

## Decision under Delegated Powers

### Officer Requesting Decision

Neighbourhoods and Partnerships Manager

### Officer Making The Decision

Head of Neighbourhood Services

### Recommendations

To provide financial support to identified Voluntary and Community Sector organisations who will be offering support and services to support the Charnwood Community Action Hub Transition project and wider identified community needs.

### Reasons

To ensure there is financial support in place ( where needed) for identified VCS partner organisations to provide the support to individuals / groups in the community.

### 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*

22/04/21

### Background

As part of the Borough Council's submission to LCC for Contain Outbreak Management funding a sum of £30,000 was allocated to provide funding to identified VCS organisations that supported the Council's covid recovery work and addresses specific community need. This includes providing support to the Charnwood Community Action Hub Transition project.

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 / social isolation. 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.

It is anticipated that this funding will be utilised for a wide range of purposes including providing increased capacity to meet demand in the following areas (not an exhaustive list):

- debt advice,
- budgeting,
- befriending,
- low level mental health support
- support to BAME / deprived communities
- housing issues,
- health & wellbeing concerns,
- food provision and utility top ups,
- adult learning,
- job readiness including CV writing and training,
- healthy eating and cooking classes,
- signposting to other sources of support including social prescribing

As the need for additional services is identified that can not be met from existing service capacity, along with specific community based support or targeted intervention initiatives, those VCS organisations that can provide those services will be asked to put forward proposals, which will be assessed for value for money against outcomes to be achieved.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications for the Council. Charnwood will receive £30,000 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 BG503.

### **Risk Management**

<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Risk Management Actions Planned</b>
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