

## Decision under Delegated Powers

### Officer Requesting Decision:

Katie Moore – Head of Strategic Housing

### Officer Making the Decision:

Peter Oliver – Director of Housing and Wellbeing

### Recommendation:

Extension of the Lightbulb Service (for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025).

Extension of the following fixed-term posts (for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025):

- M437 Lightbulb Administration Officer (37 hours – 1 x full time equivalent)
- M338 Lightbulb Housing Support Coordinator (185 hours – 5 x full time equivalent)
- M356 Lightbulb Technical Officer (74 hours – 2 x full time equivalent)
- M436 Lightbulb Team Leader (37 hours – 1 x full time equivalent).

### Reason:

To enable continued effective delivery of Lightbulb (disabled facility grant) service within Charnwood, to allow for consideration by partners of proposed changes to the delivery model within Leicestershire.

### Authority for Decision:

Under Section 8 of Constitution the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) has delegated authority to agree changes to the establishment, within budget and without major operational disruption or interruption or services or involving a change from direct to indirect provision or vice versa or other policy implications.

This has been further sub-delegated by the Chief Executive to Strategic Directors/Heads of Service in certain circumstances (DD 002 021 refers). These proposals fall within the limit of the authority of the relevant Head of Service.

On 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 the Leader of the Council approved the delegation of the authority for extensions to the Lightbulb Service, by periods of up to 12 months, to the Director of Housing and Wellbeing.

### Decision and Date

Approved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'NCT' or similar, written in a cursive style.

27.02.2024

## **Background**

The Lightbulb Service supports residents to live safer, more independent lives, through the provision of disabled facilities grants and related services, ensuring that decisions are taken, not when residents are at crisis point, but in a more preventative way that is based on the long-term health and wellbeing of residents and their families.

The Lightbulb Service is delivered in partnership between Leicestershire County Council and the Leicestershire District Councils. The service is hosted by Blaby District Council and partners pay a contribution to Blaby District Council for the service. Within Charnwood there is a locality-based delivery team employed directly by Charnwood Borough.

In May 2017, Cabinet approved participation in the Lightbulb service model up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. In February 2019 Cabinet approved the extension of the Lightbulb service model up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

In 2023 a review of the Lightbulb service model was carried out by Blaby District Council. Blaby District Council indicated that the current service delivery model (under which Charnwood have a locality-based delivery team) could not continue.

In 2023 Charnwood Borough Council commissioned an independent review of options for the delivery of the disabled facilities grant service within Charnwood. This review recommended the introduction of a Home Improvement Agency model for the disabled facilities grant service within Charnwood, delivered either as part of the Leicestershire Lightbulb partnership or independently by Charnwood Borough Council.

Charnwood Borough Council subsequently made a request to Blaby District Council and the wider partnership to extend the current service delivery arrangement for a period of 12 months, to allow for the partnership to give full consideration to the implementation of a Home Improvement Agency model for the delivery of disabled facilities grants across Leicestershire.

## **Comments from HR**

HR Adviser: S Choudhury (20/02/24)

Once this DD is approved management will need to complete contract variation e-forms so relevant paperwork can be issued to existing staff.

## **Financial Implications**

The total cost relating to the extension of the posts is approximately £445,500 (including on-costs):

- M437 Lightbulb Administration Officer (Scale B – 37 hours – 1 x full time equivalent) - £36,300
- M338 Lightbulb Housing Support Coordinator (Scale E – 185 hours – 5 x full time equivalent) - £242,400 (+ £7,000 car user costs)
- M356 Lightbulb Technical Officer (Scale SO1 – 74 hours – 2 x full time equivalent) - £101,400 (+ £2,800 car user costs)
- M436 Lightbulb Team Leader (Scale SO2 – 37 hours – 1 x full time equivalent) - £55,600.

All of the posts will be under Cost Centre F321.

All of the costs relating to the extension of the service and posts will be covered by funding from the Better Care Fund (disabled facilities grant allocated directly to Charnwood Borough Council and a contribution of the grant funding allocated to Leicestershire County Council).

#### **Risk Management:**

No specific risks have been identified in connection with this decision.

#### **Key Decision:**

Yes.

#### **Background Papers:**

- Decision of the Leader 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024: Extension of the lightbulb and refugee resettlement services
- DD032 2022 – Lightbulb Service Staffing
- DD015 2022 – Lightbulb Agreement Deed of Variation
- Minutes of Cabinet Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- DD010 2018 – Lightbulb Agreement
- DD009 2018 – Lightbulb Technical Officer
- DD076 2017 – Lightbulb Housing Support Coordinator
- Minutes of Cabinet Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017.