

Appendix A: Stroud District Council VCSE Principles – adopted in 2024

1. We identify which the Council service areas work with VCSE partners and ensure that the 11 VCSE principles are applied across the Council.
2. We use our time and resources to hold spaces for open and informative dialogue with VCSE partners through regular forums.
3. We seek VCSE partners and their representatives to form working groups with us on priority issues including Community Safety and Cost of Living.
4. When a new priority is identified, we seek to bring relevant VCSE partners together to share data, insight and develop joint working with us.
5. We will actively listen to our partners without judgement and prejudice, valuing community knowledge and local insight.
6. We champion the work of our VCSE partners in the networks that we have access to, including ICS commissioning groups and the Council decision making bodies.
7. We invest in our VCSE partners with the project funding we receive from Government, commissioners and our the Council grant schemes.
8. We research potential investment in funding tools that will support VCSE organisations, like a Crowd Funding platform.
9. We review our contracting processes to ensure they are accessible for less experienced organisations and the documentation and monitoring is proportionate for the level of funding being given.
10. We invite open dialogue and respectfully hear what our VCSE partners have to say as 'critical friends' to us.
11. We use constructive feedback from our VCSE partners to inform future policy and practice.