

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Neighbourhoods and Partnerships Manager

Officer Making The Decision

Head of Neighbourhood Services

Recommendations

To provide £120,000 of financial support for the continuation and further development of the Charnwood Community Action Hub food bank at John Storer Charnwood into a sustainable and supportive model including the development of a social supermarket, with the aim to support those in financial hardship to move from food bank dependency to membership of the social supermarket (with access to personal support and subsidised food) and a personalised support plan to help remove the barriers to a better outcome.

Reasons

To ensure there is financial support in place to support the continuation of the Charnwood Community Action Hub foodbank at John Storer Charnwood and to include for the establishment, opening and running of the social supermarket and additional localised spoke model and to ensure sustained support is in place to those who need it moving forward.

Authority for the Decision

Heads of Service have delegated authority to submit bids for and enter into agreements for grants and other funding sources up to a value of £200,000 and to incur expenditure within the Council's approved capital/revenue budget in accordance with approved rules and procedures. (section 8.3 of the Constitution).

Decision and Date

Julie Robinson

22.4.21

Background

As part of the Borough Council's submission to LCC for Contain Outbreak Management funding a sum of £120,000 was allocated to the continuation of the Charnwood Community Action Hub at John Storer House and for the provision of a pathway for those in hardship and associated food poverty to access support and empower their move from dependency to self-reliance. This will include for the establishment, opening, and running of the social supermarket and hub and spoke model. The scheme is a continuation of the Charnwood Community Action response to the Covid-19 outbreak ensuring support is available to all those that continue to be/or have found themselves in hardship and food poverty. It is recognised that as we move into recovery there is a need to help those struggling with anxiety and stress of feeding both themselves and their families and provide them with a certain amount of financial respite alongside support to regain some control over budgeting and other areas of their lives.

This would include the continuation of support being provided through Charnwood Community Action Hub and through the work of the Charnwood Food Poverty Group. This will enable continued access to food parcels, lower priced food, alongside other services such as money management advice, financial literacy classes, access to debt advice, access to credit union services, volunteering advice and opportunities, skill development and cv writing and cookery classes.

It is anticipated that this funding will be utilised for a number of purposes including:

- The continuation of the foodbank at John Storer House and for deliveries where required and the purchase of food
- The refurbishment of an area of John Storer House allocated to be a shop, the shop fit, signage, till and Paypoint and data base running costs
- Design & Production of the required marketing and branding materials
- 3 full time, 12-month posts, to support the continuation of the Charnwood Community Action Hub, foodbank and running of the social supermarket, the assessment and personal review of individual members and the management and co-ordination of the members programme including those still requiring food parcels
- Membership induction packs and ongoing materials
- Support to create a local spoke model with a 'Pop Up' tool kit for the running of 5 'pop up' hubs in identified locations across the borough linked to the CCA Hub and the provided services

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the Council. The project costs are approximately £143,000, Charnwood will receive £120,000 as part of the LCC Contain Outbreak Management Funding allocation. This amount will be paid to the Council and was identified as part of the Council's allocation of the Contain funding submitted to LCC

for sign off. All sums agreed to be paid will be coded to X464 T0100 BG505. These monies will be paid to John Storer Charnwood. The remaining costs will be met from other sources of funding including Leicestershire County Councils – Communities Fund (£10k secured) and John Storer Charnwood reserves.

Risk Management

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
Failure to receive the funding to allocate for the agreed purpose	Low	Low	Ensure funding process is completed and funding is received. Confirmation has been received from LCC

Key Decision:

No

Background Papers:

LCC Contain Funding Spreadsheet