

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted N/A

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Legal and Community

1. DECISION TAKEN

The provision of funding of **£1,000** to Knebworth Covid Response Team from Southern Rural Committee 2019/20 carry over budget. The funding will assist this new group to meet the needs of the local community in Knebworth in response to the Covid-19 pandemic as outlined in 8.1.

2. DECISION TAKER

Executive Member - Community Engagement- Cllr Judi Billing, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal and Community (under section 9.8.2 (h) and 14.6.9(b)(iii) 5 of the Constitution).

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

20th April 2020

4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 This grant application has been received in between the next planned round of Committee Meetings and it is time sensitive (in response to the Covid-19 outbreak) it cannot be considered at the next meeting taking place in June 2020. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to progress the application via a delegated decision.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 There are no alternative options being proposed other than those detailed within the text of this report.

6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)

- 6.1 The Chairs and the Vice Chair of Southern Rural Committee have been consulted and have provided email evidence of their recommendation to provide £1000 from their Committee's development budget in order to fund this application.
- 6.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external bodies/groups has taken place with regards to this funding proposal via Area Committee Grant Funds.

7. FORWARD PLAN

- 7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Applicant: Knebworth Covid Response Team.

This group has been set up in order to meet the needs of the Knebworth local community in response to the Covid-19 virus pandemic.

Their main services are provided to 2500 households and include:

Telephone advice line and on-line team for support & assistance, 8am – 8pm, 7 days a week. This links to our voluntary network to provide:

organised collection of shopping/medicines

counsellor/friend/neighbour support

essential escorted trips to hospital/doctor

- Publication & distribution of a weekly newsletter, especially required for those without internet access
- Set up & regular updates to dedicated KCRT website www.knebresponseteam.com
- Street Marshall scheme
- Provision of meals at home for at risk/hardship residents.

The funding will be used to provide services to the community of Knebworth during the Covid19 virus pandemic. It will go towards the cost of:

- Publication of a weekly newsletter especially required for those without access to the internet.
- Costs of maintaining a telephone advice line and telephone befriending service.
- Setting up and maintaining dedicated website and e-mail address for Knebworth residents.
- Petrol costs for essential trips.
- General administration costs.
- Production of ID badges for volunteers.
- Provision of meals at home for at risk/hardship residents.

It is estimated that funding will be required for a minimum of 18 weeks and the expenditure has been based on this initial term, although future funding may be required if this period is extended.

These services will be targeting:

- the vulnerable,
- the elderly,
- the socially isolated,
- essential support workers who must remain working, and
- those residents who are unwell and/or self-isolating

The group will potentially be reaching up to 2,500 households or 4,700 residents in Knebworth, including Old Knebworth and Nup End.

NHDC Policy met: **Yes**

Strategic Objectives met: Be a more welcoming and inclusive Council, Build Thriving and Resilient Communities; Respond to challenges to the environment, Respond to challenges to the environment

The group have outlined a budget of around £10,000 will be required to undertake the project. They have applied for HCC Locality budget which has been agreed in addition there have been many generous donations from within the local community and other statutory bodies in Knebworth. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Southern Rural Committee suggested they would like to provide £1,000 from the development budget.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees confirm that they may establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations which include discretionary grant aid/financial support but excluding grants for district-wide activities. The Committee has delegated powers, as a body, to allocate discretionary budgets and devolved budgets within the terms determined by the Council and outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in January 2020.
- 9.2. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything: -
- An individual may generally do
 - Anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
 - For a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
 - Without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or person's resident or present in its area.
- 9.3 Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.
- 9.4 The decision taker signing the Decision Notice has delegated authority to take such a decision in accordance with the North Hertfordshire District Council Constitution under section under section 9.8.2 (h) and 14.6.9(b)(iii) 5 in relation to Community engagement, including financial assistance and grants to external organisations.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Southern Rural committee have a carryover amount of £6,672 from the 19/20 financial year and this will be spent from in the first instance.

In addition, the committee have their new budget for 20/21 of £8,700

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 All projects that are assigned area committee funding are assessed to ensure that they do not negatively impact on any part of the local community. The only deviation to this is where a minority or marginalised group may specifically receive funding or allocation of resources to address a particular area of need or 'gap' in provision.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to this decision.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

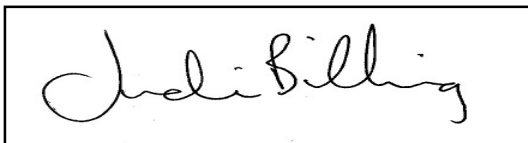
15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Officers have received and approved the grant application, mission statement and accounts.

NOTIFICATION DATE

24th April 2020

Signature of Executive Member Decision taker

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judi Billings".

Date 24th April 2020

Signature of Service Director: Legal and Community

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Harvey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.

Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS