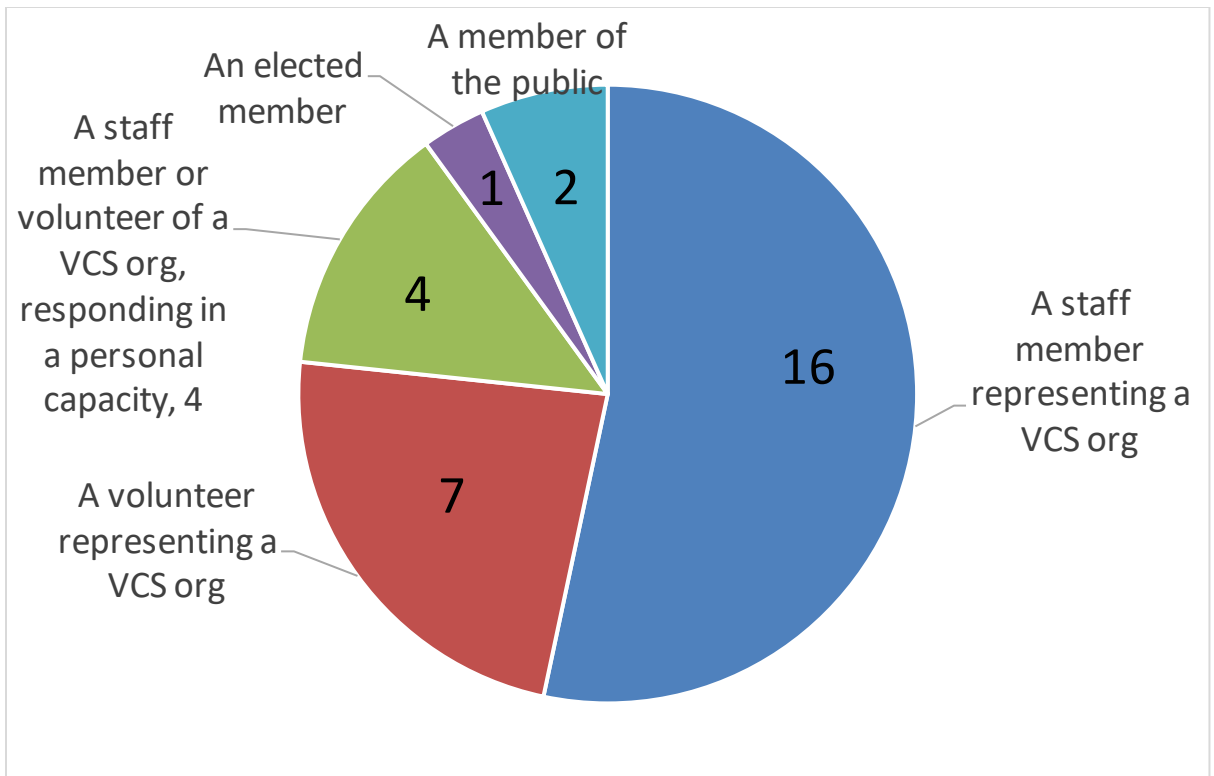


Draft Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy

Interim Consultation Response Findings

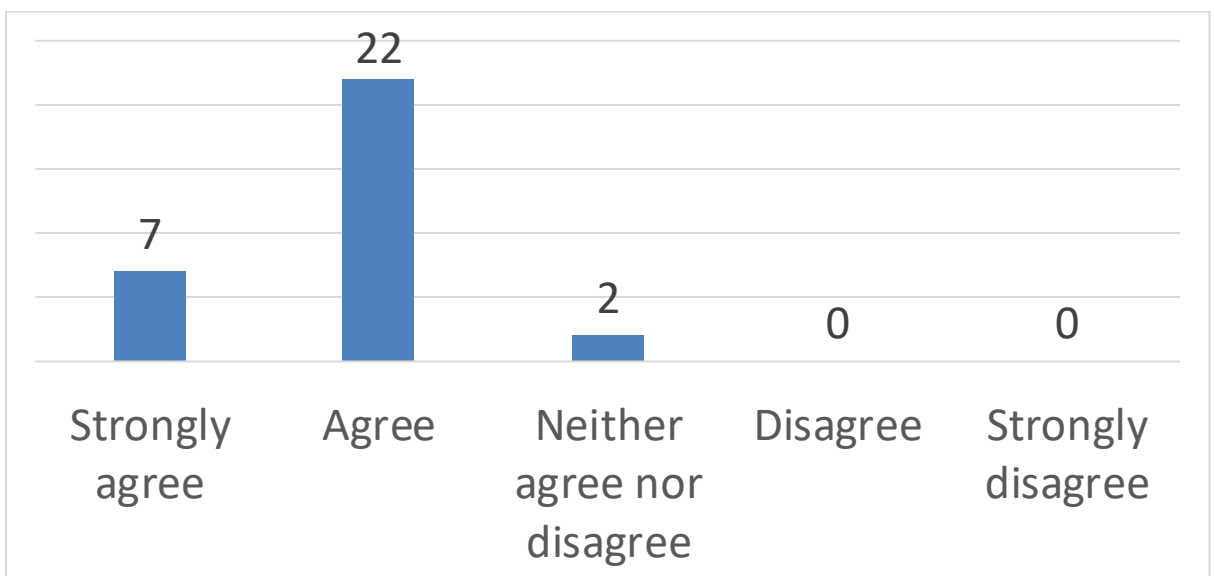
1. The council is co-producing a five-year voluntary and community sector (VCS) strategy with the local sector. The strategy aims to underpin the relationship between the council and the sector, to reiterate our commitments to each other and ensure alignment to the needs of our communities. We are currently consulting on the draft priorities and commitments for the emerging strategy.
2. This paper sets out our approach to developing the strategy and shares interim findings from the consultation.
3. This is a co-produced strategy, with a strong approach to engagement throughout. In December 2021, we hosted two virtual workshops which over 90 local VCS organisations registered to attend. The workshops allowed us to gather the initial evidence from the sector about their challenges and decide how to bring forward the co-production of the strategy.
4. From this, we developed a voluntary and community sector strategy co-production group, open to anyone in the local VCS who wanted to join – 10 VCS organisations joined. Since then, we have analysed the evidence from the workshops held last year with the group and developed our priorities and commitments for the strategy for consultation.
5. Public consultation opened on 13 May 2022 and closes on 12 June 2022. The consultation is predominantly targeted at the sector but open to everyone. It comprises of an online survey hosted on Let's Talk Oxfordshire, with options to request content in alternative formats including paper copies.
6. It's focus is on the draft priorities and commitments set out in the emerging strategy. It has been promoted via direct emails to key influencers in the sector, asking them to cascade to other sector colleagues. We have also included articles in stakeholder e-newsletters.
7. The results shown below are interim and are from 1 June 2022.
8. A range of people have responded to the consultation, however the majority are representatives of the VCS Sector



Base: 30 people

9. The draft Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy identifies five priorities to drive development and delivery forward over the next five years:
- Priority 1: Collaboration and Networking
 - Priority 2: Volunteering and Social Action
 - Priority 3: Capacity and Skills
 - Priority 4: Supporting a Sustainable Sector
 - Priority 5: Reducing Inequalities

Overall view of five priorities: To what extent you agree or disagree that the five priorities are the right ones for our VCS strategy?



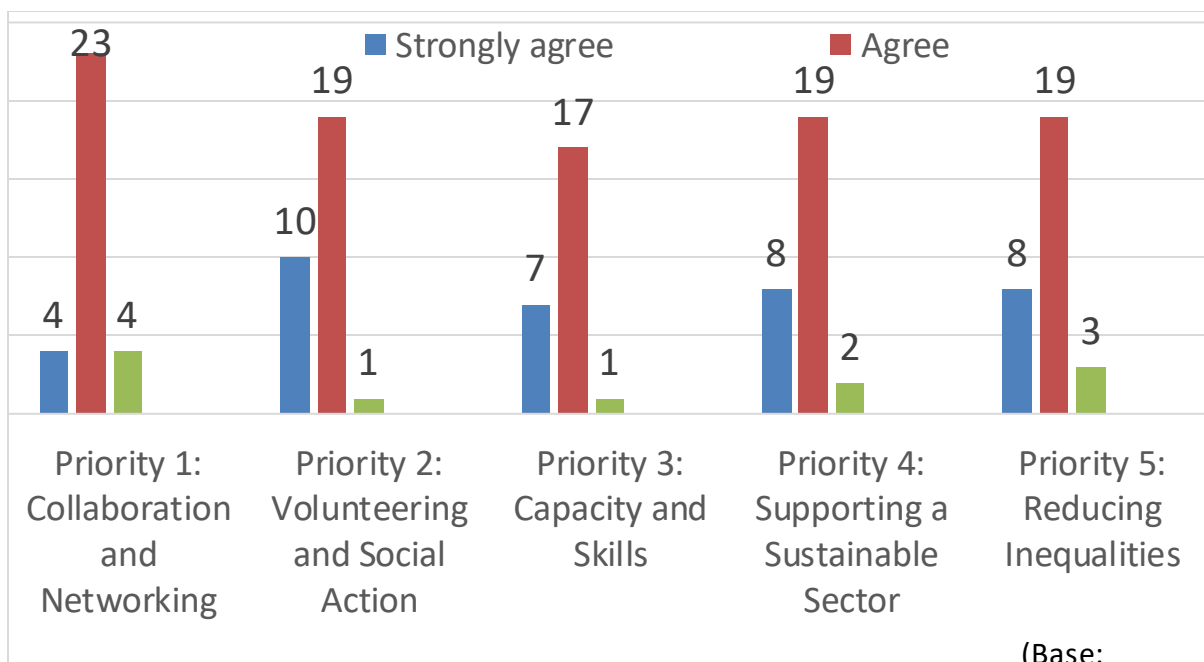
Base: 31 people

10. There are a number of key themes that have arisen so far in written comments from feedback relating to the five priorities:

- Ensure there are opportunities for collaboration and networking for all, including smaller organisations.
- Financial support is needed to succeed - money underpins all the priorities.
- Equalities - fairer funding practices and equal priority for all
- Need to understand local profiles to reduce inequalities
- Need to better define sustainability (sustainable sector) in this context – ‘stable and resilient’ or sustainable from a ‘climate’ perspective

11. Overall there has been general support for the commitments within the consultation. So far there have been 83 representations of written comments (with people commenting on multiple ambitions) about the ambitions sitting under the five priorities. Priority 1 ‘Collaboration and Networking’ received the most representations (23), with Priority 5 ‘Reducing Inequalities’ the least representation (11).

12. The below chart shows the general support for ambitions by priority, when asked how far each respondent agrees or disagrees that the commitments are the right commitments per priority for the strategy.



13. Several of the representations about the ambitions were broadly supportive in tone. Some people expressed scepticism about implementation.