Blackmore Vale areas
Parish of Holwell
Poole, Bournemouth, Wimborne and Wareham
Portland
Puddletown
Purbeck
Shaftesbury
Sherborne
Sherborne
Sherborne and its immediate surrounding area
Sherborne, Gillingham
South Perrott
SP8
Swanage and east Purbeck
Swanage and Purbeck
The former West Dorset district
Wareham and surrounding district
West & North Dorset, Dorchester and Weymouth
West Bay and surrounding area
WEST DORSET
West Dorset
West Dorset
West Dorset
West Dorset primarily, best we do work across the whole of Dorset, as well as East Devon
West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland
West Milton
Weymouth
Weymouth & Portland
Weymouth & Portland
Weymouth and Portland mainly but also have visitors from all over Dorset and UK

Weymouth Dorchester portland
Weymouth,Portland and Dorchester
Wimborne
Wimborne & the surrounding areas
Wimborne and surrounds
Wimborne Minster
Wimborne St Giles and surrounding areas
Wimborne, Colehill & surrounding area - up to Six Penny Handley
Wool, Bovington, Lulworth, Winfrith

Q5 Which of the following describes the work your organisation focuses on? Please tick all that apply;

The list below identifies the wide area of work that the voluntary and community sector respondents came from. Some will cover multiple areas. The most strongly represented areas are involved with young people and older people. Vulnerable adults were also well represented as were community events and festivals. Arts, heritage, museums and sport were less well represented.

Young people/youth	67
Older people	63
Vulnerable adults	63
Community Events and Festivals	62
Children	59
People with learning or physical disabilities	50
Community Development	49
Volunteer development	48
Information, advice and guidance	43
Arts	42
Heritage	32
Voluntary and community sector support (infrastructure)	32
Other	26
Sport	23
Museums	17
Homelessness	11

Responses from groups representing other interests specified them as:

- Alleviating 'social isolation' including making BH23 'dementia aware / friendly'
- Bereavement Support for Children, Young People and their Families
- BSO, through both its performance programme and the outreach work of BSO Participate have a womb to tomb philosophy of providing opportunity to experience and take part in creativity.
- Delivering workshop style training in relationships
- Education

- Education - Early years settings, schools, colleges, universities, teachers, EY practitioners, students
- Environment
- Environment, litter picks, campaign work about single use plastic, all people
- Fundraising, professional development and CPD for the sector, venue management (The Little Keep creative hub)
- LGBT+
- Mental health & Social Inclusion (service provider)
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Mental Health Education, Awareness Raising, Campaigning and Support Services
- Mental health, drop ins by local people and tourists
- Mental health, young parents, learning (GCSE equivalent qualifications, English and Maths)
- People with mental health issues. People with physical and mental health difficulties caused by disease/health conditions. Wellbeing support.
- Planning, parks, open spaces, allotments, markets, tourism, funding (grants).
- Surfing
- Venue for individual celebrations
- We keep open Castle Cove Beach.
- We run celebratory schools and community projects celebrating Dorset's natural and historical heritage.
- We support families through trained volunteers. The families we support come from all with a wide range of challenges and difficulties
- We turn the dreams and aspirations of our community into reality
- We work with Young Carers (Age 5-18) and Young Adult Carers (Age 18-25)
- Younger for Longer, Bridge and U3A Sports & Social activities for people who may be lonely and need to get out and meet people

Q6 Does your organisation work with or support any of the following? (This includes work you do with other partners;) Please tick all that apply

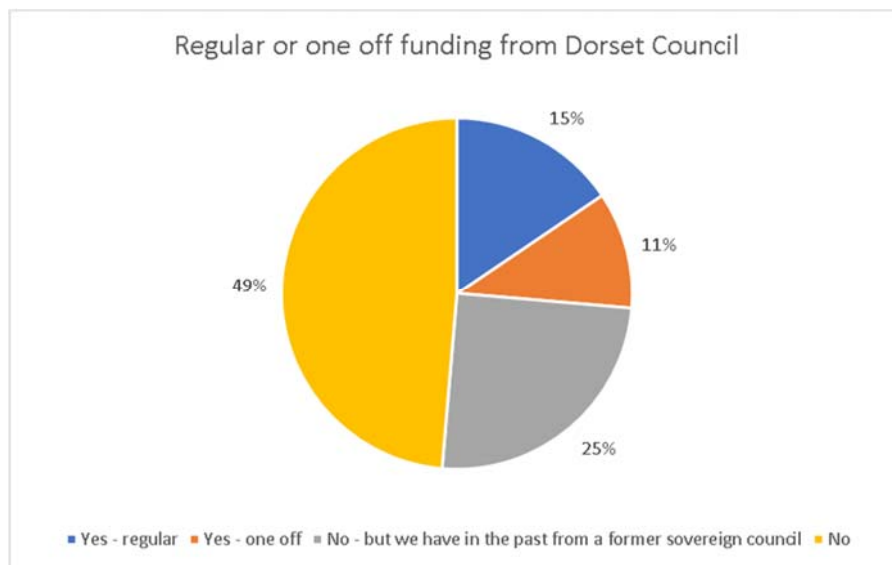
The table below shows the wide range of responses to the question about what people organisations support. The spread is right across the board, but some organisations are aimed at the wider general public. Those focusing on groups particularly specified children, young people, people with mental health problems, vulnerable adults and people with a physical or learning disability.

	Number	%
General public (not targeted at any specific client group)	102	10.9
Children	80	8.6
People with mental health problems	71	7.6
Vulnerable adults	63	6.7
People with physical or learning disability	62	6.6
Young people	62	6.6
People with long term health conditions	61	6.5

People on low incomes	58	6.2
People who live in areas of deprivation	58	6.2
Vulnerable young people	53	5.7
Vulnerable older people	53	5.7
Unemployed	41	4.4
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)	37	4.0
Homeless People	30	3.2
People affected by / recovering from substance misuse	30	3.2
Migrants and/or ethnic minorities	30	3.2
Any other people with protected characteristic (as per Equality Act)	30	3.2
Other	13	1.4

Q7 Does your organisation currently receive any regular or one-off grant funding from Dorset Council? (This does not include commissioned contracts)

	Number	%
Yes - regular	23	15
Yes - one off	16	11
No - but we have in the past from a former sovereign council	37	25
No	72	49



Interestingly of the 148 official organisational responses to the survey virtually half were neither receiving a grant from Dorset Council nor had received one from their former sovereign council. Nearly 40 organisations either received a regular or one-off grant.

Q8 What percentage of your funding currently comes from Dorset Council?

Those who did get funding from Dorset Council were asked what proportion of their overall funding this made up. The results are shown in the table below

	Number	%
Less than 10%	19	49
10-20%	9	23
21-30%	5	13
31-40%	1	3
41-50%	2	5
51-60%	0	0
61-70%	1	3
71-80%	0	0
81-90%	0	0
over 90%	2	5

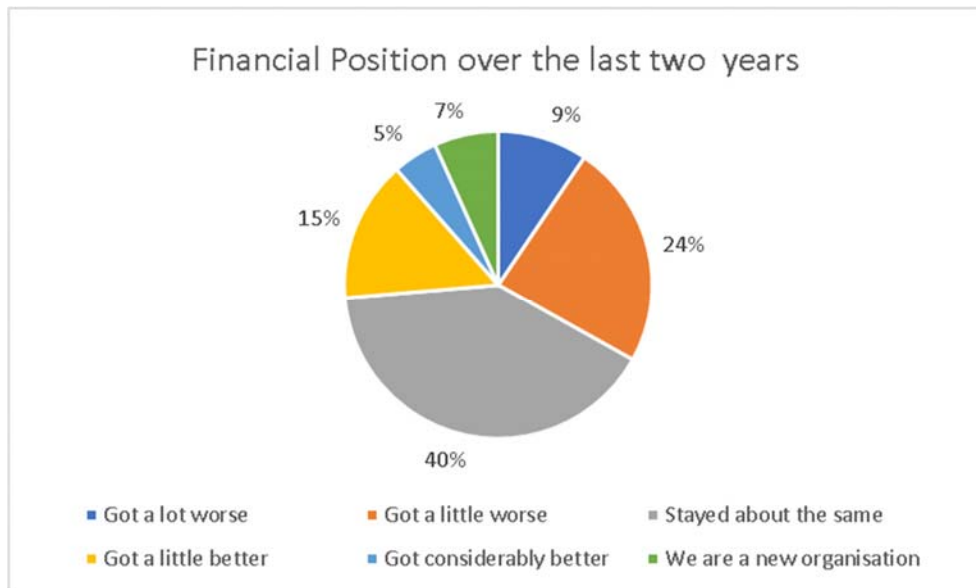
Half of the respondents said the DC grant only made up less than 10% of their income. For 84% of respondents it was less than a third of their overall income.

Q9 In terms of money, how much funding do you receive from Dorset Council? Please tell us how much and if this was a one-off grant or is ongoing funding.

37 grant recipients responded to this question. The responses show the funding amounts vary significantly from £127,000 for a service level agreement with one major organisation down to a few hundred pounds for one-off grants. Other major grants were £72,000, £54,000, £31,000 and £17,000.

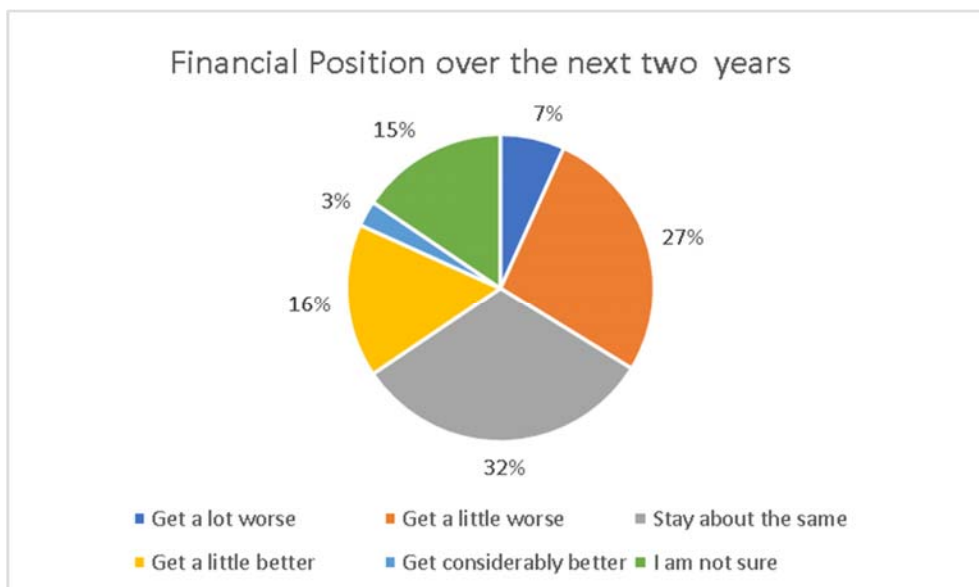
Q10 Over the last two years would you say your organisation's financial position has;

	Number	%
Got a lot worse	14	9
Got a little worse	35	24
Stayed about the same	60	40
Got a little better	22	15
Got considerably better	7	5
We are a new organisation	10	7



Q11 Over the next two years would you say your organisation's financial position will;

	Number	%
Get a lot worse	10	7
Get a little worse	40	27
Stay about the same	47	32
Get a little better	24	16
Get considerably better	4	3
I am not sure	23	16



As the question above shows, 73% felt that their financial position over the last two years had either stayed the same or got worse. People felt slightly more optimistic over the coming two years with this figure dropping to 66%. Only 1 in 5 organisations thought it would get better over the coming two years.

Q12 Do you currently have a designated person who is responsible for fundraising and or bid writing to bring new funds in?

	Number	%
Yes	86	59
No but we used to	11	8
No but we are considering this	26	18
No	23	16

Interestingly over half of organisations had designated fundraisers/bid writers, with quite a few more considering getting someone to cover this role.

Q13 Do you currently receive any matched funding linked to funding received from Dorset Council?

	Number	%
Yes we do	12	31
No but we plan to apply for some	2	5
No we do not receive any match funding	21	54
I'm not sure	4	10

Half the organisations who get grants from Dorset Council do not receive (or apply for) any matched funding. Nearly 1 in 3 do get matched funding at the moment.

Q14 If you were to receive reduced funding by up to 10% from Dorset Council from April 2021 what impact would that have on your organisation? Please tick all that apply.

As the table below shows, whilst most felt the risk of redundancies and closure would be limited if funding were reduced there would have to be other cutbacks. The main concern would be the need to reduce the quality/extent of their services. Other major concerns were the funding from others may be at risk and the number of people using the services would need to be restricted. A whole range of further concerns were selected.

	Number	% of those responding
We would need to reduce quality/extent of some services	23	62
Funding from other funders may be at risk	18	49
We would need to restrict the number of people who can access services	17	46
We would need to commit significant staff resources to securing income/fundraising	12	32
We may need to close one or more services	10	27
We would need to charge for some services	10	27
We may have to make redundancies	9	24
We would need to consider partnering with another service deliverer to maintain service	7	19
We would need to limit services to those who are not in greatest need	6	16
We would need to make redundancies	4	11
We may need to close the organisation	4	11
We would have to close one or more services	3	8
We would have to close the organisation	1	3

Q15 Are there any other impacts that having a reduction in funding from Dorset Council may have on your organisation, service users or volunteers?

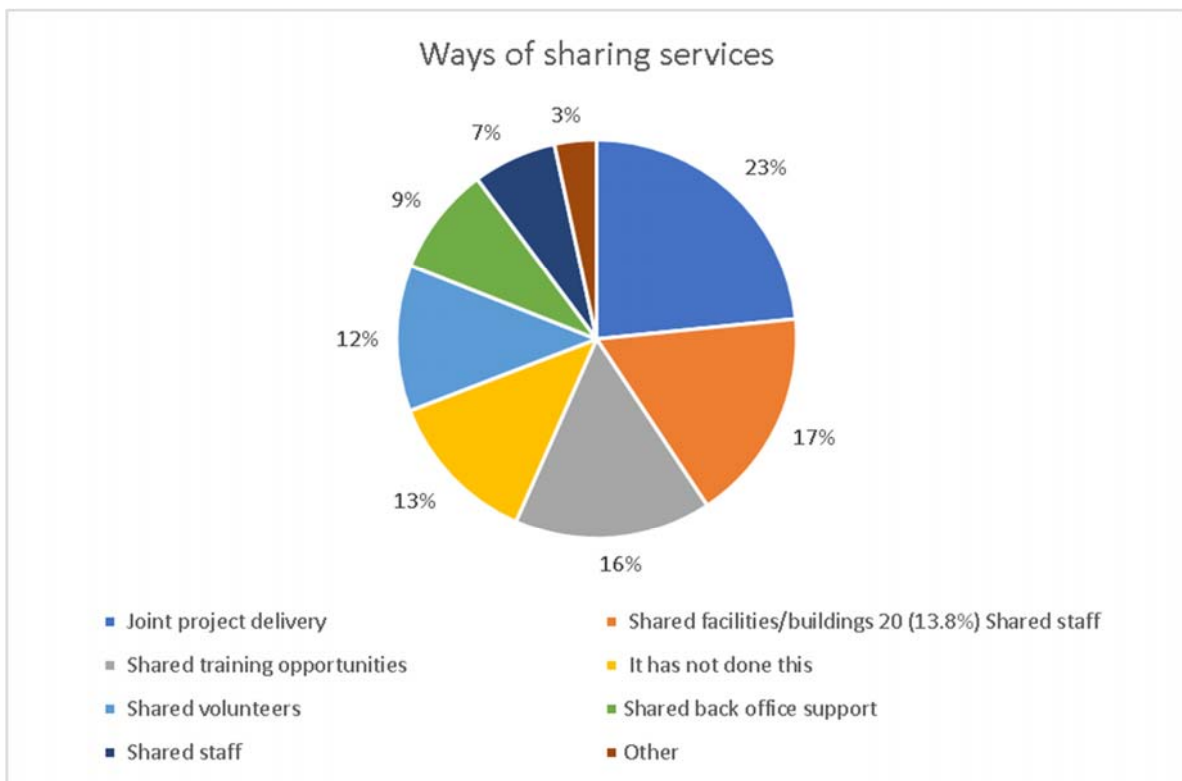
There were 25 responses to this question. Most reiterated concerns on the list above but were specific to the area they worked in. Most related to the current level of service being reduced. Examples include:

- “cuts across all services”
- “review services”
- “restructure service”
- “reduced core services”

Full details of all comments are in the appendix.

Q16 How has your organisation looked at ways it can work more closely with/share services with other organisations? (Tick all that apply)

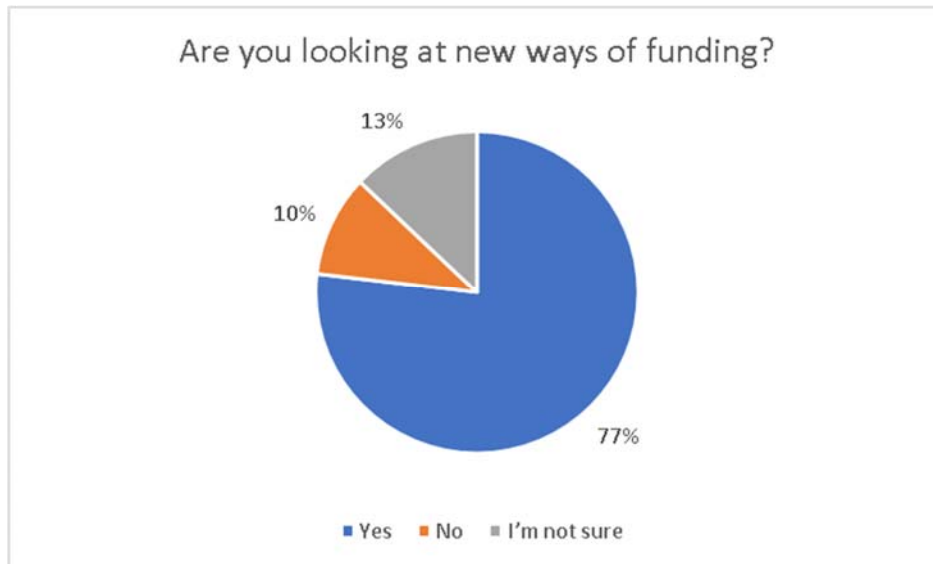
	Number	%
Joint project delivery	69	47
Shared facilities/buildings	51	35
Shared training opportunities	47	32
It has not done this	37	26
Shared volunteers	35	24
Shared back office support	26	18
Shared staff	20	14
Other	10	7



Many of the organisations had looked at ways of joint working with joint project delivery being the main one, followed by shared facilities/buildings and shared training opportunities. The whole list is shown above. 10 organisations mentioned other ways they had looked at sharing services and these included collaboration at different levels. Some collaborated at town level, some across subject areas, some across very specific specialist areas but others found collaboration difficult for a variety of reasons.

Q17 Is your organisation currently looking for new ways of funding/income?

	Number	%
Yes	113	77
No	15	10
I'm not sure	19	13



Three quarters of all organisations responding are looking for new ways of funding/income generation. Clearly income generation and survival are important and pressing issues for most voluntary organisations.

Q18 Tell us more about the new ways of funding you are looking at;

107 organisations responded to this question. The table below highlights the responses. Organisations are applying for a wider range of grants, changing the way they do things, running community events, fundraising events and looking at company sponsorship. A whole range of other suggestions and ideas are included below.

New ways of funding	mentions
Applying for a wider range of grants	16
Re-inventing/developing new services/diverging what we do	12
Community events	10
Company sponsorship	8
Fundraising events	8
Working with donors and businesses	6
More professional bid writing	6
More collaboration	5
Using all methods available	4
Raise income by renting things/property out	4
Specific schemes such as Keep the Change, Crowdfunding and Big Give	4

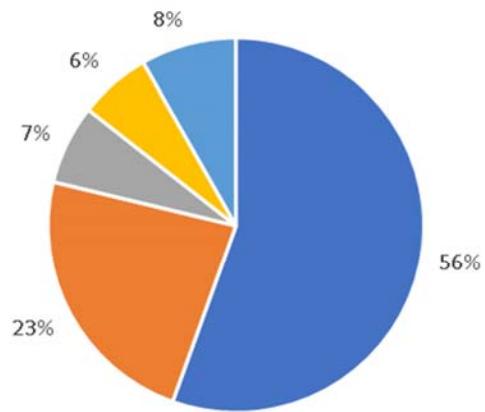
Commercial/retail arm	4
Become more business like	4
Do partnership bids	3
Using long term funder/trusts	3
Invest to increase capacity/income	3
Advertising	2
Using the National Lottery	2
Online sales	2
Reducing overheads	2
Focus on legacies	2
Building wider supporter base	1
Working over bigger geographical area	1
Running a charity shop	1
Raise/introduce charges	1
More research about what funding is available	1
Web donations	1

Q19 The Charity Commission recommends VCS organisations hold at least 6 months running cost in reserves. Do you currently have this?

	Number	%
Yes we have at least 6 months running costs	81	56
No but we have at least 3 months running costs	34	23
No we have less than 3 months running costs	10	7
No we do not have any reserves	9	6
Not applicable	12	8

Over half the organisations hold 6 months running costs in reserve and a further quarter have at least three months. Only 6% hold no reserves.

Do you hold 6 months running costs in reserve?



- Yes we have at least 6 months running costs
- No but we have at least 3 months running costs
- No we have less than 3 months running costs
- No we do not have any reserves
- No applicable