

## Cambridgeshire Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Review

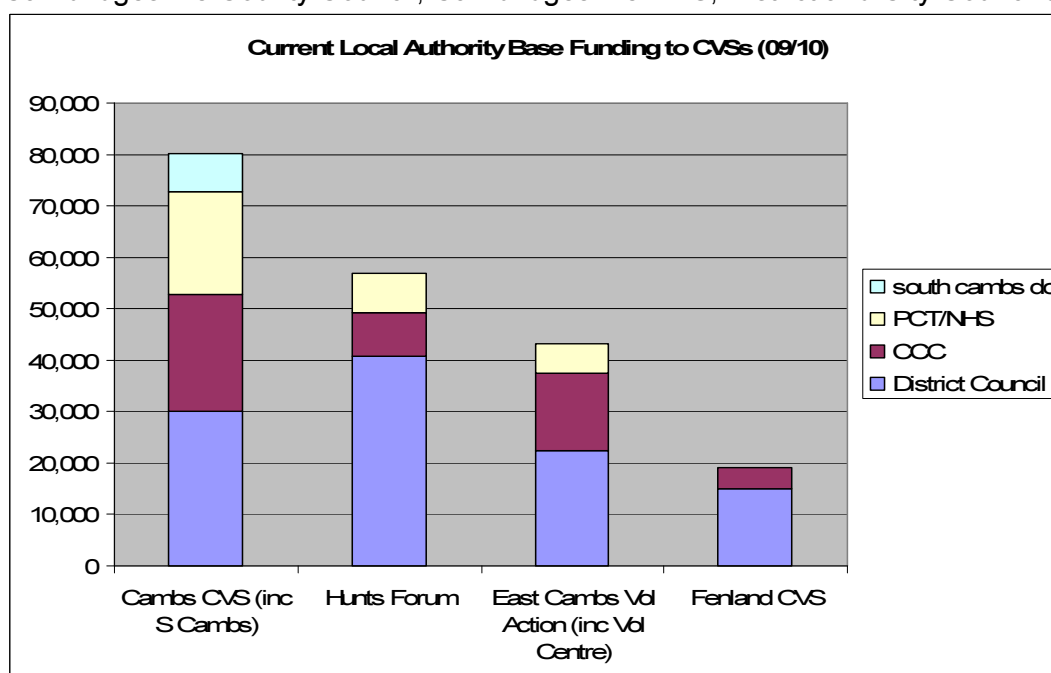
### Report by Community Manager

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' views on whether they wish to indicate the support of Huntingdonshire District Council to the proposals of Cambridgeshire County Council and NHS Cambridgeshire for a single funding agreement for the Councils of Voluntary Services across Cambridgeshire.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 In 2008 Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire NHS invited representatives from District Council's and Cambridge City Council to meet as a Voluntary Sector Infrastructure group. The Voluntary Sector Infrastructure group recognised that inconsistencies and inequalities existed in the funding of Council's for Voluntary Service (CVS) across Cambridgeshire.
- 2.2 Currently Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire NHS have a primary budget of £95,000 to support CVS across Cambridgeshire. The County Council currently provides financial support to all CVS. Cambridgeshire NHS supports all CVS bar Fenland CVS.
- 2.4 The graph below shows the level of funding currently been provided to CVS by Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire NHS, District and City Council's.



### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire NHS are now proposing a single funding agreement for Cambridgeshire. It is intended this agreement be delivered by either: one CVS on behalf of all in Cambridgeshire; or the recently established CVS5 consortium. The CVS5 consortium has recently been established to enable the CVS in Cambridgeshire to work better together and avoid duplication.

### **4. Implications**

- 4.1 There is currently no CVS infrastructure in Fenland. Since the commencement of this process Fenland District Council (FDC) decided not to financially support Fenland Council for Voluntary Service for 2010/11. This resulted in Fenland CVS making its entire staff redundant at the end of 2009/10. The financial contribution from FDC to Fenland CVS was £15,000
- 4.2 Currently in Huntingdonshire, HDC are the main funder of the CVS and that funding is subject to an individual Service Level Agreement that includes performance measures and reporting arrangements. HDC also provide significantly more funding than the other district/city authorities in the county. It is proposed, under new arrangements, that any service agreements currently operated with by District or City Council's would become addendums to the county wide agreement with district/city funds ring-fenced for local activities only.
- 4.3 The combined CCC/NHS document sets out service expectations across Cambridgeshire. The costs of this level of delivery across the county have not yet been calculated. FDC have indicated they intend to commit £15,000 towards the delivery of services in Fenland and have produced an outline of the services they will expect to see delivered in the Fenland area. As there is now no CVS within Fenland there will be an expectation that Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire or Huntingdonshire CVS will provide the additional services required in Fenland; as set out in framework agreement. It is anticipated this will result in reduction in local provision as services must stretch over a wider geographical area.
- 4.4 Currently, Hunts Forum for Voluntary Organisations receive approximately £16,000 from both CCC and Cambs NHS these funds will be included in the proposed single contract. There is no guarantee that the £16,000 will be re-invested or ring-fenced to support voluntary organisations in Huntingdonshire. Additionally the key areas for improvement that have been indicated are required in Fenland may require more that the present £18,000 committed by both FDC and CCC without drawing funds away from the other Councils for Voluntary Service in Cambridgeshire and consequently local voluntary/community organisations.
- 4.5 Huntingdonshire District Council , along with the other District and City councils, have been requested to indicate their support for the proposals set out in the document attached as appendix A to this report. The response to Cambridgeshire County Council is required by the 30 June 2010. Indications to date are that Fenland District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council support the proposal to have a single funding agreement for Cambridgeshire.

### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 Members are recommended to indicate that prior to conveying their support for the single funding agreement proposed by CCC/Cambs NHS the agencies be requested to provide details of the costs associated with delivering the single funding agreement in each District/City area.

**Background Papers**

Framework Agreement re CVS5 (single funding agreement) April 2010  
Infrastructure options paper August 2008  
Briefing note from Hunts Forum for Voluntary organisations 4 June 2010

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