

Dorset Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise (VCSE) Survey August 2018



Introduction

Dorset Community Action, working with Volunteer Centre Dorset, and Citizens Advice in Dorset developed this survey to establish the current health of Dorset's Voluntary, Community, & Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and to gain an understanding of the impact of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) on the VCSE sector.

We requested that VCSE groups complete a survey online, with some surveys being completed in hard copy at Dorset Community Action (DCA) networking events.

The survey closed on 31st July 2018, with 199 VCSE groups from across the county, including 4 groups from Bournemouth and Poole completing returns. With a good range of both size and type of organisations we believe this survey to be a representative sample, showing current trends affecting Dorset's VCSE sector, and also a range of views on LGR and its potential impact.

Key Responses & findings

Of the organisations surveyed who had concerns regarding potential impacts on their organisations and the VCSE sector following Local Government Reorganisation:

- 60.41% were concerned about the future of local authority funding;
 - 54.73% were concerned about access to local authority officer support post LGR;
 - 64.43% were concerned about potential loss of free VCSE support services from infrastructure organisations such as Dorset Community Action, Volunteer Centre Dorset, and Citizens Advice In Dorset.
-
- 61.22 % of VCSE organisations are expecting an increase in demand for services during the coming year, at the same time as anticipated decreases in core funding (21.83%) and financial reserves (27.41%) during the coming year.
 - Current public sector funding given to the VCSE groups surveyed (£1.95 million from local authorities in 2018/19), enabled the **levering of £1,842,850** of external funding into Dorset. The true external funding figure is likely to be much higher than this.
 - From this funding, 1405 volunteers were recruited last year, and 210.3 fte staff were employed, which **supported 133,062 beneficiaries** last year.
 - VCSE organisations estimated that with the support of this funding, volunteers gave 65,822 hours per month (789,864 hrs/year). At a national minimum wage of £7.83 per hour this is worth **£6,184,635 to the Dorset economy**.

Recommendations

Common themes and recommendations highlighted by VCSE organisations as important to consider through the LGR process included:

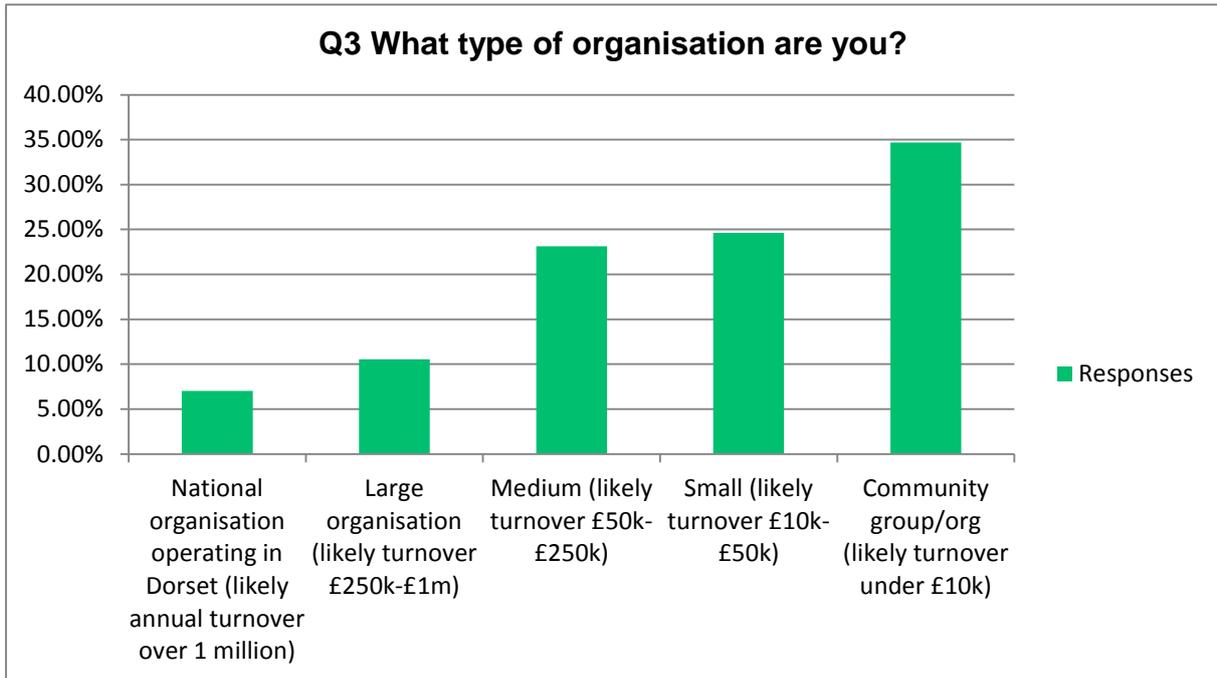
- Establishing a clear VCSE agreement with the new unitary councils from the start.
- The VCSE Sector needs to work together locally to ensure that (a) we can maintain a high profile, and potentially bid for contracts and/or funding jointly, and (b) aim to provide continuity of care to our beneficiaries by making best use of our shared assets.
- We maintain a focus on communication, with a request that local authorities and Shadow Cabinet members maintain an open dialogue with the VCSE sector throughout the LGR process. This responsibility could be overseen by appointing a link councillor from each of the two shadow unitary authorities to keep the VCSE sector informed.
- Integration of the VCSE sector as an equal decision making partner in formulating policy, regarding future community-based service provision. Develop clear plans and priorities for services, housing, sports and leisure etc.
- Provision of ongoing adequate financial support to VCSE infrastructure organisations, e.g. DCA, VCD, CAID etc. that play a key role in developing the sustainability of VCSE groups, and support VCSE sector collaboration.
- Review commissioning processes to ensure small VCSE groups do not experience ongoing barriers to entry and disadvantage in the market place.
- Keep small scale funding open to VCSE organisations, which is invaluable in funding core costs, enabling small organisations to continue delivering services at a grassroots level.
- Fully value the role of volunteers in our communities with a recognition that volunteers are not a 'cheap option', and are not a direct replacement for a fully funded service.

Thank you

We would like to thank all of you who have completed the survey, which has provided an invaluable picture of the current state of the VCSE sector and valuable insights for both VCSE and statutory sector stakeholders in how best we can take forward Local Government Reorganisation in Dorset. We trust that you find this report interesting reading.

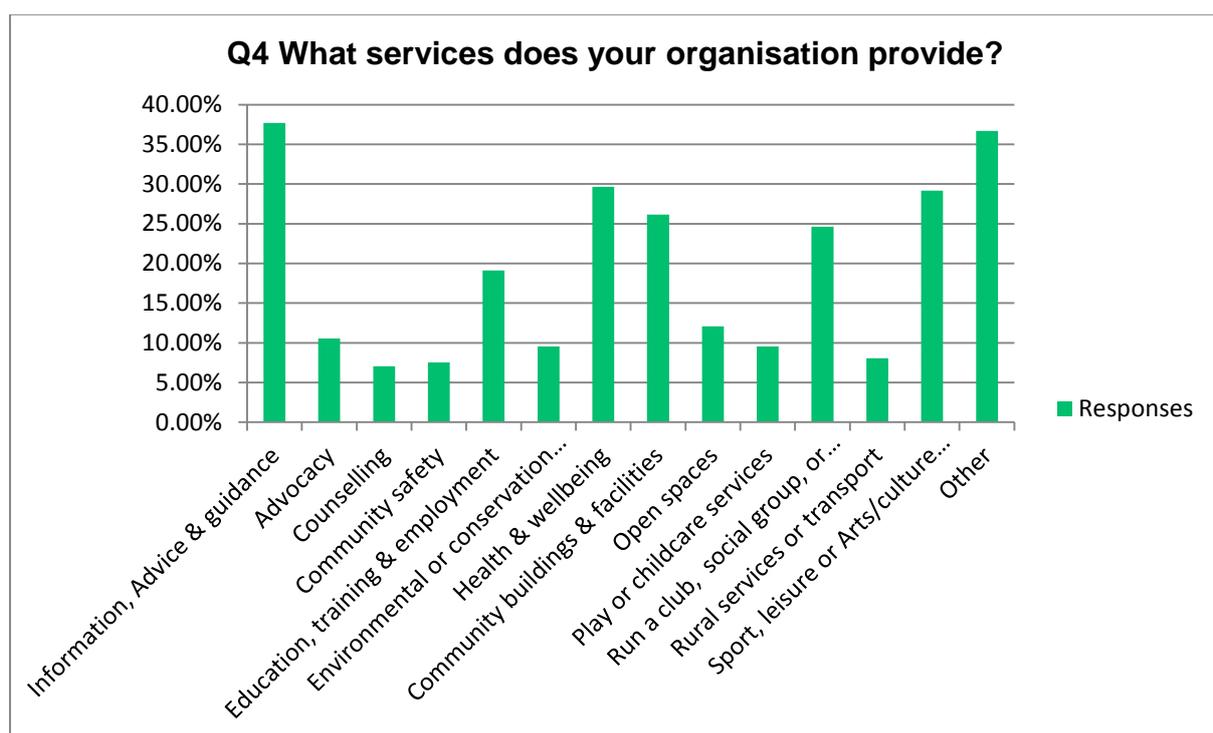
Q3 What type of organisation are you?

National organisation operating in Dorset (likely annual turnover over 1 million)	7.04%
Large organisation (likely turnover £250k-£1m)	10.55%
Medium (likely turnover £50k-£250k)	23.12%
Small (likely turnover £10k-£50k)	24.62%
Community group/org (likely turnover under £10k)	34.67%

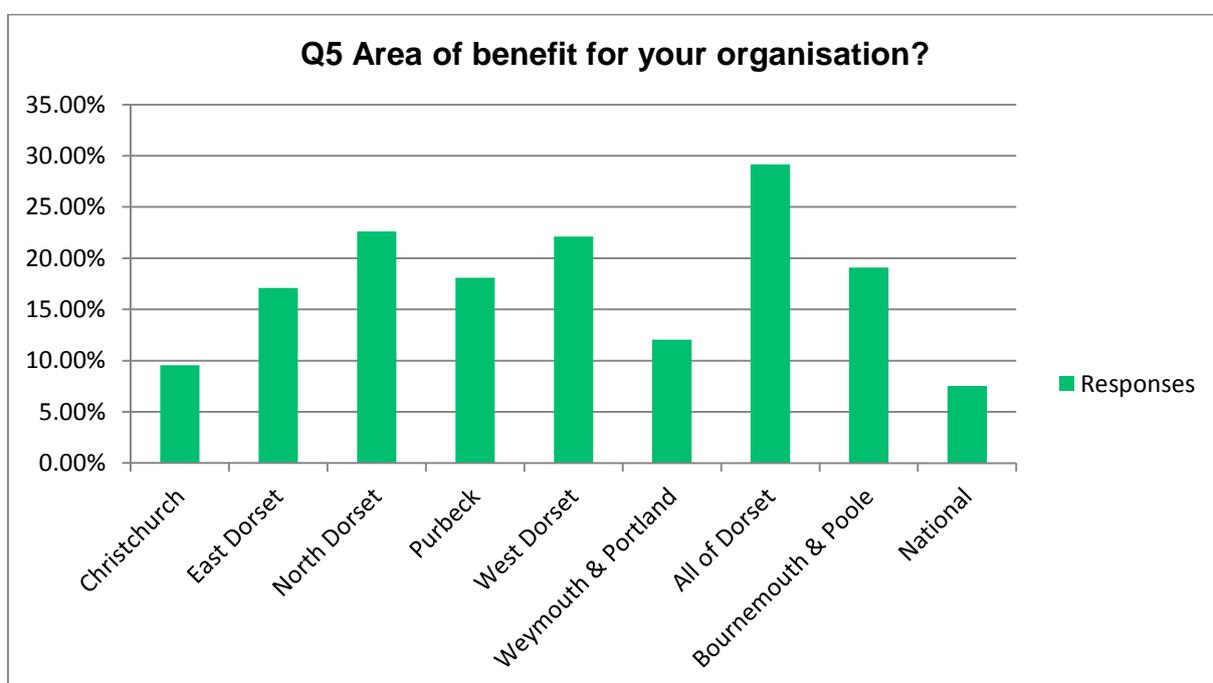


NARRATIVE – Around 59% of VCSE organisations responding to the survey, have a turnover of less than £50,000 per year which reflects Dorset Community Action’s customer profile for VCSE organisations it supports across Dorset each year, and of the make up of the sector as a whole.

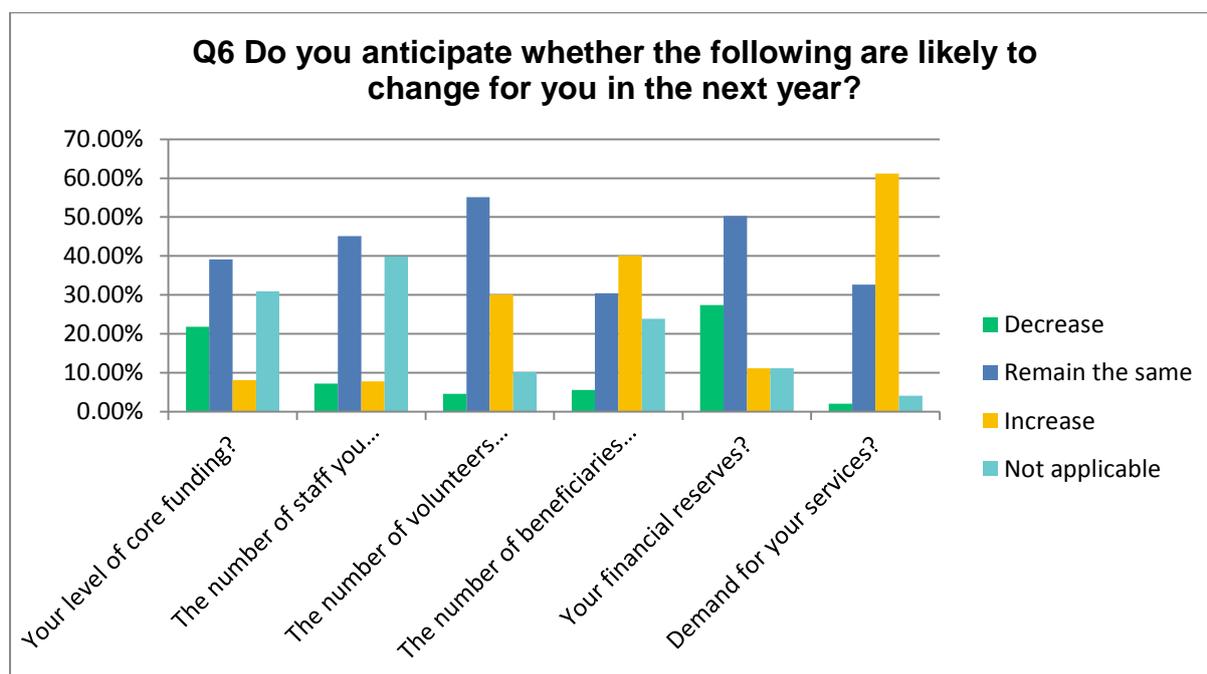
Q4 What services does your organisation provide?	
Information, Advice & guidance	37.69%
Advocacy	10.55%
Counselling	7.04%
Community safety	7.54%
Education, training & employment	19.10%
Environmental or conservation services	9.55%
Health & wellbeing	29.65%
Community buildings & facilities	26.13%
Open spaces	12.06%
Play or childcare services	9.55%
Run a club, social group, or support group	24.62%
Rural services or transport	8.04%
Sport, leisure or Arts/culture activities	29.15%
Other	36.68%



Q5 Area of benefit for your organisation?	
Christchurch	9.55%
East Dorset	17.09%
North Dorset	22.61%
Purbeck	18.09%
West Dorset	22.11%
Weymouth & Portland	12.06%
All of Dorset	29.15%
Bournemouth & Poole	19.10%
National	7.54%

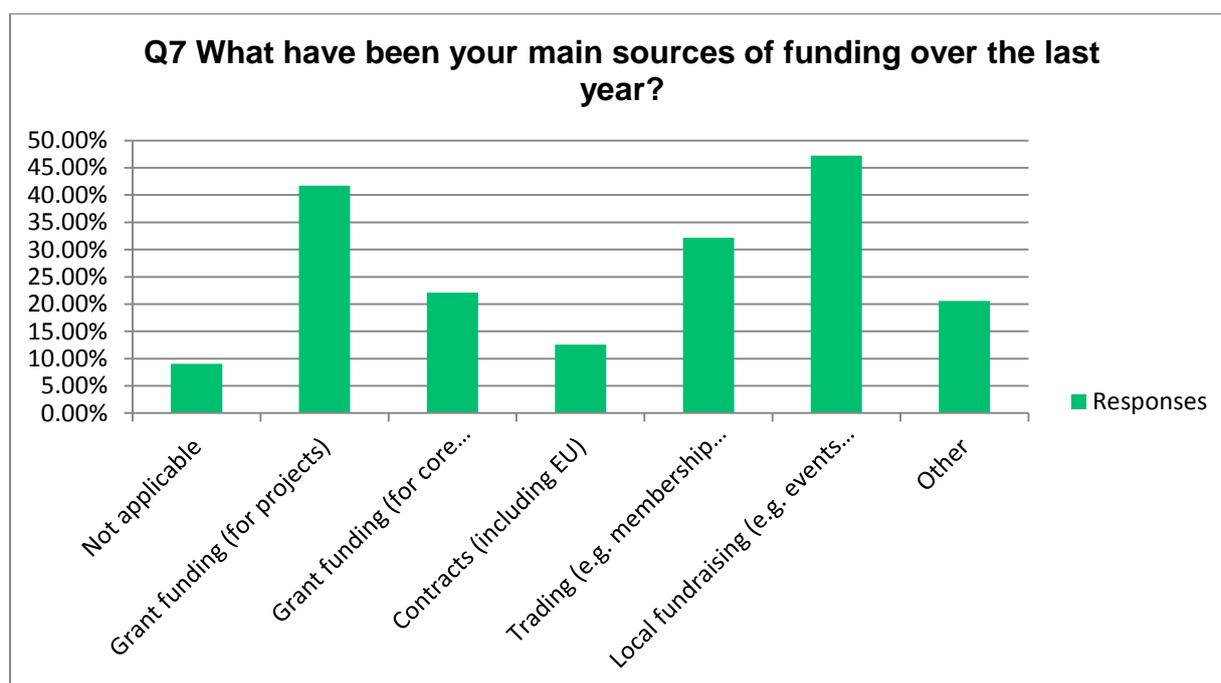


Q6 Do you anticipate whether the following are likely to change for you in the next year?					
	Decrease	Remain the same	Increase	Not applicable	Total
Your level of core funding?	21.83%	39.09%	8.12%	30.96%	197
The number of staff you employ?	7.25%	45.08%	7.77%	39.90%	193
The number of volunteers who assist you?	4.59%	55.10%	30.10%	10.20%	196
The number of beneficiaries you have supported?	5.58%	30.46%	40.10%	23.86%	197
Your financial reserves?	27.41%	50.25%	11.17%	11.17%	197
Demand for your services?	2.04%	32.65%	61.22%	4.08%	196



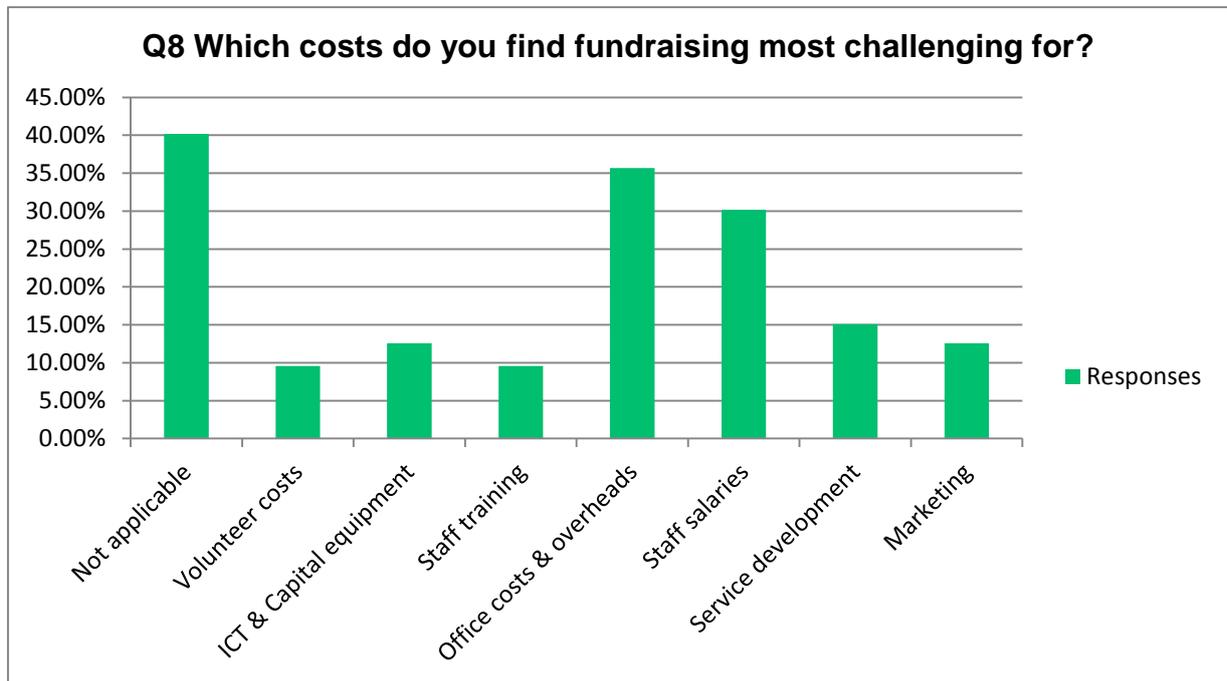
NARRATIVE – Highest % increases are for 61.22 % of VCSE organisations expecting an increase in demand for services, with 40.1% expecting the number of beneficiaries they support to go up. This is against a background of the VCSE sector being financially squeezed, with the biggest anticipated decreases being in core funding (21.83%) and financial reserves (27.41%).

Q7 What have been your main sources of funding over the last year?	
Not applicable	9.05%
Grant funding (for projects)	41.71%
Grant funding (for core funding)	22.11%
Contracts (including EU)	12.56%
Trading (e.g. membership fees, charges, sale of goods)	32.16%
Local fundraising (e.g. events etc.)	47.24%
Other	20.60%



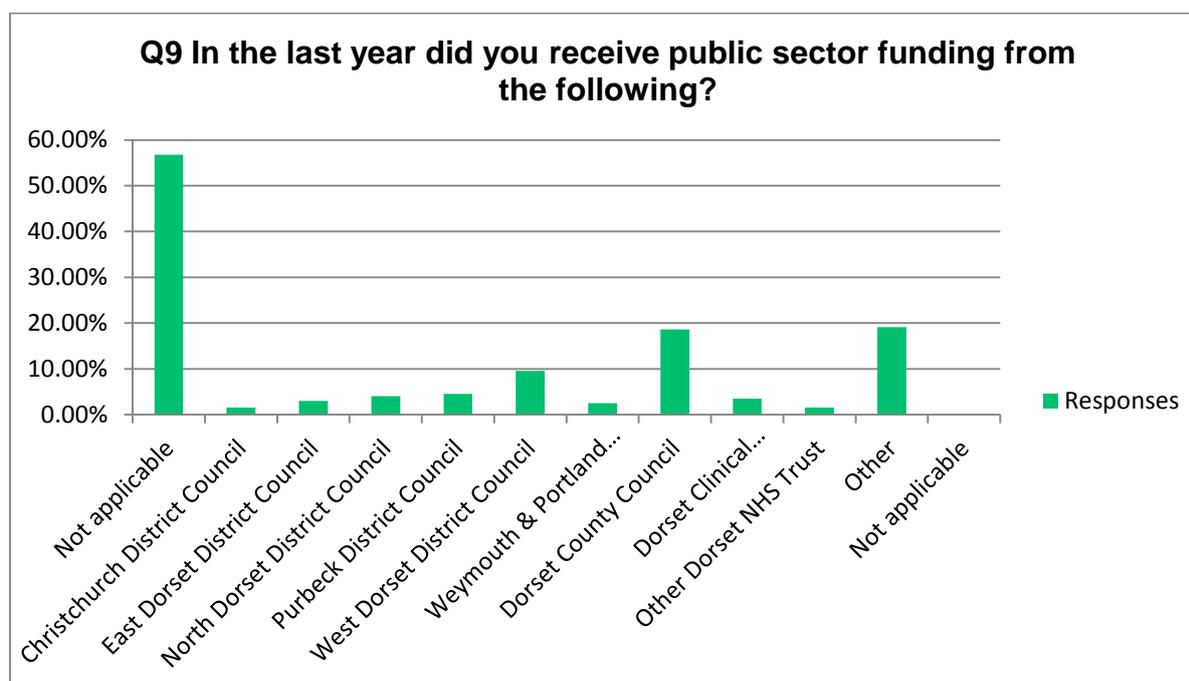
NARRATIVE – while VCSE organisations demonstrate a wide mix of income sources including high levels of trading and fund raising income, there is a notable low level of public sector contracts. This is likely an indicator of current public sector commissioning policy favouring the letting of super-sized pan Dorset contracts, with the resulting barriers to small organisations being able to bid for these contracts.

Q8 Which costs do you find fundraising most challenging for?	
Not applicable	40.20%
Volunteer costs	9.55%
ICT & Capital equipment	12.56%
Staff training	9.55%
Office costs & overheads	35.68%
Staff salaries	30.15%
Service development	15.08%
Marketing	12.56%



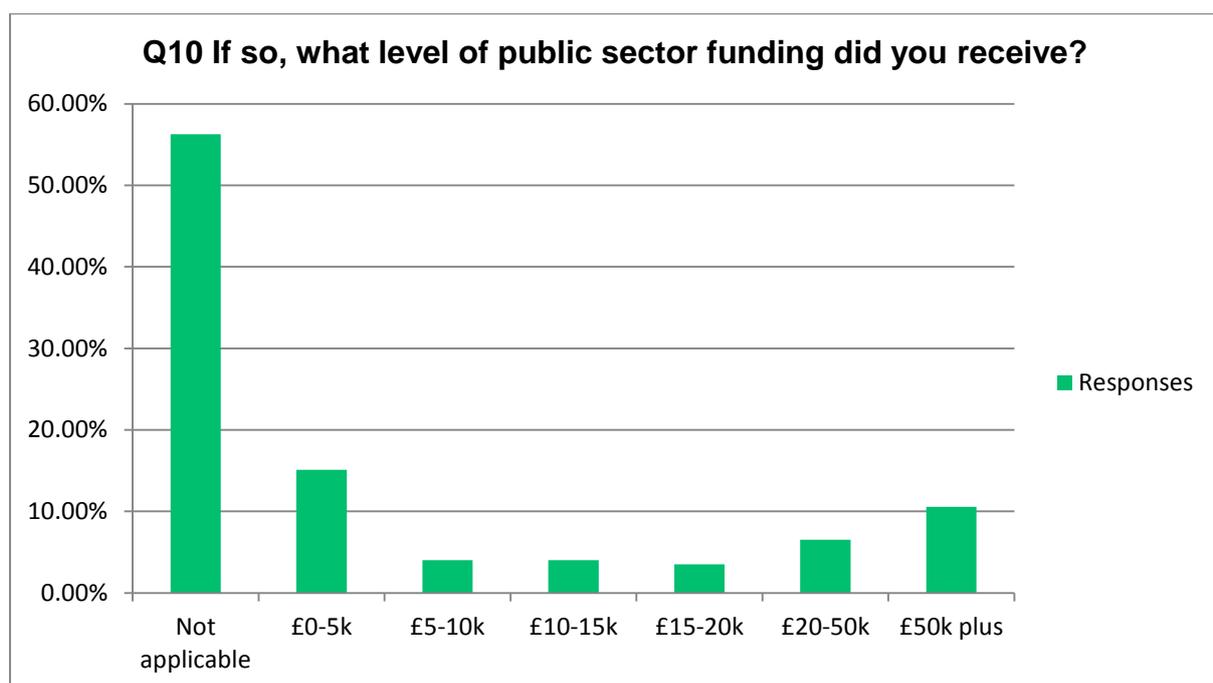
NARRATIVE – Unsurprisingly, at a time of financial challenge, staff and office costs are the biggest concern for many VCSE organisations.

Q9 In the last year did you receive public sector funding from the following?	
Not applicable	56.78%
Christchurch District Council	1.51%
East Dorset District Council	3.02%
North Dorset District Council	4.02%
Purbeck District Council	4.52%
West Dorset District Council	9.55%
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council	2.51%
Dorset County Council	18.59%
Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group	3.52%
Other Dorset NHS Trust	1.51%
Other	19.10%
Not applicable	0.00%



NARRATIVE – 56.78% of survey respondents do not receive funding from Dorset’s public sector. Of those that did, DCC was the biggest funder at 18.59%, followed by West Dorset District Council at 9.55%.

Q10 If so, what level of public sector funding did you receive?	
Not applicable	56.28%
£0-5k	15.08%
£5-10k	4.02%
£10-15k	4.02%
£15-20k	3.52%
£20-50k	6.53%
£50k plus	10.55%



NARRATIVE – Of those that did receive public sector funding, the size of grant was evenly spread from small to larger grants, likely reflecting the varied size of VCSE organisations in receipt of grants, and highlighting a need to maintain this balance of VCSE sector funding in the future.

Q11 How much external grant or contract funding did this public sector funding allow you to lever in?

NARRATIVE – the total amount secured for all responses was £1,842,850. For 2017/18 we understand that all Dorset local authorities funded grants to a value of £1,950,000, demonstrating that the VCSE sector is making good use of this funding to lever in new funding to Dorset.

Q12 How many volunteers did this funding allow you to recruit last year?

NARRATIVE – from this funding, 1405 volunteers were recruited last year.

Q13 How many staff did this funding allow you to employ last year (full-time equivalent)?

NARRATIVE – from this funding, 210.3 fte staff were employed by VCSE organisations in receipt of public sector funding last year.

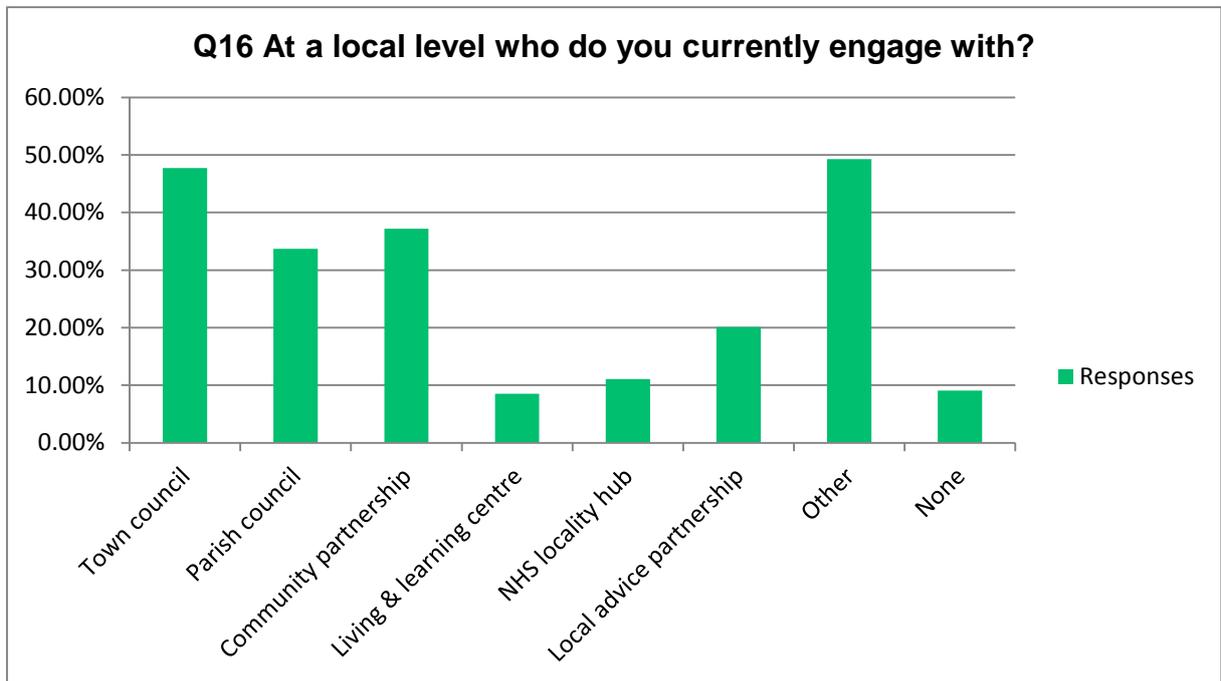
Q14 How many people did this funding allow you to support last year?

NARRATIVE – this funding allowed VCSE organisations to support 133,062 beneficiaries last year.

Q15 How many hours do you estimate that your volunteers give per month?

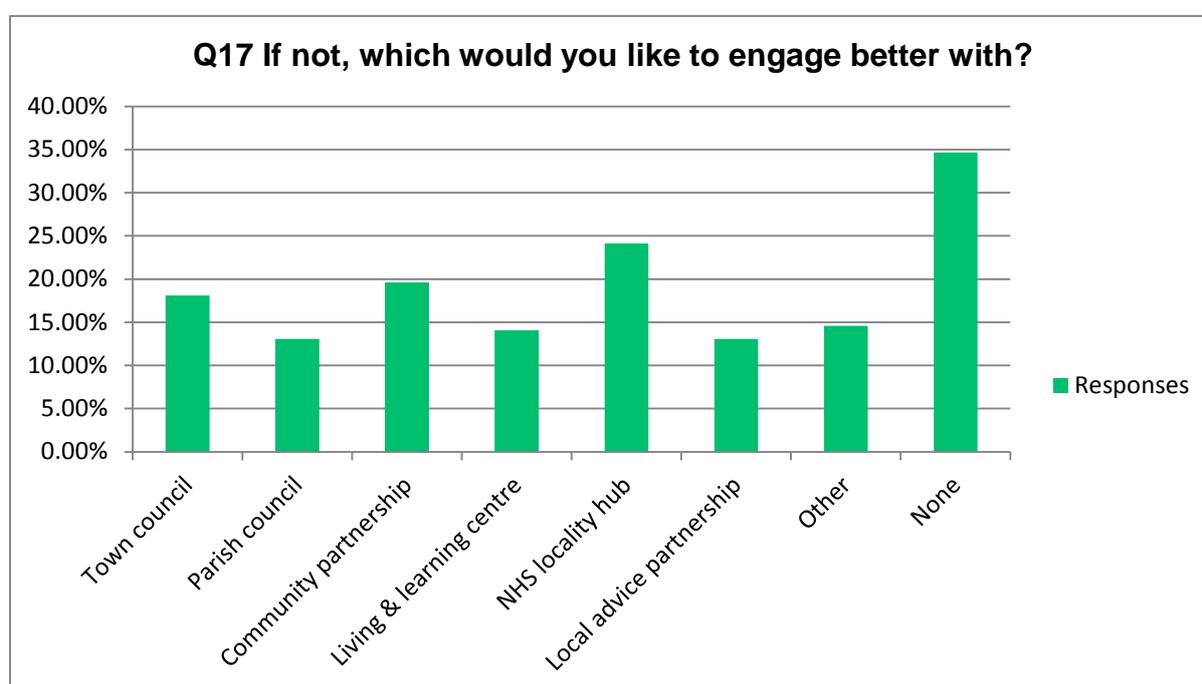
NARRATIVE – VCSE organisations estimated that from this funding volunteers gave 65,822 hours per month (789,864 hrs/year). At a national minimum wage of £7.83 per hour this is worth £6,184,635 to the local economy.

Q16 At a local level who do you currently engage with?	
Town council	47.74%
Parish council	33.67%
Community partnership	37.19%
Living & learning centre	8.54%
NHS locality hub	11.06%
Local advice partnership	20.10%
Other	49.25%
None	9.05%



NARRATIVE – responses shows the current importance of town and parish council relationships and of the Community Partnerships (those that remain). NHS locality hub engagement is low.

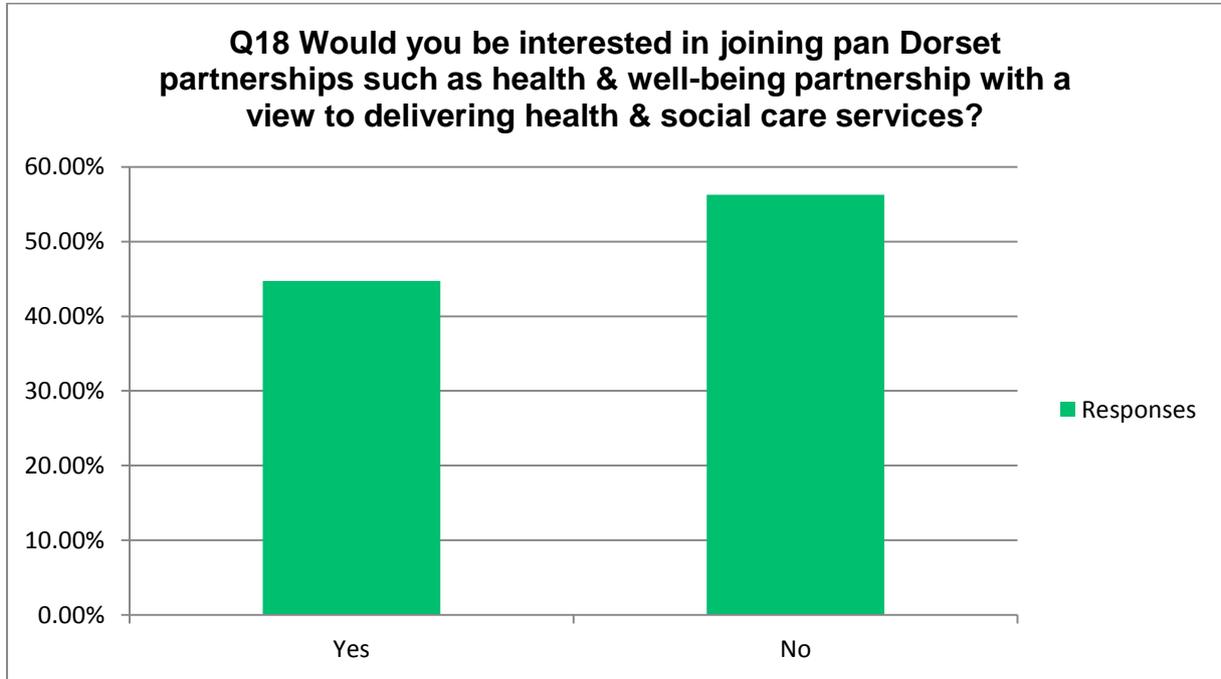
Q17 If not, which would you like to engage better with?	
Town council	18.09%
Parish council	13.07%
Community partnership	19.60%
Living & learning centre	14.07%
NHS locality hub	24.12%
Local advice partnership	13.07%
Other	14.57%
None	34.67%



NARRATIVE – VCSE groups would like to engage better with NHS locality hubs and Community Partnerships as a priority.

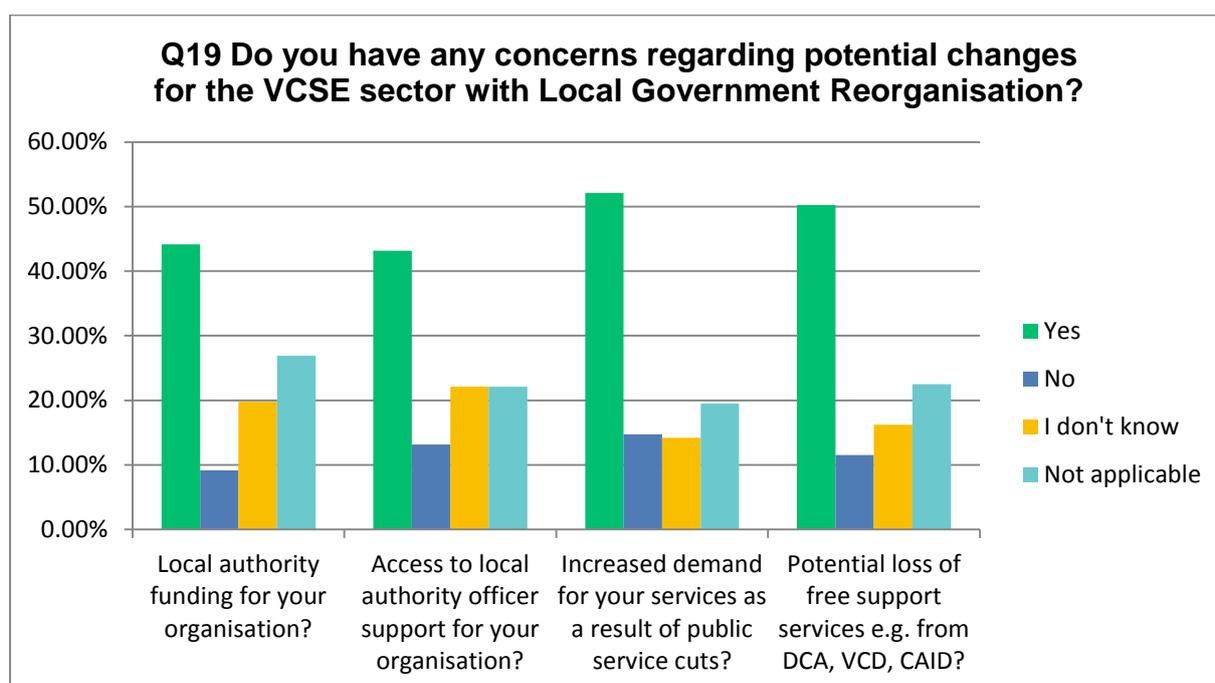
Q18 Would you be interested in joining pan Dorset partnerships such as health & well-being partnership with a view to delivering health & social care services?

Yes	44.72%
No	56.28%



NARRATIVE – respondents showed that there is significant interest in developing new partnerships to deliver health & well being services. This may include Single Point of Contact (SPOC) models, a generic term that encompasses a potential range of VCSE sector led models for enhanced partnership working between commissioners and VCSE delivery at locality level.

Q19 Do you have any concerns regarding potential changes for the VCSE sector with Local Government Reorganisation?				
	Yes	No	I don't know	Not applicable
Local authority funding for your organisation?	44.16%	9.14%	19.80%	26.90%
Access to local authority officer support for your organisation?	43.16%	13.16%	22.11%	22.11%
Increased demand for your services as a result of public service cuts?	52.11%	14.74%	14.21%	19.47%
Potential loss of free support services e.g. from DCA, VCD, CAID?	50.26%	11.52%	16.23%	22.51%



NARRATIVE – discounting those respondents who did not feel LGR was applicable to them, of the organisations surveyed:

- 60.41% were concerned about the future of local authority funding;
- 54.73% were concerned about access to local authority officer support post LGR;
- 64.43% were concerned about potential loss of free VCSE support services from infrastructure organisations such as Dorset Community Action, Volunteer Centre Dorset, and Citizens Advice In Dorset.

Q20 Can you see any other opportunities or impacts for your organisation as a result of LGR?

Summary

39/113 respondents could not see any opportunities or impacts of LGR, with others commenting that opportunities could exist to coordinate / deliver more services from the ground up if funded to do so, though they felt it is still too early in the LGR process to make a judgement. *Please refer to **Appendix 1** for all responses.

Common concerns expressed were:

- Funding risks included concerns about the possible negative impact on local funding for VCSE groups, and the increased demand on programmes that are not funded by local statutory organisations.
- Related to this were concerns about the impact of austerity measures on statutory services, highlighting the importance that services delivered by the Unitary Council are adequately funded and run with an understanding of local needs.
- Loss of experienced local authority officers, expertise & knowledge if staff/services/departments go, and loss of established support networks (North Dorset's community partnerships being one example of the recent loss of such networks).
- Loss of local engagement by the new Unitary authority, with a need to step up significantly in how the VCSE sector lobbies for joined up services vital to the sustainability of our towns. A need to develop clear plans and priorities for services, housing, sports and leisure etc. was also identified.

Opportunities identified included:

- LGR as an opportunity for streamlined pan Dorset working, to simplify the VCSE sector's relationship with local authorities, and increase our understanding of what the VCSE sector can do to support their objectives.
- Some respondents thought that there could be new core and commissioned funding opportunities coming out of the LGR process.

Q21 Do you have any comments / suggestions, e.g. about how the VCSE sector can be supported through the LGR process?

Summary

Improved communication was the top theme highlighted by survey respondents. This included both within the VCSE sector and requests that Shadow Cabinet members maintain an open dialogue with the sector, and allow time for this dialogue, before any decisions are made that may materially impact the VCSE sector e.g. funding.

Integration of the VCSE sector as an equal partner in formulating policy, in the development of robust and sustainable, community-based service provision, making best use of VCSE expertise and experience required to tackle issues, like ageing, childhood poverty, and unemployment was also seen as important. Establishing a clear VCSE agreement with the new local authorities was a suggested mechanism to define how this integration might work.

Provision of adequate financial support to VCSE infrastructure organisations that play a key role in developing the sustainability of VCSE groups e.g. DCA, VCD, CAID, is invaluable in enhancing VCSE sector activities and makes a significant contribution to social cohesion, the health and well-being of local communities, and VCSE sector collaboration.

Keep small scale funding open to VCSE organisations, which is invaluable in funding core costs, enabling small organisations to continue delivering services at a grassroots level.

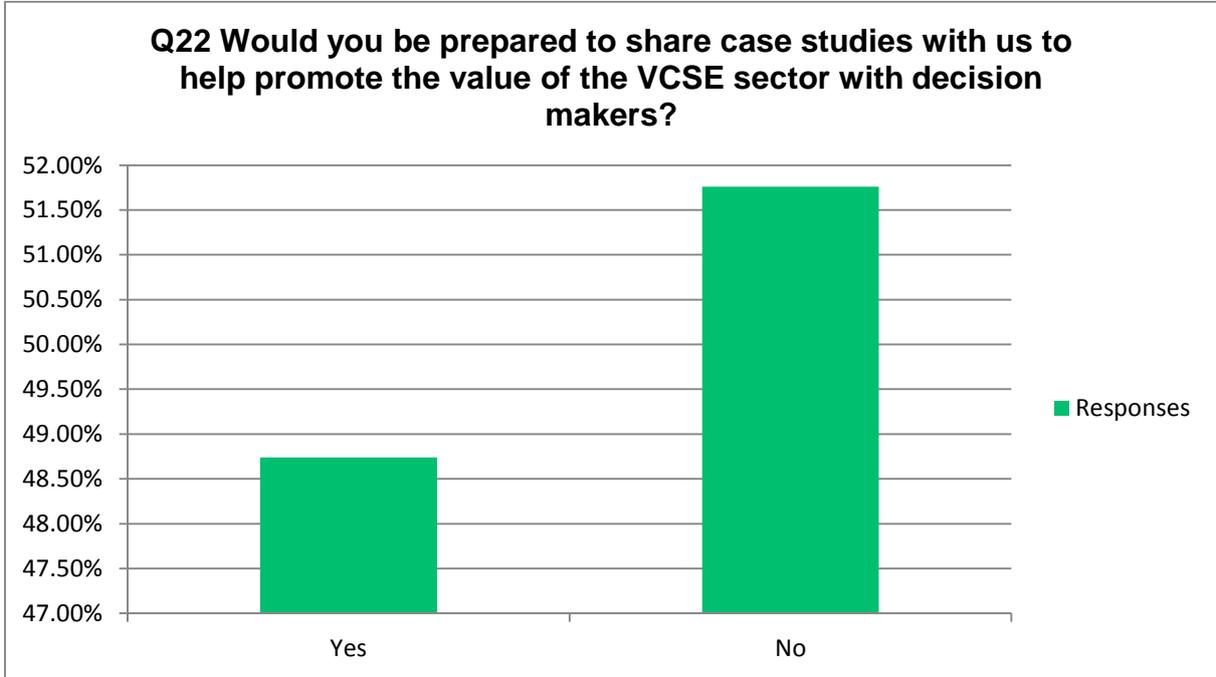
Fully value the role of volunteers in our communities with a recognition that volunteers are not a 'cheap option', and are not a direct replacement for a fully funded service.

Ensure that the VCSE sector has a strong voice and be prepared to challenge decisions as there is likely to be a greater expectation placed upon VCSE services in the future.

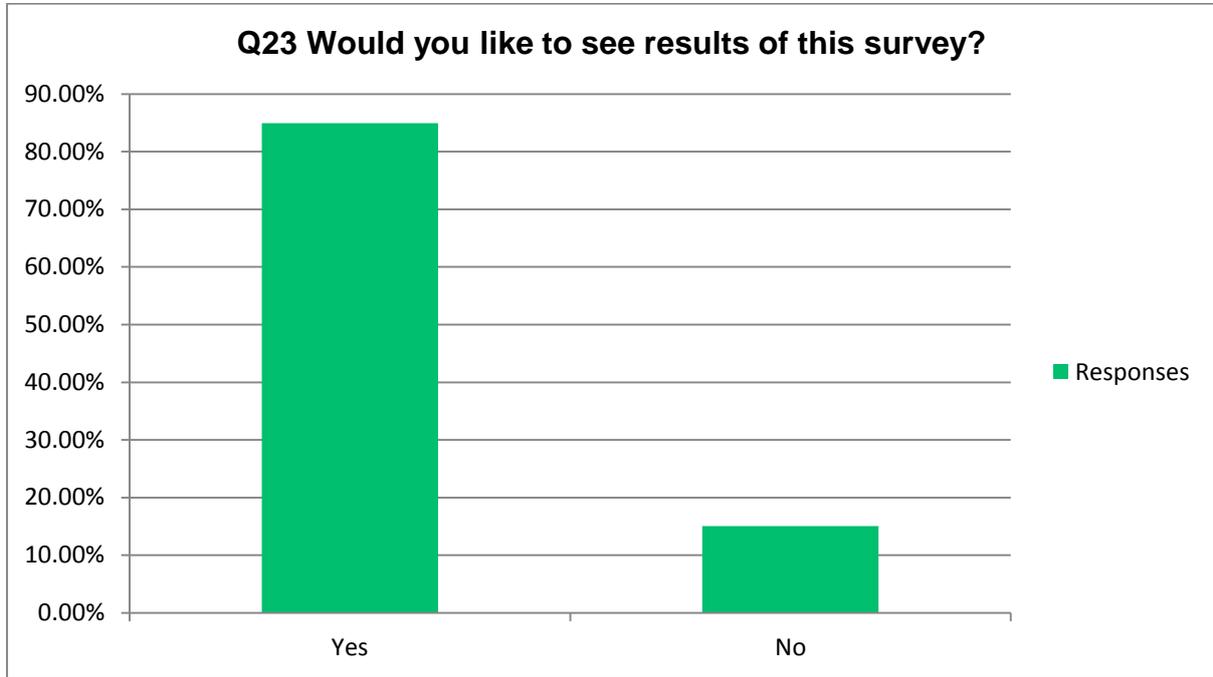
*Please refer to **Appendix 2** for all responses.

Q22 Would you be prepared to share case studies with us to help promote the value of the VCSE sector with decision makers?

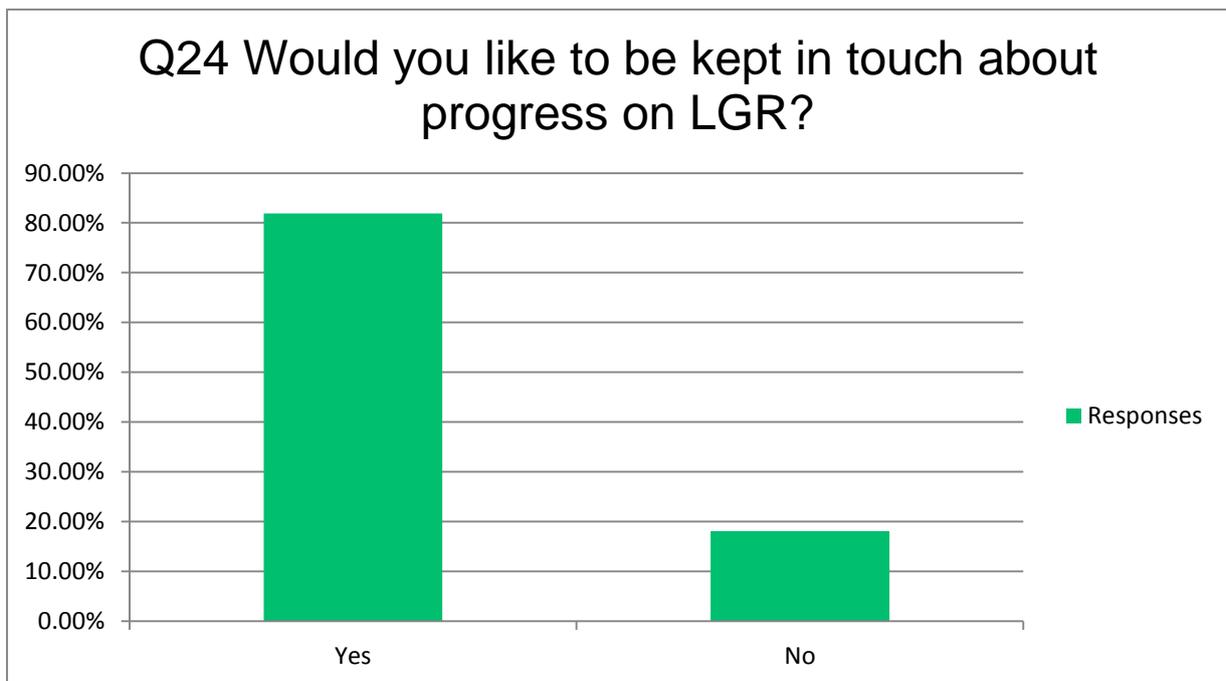
Yes	48.74%
No	51.76%



Q23 Would you like to see results of this survey?	
Yes	84.92%
No	15.08%



Q24 Would you like to be kept in touch about progress on LGR?	
Yes	81.91%
No	18.09%



Appendix 1

Q20 Can you see any other opportunities or impacts for your organisation as a result of LGR?

Respondents	Responses
1	None
2	Loss of contacts within local government on the topics of renewable energy/ energy efficiency.
3	Yes, in theory greater opportunities to bid for community project funding.
4	More isolation from the main local authority leading to a lack of support.
5	Not at present
6	no
7	No
8	No
9	No
10	no
11	Uncertainty of expert advice and contact. Opportunity with more Schools interaction and community intergenerational activities.
12	An increasingly remote and uninformed unitary authority unable to effectively consult and listen and unwilling to relate to or address local concerns
13	Could lose parish councillors due to extra work being expected of the parish council. Clerk might resign if too many hours expected to cover the extra work Loss of access to an officer with local knowledge. Fear that council officers and unitary councillors will not have sufficient local knowledge to make decisions fairly or wisely, i.e. in planning, tree applications, housing numbers, location of developments, transport
14	No
15	increased tendering competition
16	no
17	no
18	No
19	Challenge of more remote officers with less local knowledge (has already happened in DCP). Level of costs likely to increase.
20	Not as yet. Level of costs likely to increase.
21	Difficult to say as LGR is still too vague. Opportunities could exist to coordinate / deliver more services from the ground up, if funded to do so. Risks are to funding.
22	Potentially losing expertise & knowledge, if staff/services/departments go.
23	Loss of community development support at neighbourhood/locality level

24	No
25	With each reorganisation our charity has seen a reduction in both financial support from local government but also a loss of (adult services) staff on the ground with the result that people fall through the gaps whilst we see a reduction in demand (so we lose resources), followed by a rapid growth in demand once the new organisation establishes itself and new contacts are made. Whilst this growth in demand is an opportunity it may be too late by then. The transition process is always cumbersome and messy and new "contracts" take time to be awarded and implemented.
26	We are not funded by any district councils at the moment so not concerned about that. We have funding from Dorset County Council which incorporates work in Christchurch. We have some concern about what will happen with funding for Christchurch with LGR. Would be concerned if there is a reduction in funding to other local voluntary services as this will potentially impact on demand for our service. There is a risk that in trying to provide consistency of service across areas that some smaller very local organisations will lose funding.
27	Building a community with the means of easy communication and discussion.
28	Unsure. Waiting for LGR to publish proposals how it intends engaging with VCSE sector
29	No.
30	None at this stage of our redevelopment
31	I would say further reductions in funding and input is a concern, however, we do not get any core funding and though we are continually invited to consultation/forum activities we never really see the results or benefits of our input. LGR could potentially provide the opportunity to change this.
32	Not being recognised as part of the local cultural heritage and landscape
33	We could assist immeasurably in providing those services where there are currently funding pressures e.g. elderly, children, mental health. We are not like a normal church as we are totally inclusive and reject the idea that there is one answer. We reject creeds. We believe in people, not gods and that is what is needed in the delivery of so many public services.
34	All the leaders in scouting are volunteers but sometimes the impression is that we are paid. We provide a valuable service for the youth in the community and I believe we are becoming more important with the cuts in spending on youth activities - youth clubs etc. Many people in these areas were paid so not really willing to help us out in the scout movement for free. It would be interesting to see the impact on the youth if we were not around.
35	We are currently looking at working more closely with the voluntary transport sector as part of the Integrated Transport Project. We would like to see these developed further to support people in getting access to their healthcare appointments.
36	No
37	Two tier local government seems to be failing because of austerity

	measures with loss of spending and experienced staff. It is hoped that the Town Councils will be better empowered and resourced but it is crucial that services delivered by the Unitary Council are also adequately funded and run with an understanding of local needs.
38	as social care diminishes we will be more in demand for fetching medicines and taking elderly and housebound to medical appointments.
39	Cannot answer this
40	Being on the edge of the county, we'll be even more marginalised
41	Loss of experienced officers and established support networks.
42	At present we have the opportunity to cross subsidise from grant funding to develop new pilots which may be impacted in the future.
43	As an emerging infrastructure organisation recruiting members to deliver Social Enterprise services as individuals and consortia, the collaborations will be effected
44	Yes one point of contact across Bournemouth Poole and Christchurch. Ability to bid for larger contracts, economies of scale
45	Already experience reduction in knowledge/time in Planning, Conservation, tree protection etc. depts. caused by cuts in personnel and amalgamation. Expect this to worsen as local focus is lost.
46	Our funding from local government stopped a while ago so we would be looking for new opportunities from LGR
47	Hopefully LA will work together to continue the support for bereaved children and young people which is needed
48	As a transition group, we operate at a local authority level. There are currently two groups - one in Bournemouth and one in Poole. As the authorities merge, then our groups should also consider merging at some point.
49	No
50	Don't know
51	The Unitary will have less of a local focus. We have to step up significantly in how we represent our town to the Unitary and lobby for joined up services vital to our sustainability. We need to develop clear plans and priorities for services, housing, sports and leisure etc.
52	No
53	Uncertainty over leases etc.
54	Councillors may be less locally involved
55	None
56	no
57	n/a
58	We greatly value the support we get from Dorset County Council's voluntary rural transport team and would regret any diminution of that support.
59	No, but would lobby the new council for funding if needed
60	I am not sure
61	NA

62	Unlikely
63	Hopefully it will reduce the number of people I have to meet with/negotiate with/ to commission Services
64	The loss of Older People's Champions and Wayfinders will be greatly missed.
65	Loss of advice from local Councillors
66	Under the Localism Act, Local councils were supposed to reach out and better support local communities. This LRG process is going in the opposite direction.
67	Potential for re-tendering for services from joint authorities - e.g. short breaks services for children with disabilities
68	Only as much as it will affect our community and society which in our case means young people with challenges
69	Not Applicable
70	<p>Concerned about the possible negative impact on funding for VCSE groups and the increased demand on our funding programmes.</p> <p>Concerned about possible change to commissioning model rather than grant funding - small groups at a disadvantage.</p> <p>Using/expecting VCSE groups to continue delivery so that government services can be cut - too much pressure on groups and well minded people may take on too much and burn out, or support beneficiaries with more need than meet their expertise because they have nowhere else to go - risk.</p> <p>Can we be part of the solution/infrastructure for delivery?</p>
71	<p>Threat of consolidation of current SLA grant funding into a single pan Dorset contract resulting in VCSE organisational closures.</p> <p>There is in theory an opportunity to be part of a cross sector conversation to design a new Civil Society for Dorset, though this is looking unlikely due to LGR time pressures.</p>
72	Good opportunity to steam line services, making it easier to engage with local statutory services
73	Not clear at present
74	<p>Increased competition for grants, due to lack of local authority funding AND increasingly local authority services (e.g. Jurassic Coast, Countryside Services) being converted into separate charities, which are then eligible for grants and so compete as well.</p> <p>Opportunities are that with only 2 Local Authorities, it should be easier to liaise with them and agree on cross-Dorset issues.</p> <p>The risk is that the environment (our main area of interest) will slip down the agenda.</p>

75	All the work we do is lost, not knowing who is responsible for what and who to talk to.
76	Opportunities for increased collaboration with other organisation Impact could mean reduction in staff.
77	Opportunity to simplify our relationship with local authorities and increase understanding of what we can do to support their objectives. Opportunity for both core and commissioned funding. Risk that we are forgotten in the re-organisation.
78	Potential for joined up thinking about relationships between Local Authority Transport Policy and community transport schemes. The huge negative is the erosion of rural bus services and the presumption that community schemes have the capacity to fill the vacuum created by system underfunding.
79	Continuing reductions in efforts to maintain, record and promote our archaeological and historical heritage; failure to protect this heritage in planning and development decisions, even ignoring statutory requirements.
80	No
81	no
82	Need to be clearer on our strategy and a negotiating position with the new authority over services and relationships
83	We do not receive LGR or NHS funding for our advice services. We are being 'used' as a main partner by LG & NHS services as their resources are diminished. This is unsustainable to respond to the needs of the local community.
84	Better partnership working - access to range of different funding opportunities - countywide More competition due to move from grants and SLA's to contract and tenders
85	No
86	Direct support for arts organisations in Dorset that we administer on behalf of Dorset County Council could be reduced.
87	effects on differing approaches to use of services by councils which then merge - confusion? streamlining? best practice? who knows
88	Any future support for volleyball would be better than the zero support we have received over the last year from Active Dorset or local Councils.
89	If they have to save money, then reducing their waste and siphoning it off to benefit good causes would have a positive impact.
90	There will be a real focus on creating the new authority and standards of service delivery may be affected. For both services users and VCSE organisations
91	no
92	No - we tend to work with County Hall rather than the Borough councils so we are hoping this will continue.
93	We perceive that it will be a long time before there is any comprehensive

	re-commission, review or consultation of mental health services in the VCSE sector.
94	Greater difficulty regarding engagement with Officers of Dorset Council
95	The North & Mid Dorset CCG Community Health & Wellbeing Officer helped last year with training for new VWLs. I don't know whether he receives any support from local government.
96	Increase in challenges to local authorities who are not compliant with their Equality & Diversity statutory Duty
97	A relationship with a pan-Dorset authority rather than a District Council may result in wider support for and recognition of the role played by the arts service in the county town for the whole county.
98	potential opportunities as commissioners start to work in a more outcomes-focused way, but if cuts go too far all funds will end up in crisis management
99	No, we are self-funding
100	a voice for voluntary groups and charities to be lost.
101	No. We are only a small organization.
102	No
103	Loss of Community group support
104	Difficult to be positive with so little funding available.
105	no
106	No
107	no
108	opportunity to support more people but concern over recruitment of volunteers and real value placed on voluntary service by LG. There has to be a recognition that volunteers cannot deliver uniform services as expected in fully funded service.
109	Artsreach is a countywide provider currently funded by all rural district councils, as well as Dorset County Council. We would be concerned at a reduction of our grant from the unitary authority as this would affect our ability to meet the known demand for our services.
110	Better joint working
111	Still fewer sources to which one can go for funding. One set of policies governing and hence restricting everything influenced by local government.
112	No
113	Streamlined Pan Dorset working (eventually)

Appendix 2

Q21 Do you have any comments / suggestions, e.g. about how the VCSE sector can be supported through the LGR process?

Respondents	Responses
1	<p>It is essential that adequate/relevant financial support continues to be provided to Dorset Community Action and the Dorset Volunteer Centre. They are greatly used by 3rd Sector organisations throughout the county to enable them to thrive, enhance their activities and their significant contribution to social cohesion, the health and well-being of residents and workers in their local communities. A decrease in financial support to these two organisations could have a seriously detrimental effect on those local organisations and their communities, with serious, long-term adverse effects on health and well-being of people in their communities.</p> <p>As you will be aware, many third sector organisations struggle to find volunteers to take on practical as well as strategic roles; the withdrawal of practical and informed financial support could contribute to their demise as volunteers no longer feel able to fulfil their responsibilities unsupported. The Trustees of Verwood Memorial Hall Trust have benefited very considerably from DCA activities, support and training in the past, to the extent that we are now able to work effectively in the provision of village hall facilities and affordable rates for the local community.</p> <p>This is an ongoing, long-term investment and should have a proven track record within the strategic thinking of Dorset County Council as well as local councils. Reference to local Councillors will support my contention e.g. Spencer Flower, Toni Coombs, Lucy Clark, Simon Gibson, Lesley Dedden, Sandra Grove, Susan Shaw, etc.</p>
2	Continue to support DCA who offer a useful and valuable service.
3	Please note, Community Partnerships no longer exist in North Dorset. NDDC removed funding in April 2017.
4	hopefully it will release funds to give better support to the aged, disabled and youth
5	No
6	Recognise funding commitments from DCC for future years to allow stability
7	The people who have changed the sections in our area have obviously not been here otherwise they would have got the area right.
8	no
9	to be integrated from the start in the process - to ensure support for the VCSE
10	no

11	Should be kept informed and consulted on all major proposed decisions and proposed changes so that there is some feedback to the LGR hierarchy
12	No
13	no
14	no
15	no
16	None
17	Help to continue to work together and share information.
18	No
19	No. But whatever I enter in Box 11 (2,500 or £2,500 or 2500 or £2500, which is the correct figure, it tells me to enter a numerical value only, so in despair I've entered 0.
20	Just keep on communicating & giving great support.
21	As LGR takes shape it is likely the need for more volunteer agencies to pick up some of the results of less services which need support to keep going and expand where necessary.
22	No
23	The Voluntary Sector needs to work together locally to ensure that (a) we can maintain a high profile and potentially bid for contracts jointly and/or funding (if there is any); and (b) Aim to provide continuity of care to our beneficiaries. The LGR Transition Plan should include support for the VCSE to meet the above.
24	LGR should provide the opportunity for local government to review the services offered and where needed the provide adequate financial support for a range of organisations. This could ensure that there is consistent level and range of services offered.
25	Maintain the existing knowledge base
26	As above (20)
27	No. DCA & ACRE are excellent Leads for voluntary organisations in Dorset, offering relevant support and training and helping to resolve local issues for those groups. Bearing in mind the role of DCA & the DVC in encouraging sustainability of voluntary groups > contribute significantly to social cohesion > health and wellbeing of it residents > lower demand on local health care providers, local police and emergency services > less disruptive behaviour, It is essential for the new DCC to continue to provide support to DCA and DVC for ALL stakeholders in the county. Increased social and community cohesion has a very wide area of benefits which must be considered when setting Budgets and deployment of Council resources. We are all aware that when the provision of local youth clubs/activities/services are removed on a cost benefit basis, the level of crime and anti-social behaviour increases to a marked extent, taking up other resources e.g. police, health, etc. to the detriment of all residents and workers in that community.
28	None
29	We need to be directly engaged in conversations regarding the creation of

	robust and sustainable solutions around community-based service provision. We have expertise and experience that is absolutely required to tackle increasing issues, like ageing, childhood poverty, employment and the increasing demand on statutory services. We also need ongoing contributions towards our core costs if we are to continue delivering services at a grassroots level. No more requirements for new projects. A little less money at an LGR could amount to a huge contribution to smaller, community-based service providers. This should be a priority as emerging research indicates strongly that where community providers are engaged and supported things improve.
30	LGR making an inventory of local cultural assets and helping them by providing access to publicity, seed funding for setting up participation engagement schemes
31	We could help you put forward a case to get private sector money.
32	Each organisation must keep its costs down because support is bound to diminish.
33	More support and encouragement for volunteer groups with the kids - it's vital!
34	Establishing a clear VCSE agreement with the new LAs from the start.
35	No
36	With very limited resources Borough Council staff have striven to help support VCSE sector and encourage networking. It is vital that Town Councils follow and extend on best practice but their ability to attract and fund suitable staff is in great doubt.
37	Let us get on with our job - data handling etc. is a pain!
38	None
39	To recognise its true value to society, financial and societal.
40	Social Enterprise needs to be represented by Social Enterprise Link across Dorset as a sector working along DCA
41	No
42	To keep funding open to us on a small and direct stream so it doesn't all become about massive contracts which smaller charities find it hard to bid for.
43	Good communication
44	Clear and timely communications from the local authorities should inform the sector of likely impacts. A commitment of no material changes for a year or two may be helpful.
45	No
46	Keep organisations like DCA; POPP etc. funded
47	Help with establishing core competencies and capacity
48	No
49	Access to centralised support services such as HR, ICT, Finance, Procurement
50	Maintain existing support
51	None

52	no
53	increase the number and range of partnerships
54	It seems likely that local government will continue to be denied its former resources, however it is configured. There will therefore likely be an increase in the demand for voluntary groups to make up, as best they can, the loss of services that Dorset residents have previously enjoyed.
55	Yes, do as we will be doing - lobby the new council for continued funding.
56	Recognition of importance of voluntary sector and need to work in partnership ; recognition of valuable work done by faith communities
57	Not really, we are a very local Village Organisation which relies on limited activities to fund our annual programme
58	Sorry, no.
59	The lack of volunteers coming forward is of great concern and should be on the agenda for the LGR as we save them money. This should be pointed out in no uncertain terms.
60	Make sure the voluntary sector is fully recognised
61	The aim of the intended LRG process will work in reverse of what the Localism Bill intended
62	Advocate for continuing funding for community needs health, wellbeing, elderly, young people,
63	Not Applicable
64	Early communication and dialogue. Don't pull funding without warning - allow groups time to plan. Tapered funding over a number of years is better than pulling completely, especially where groups have received regular funding over the years and rely on this.
65	Local authorities and decision making members on the new Shadow Cabinet maintain an open dialogue with the sector, and allow time for this dialogue, before any funding decisions are made.
66	Not at present
67	There is a distinct lack of communication from the local authorities. It would be helpful to get VCSE input to their strategies before they are set in stone. At the least there should be a link councillor appointed to keep the VCSE sector informed from each of the 2 authorities.
68	bulletins, any info which keeps you updated on changes, who's who and how to make contact.
69	There needs to be opportunity for genuine engagement with VCSE organisations and for co-production of strategy and policy.
70	No
71	no
72	The VCSE sector should be an active partner in formulating policy, delivering services and adding value to LG services.
73	We need a voice at the table over community Support and how to mobilise the voluntary sector to do activity not covered by town council and unitary
74	There has got to be partnership working (not just networking and engagement events). Just keep us updated on a monthly basis with the

	plan.
75	Continue to evidence the need for the services, the impact we have and the effect cuts and withdrawal of funding may have,
76	No
77	Ensure that VCSE has a strong voice and be prepared to challenge decisions as there is likely to be a greater expectation of voluntary services .
78	Financial support to organisations like DCA, Volunteer Centres and the CVS'.
79	Proper core funding for infrastructure organisations including DYA
80	Please allow any current DCC contracts to continue without the need to re-bid as this process is time consuming and demanding on our time.
81	Involve small groups as well as large in discussion and grants/contracts
82	Regular updates, Consultation meetings
83	Keep updated on the developments (not just on the website) and the implications for the sector.
84	More support for each sector in creating its 'case for support' to the new authority.
85	Mapping of fund-holders and decision-makers in LA
86	Good communication, Timely notice of changes, Continued funding
87	x
88	No
89	Recognition of the value to the community of the present voluntary sector organisation.
90	no
91	no
92	Overview and understanding of service provided, numbers supported, numbers engaged in volunteering and social return on investment - not everything has a financial equivalent.
93	A collaborative demonstration of the economic and social benefits of the cultural sector across Dorset would assist our case.
94	I don't really know what the impact may be, so a bulletin may be useful to let us know?
95	Funding has been so limited (or non-existent) for so long that it is difficult to see that local government is relevant to the work we do. The loss of West Dorset District Council's arts funding will be the last. The new authority needs to have a positive funding policy, even if only on a small scale, and to recognise that some needs to be awarded in a way which recognises variety in the former Districts.
96	No
97	Information and communication Profile raising