

## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### **PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted for the Officer or Executive Member involved in the decision, although see below re other members interests\*

#### **SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Resources**

##### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

The provision of funding of **£4,000** from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund. The funding will assist organisations to meet the needs of the local community response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This funding is for the following applications:

**£2,000** – to **Royston Day Centre** towards the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and clients and for the purchase of activity bags as outlined in 8.1

**£2,000** – to **Herts Viewpoint** to assist with costs for running a Mentoring Project to Assist with mental health and well-being for 16 people as outlined in 8.2.

##### **2. DECISION TAKER**

Service Director: Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member – Finance and IT- Cllr Ian Albert.

##### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

**7<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

##### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

4.1 The Community Support Fund seeks to support essential services which find themselves under increased pressure owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This funding will support three specific areas in the first instance. These are:

- Provision of food and essentials
- Mental Health support (including loneliness caused by isolation)
- Domestic Abuse support

##### **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 Members of the Community Facilities Capital and District Wide Revenue Grant panel and Executive members for Community Engagement and Finance and IT were consulted via a virtual meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 2020.
- 6.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external bodies/groups has taken place with regards to these funding applications.

## 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

<b>Applicant Project</b>	<b>Royston Day Centre</b> Funding support for the purchase of essential PPE for when the building fully reopens to the public. Also, for activity bags to be delivered to those unable to leave their homes.
<b>Sum requested</b>	£2,000
<b>Total project cost</b>	£2,642
<b>Joint funding</b>	£642 as part of Royston Town Council funding
<b>NHDC Policy met</b>	Yes
<b>Council Priorities</b>	Build thriving and resilient communities

The Royston Day Centre provides social interaction for the elderly of Royston and the surrounding villages. The centre caters for those who are often lonely, to improve mental health, well-being in a friendly environment. The centre provides an opportunity for clients to chat over tea and coffee. A hot lunch is provided. There is a varied activity program for those who want to join in, and they have a plan to increase this. They also have a chiropodist and an audiologist who attend regularly. They feel this is important for health issues.

Royston Day Centre is hoping to fully open soon, once Government and County give authorisation. The centre needs to purchase a large amount of PPE to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19). The breakdown of costings for the PPE which will cater for the centre for the next 6-9 month is as followed:

<b>Funding is to cover the centre and user for the next 6-9 months during Covid-19</b> <b>-PPE consisting of:</b> <b>-8 x 5l gel sanitiser</b> <b>-Disposable gloves (1000)</b>	<b>£240</b> <b>£528 (£26.40 per 50)</b>
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-Disposable masks (2000)	£820 (£20.50 per 50)
Hand sanitiser pots for tables for users (30)	£120 (£4 per pot)
Signage (20)	£134 (£6.70 per sign)
Thermometers (3)	£120 (£40 each)
Storage Boxes /files/ visors	£80
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,042</b>

The Centre is aware of mental health issues caused by social isolation. In order to cater for Clients who are initially nervous to attend the centre, it is intended to offer an out-reach service. If guidelines allow, this would include dropping off activity bags at the client's home. The breakdown of costings for the activity bags is detailed below.

<b>ACTIVITY BAGS (OUTREACH)</b> As some clients will be reluctant to come to the centre when it opens or are shielding, seasonal activity bags will be delivered to users of the centre at Halloween, Christmas & Easter	<b>£600 (£10 per bag which will consist of stationary, puzzle activities, food hampers etc)</b>
<b>Activity Bags (60)</b>	

Royston Day Centre is a registered charity which was set up in 1985. The organisation is made up of 8 Volunteer Committee members, 1 full time paid staff member and 32 volunteers. The Centre provides an essential service to the public, in particular, the elderly. The PPE is required so that the building can re-open and operate safely. The application is criteria compliant. The organisation has secured the necessary match funding and the recommendation is for an area specific award of £2,000 from the Covid-19 Support fund.

8.2

<b>Applicant Project</b>	<b>Herts Viewpoint</b> Mentoring Project to Assist with mental health and wellbeing for 16 people.
<b>Sum requested</b>	£2,000
<b>Total project cost</b>	£3,520
<b>Joint funding</b>	£1520.00 Hertfordshire Community Foundation – Emergency Coronavirus Fund.
<b>NHDC Policy met</b>	Yes
<b>Council Priorities</b>	Build thriving and resilient communities

Viewpoint will recruit 4 Peer Champions supported by Viewpoint staff and provide:

a comprehensive course, upskilling people with a lived experience to become mentors in order to provide a wide range of support to beneficiaries.

Including:

- o Mentoring skills
- o Active listening skills
- o Professional boundaries
- o Safeguarding
- o Understanding mental health and drug and alcohol challenges
- o Lone working
- o Goal setting
- o The benefits of befriending.
- o Bi-weekly supervision.

The project offers three art and creative groups per week (over a period of 12 weeks) and will target up to 16 people who have mental health challenges. The groups will be facilitated by people with a lived experience of mental health challenges. The groups will provide a safe place to be creative and discuss issues, share experiences and help to problem solve.

Herts Viewpoint is a registered charity which has been in operation since 2001. The organisation is made up of 1 full time paid staff, 2 part time paid staff and 10 Volunteers. Viewpoint currently supports members from across North Herts as followed: 2 Baldock / 35 Hitchin / 24 Letchworth / 4 Royston.

Officers originally considered that this application be assessed as a District Wide Community Grant. However, the Panel felt that as the project was dealing with those living with mental health issues and the project has had to be adapted due to social distancing regulations that it should be considered under the Coronavirus Community Support fund.

Viewpoint will run two 12-week creative support groups. Because of the COVID-19 crisis they have been unable to run face-to face sessions and would Initially, run the groups online. This will involve continuous assessment of the current legislation and adherence to Government Guidelines. They are also are mindful that many people with mental health challenges have additional health needs and may be shielding.

Viewpoint are aware that some people may not have access to IT equipment and will lend equipment out when necessary.

The Coronavirus pandemic, subsequent lockdown and social distancing measures has put greater strain on families and individuals. Those with addiction issues and poor mental health are under greater strain and there has been additional pressure put onto the organisations that provide services to this group.

The application is criteria compliant under the 'Mental Health' element of the criteria (*as outlined in 3.0 of the Covid-19 Special Reserve fund 2020 policy document*) and the recommendation of the Panel is to award £2,000 from the Covid-19 Support Fund.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. Following an urgent delegated decision by the Chief Executive on 3 April 2020<sup>1</sup> the uses of the Reserve have been extended to include “support the response to and reduce the impact of major incidents”. This allows it to be used for discretionary spend in response to Covid-19. The referenced delegated decision also ***“noted that any discretionary spend in respect of Covid-19 will be approved by the Service Director: Resources as Budget Manager, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT”.***
- 9.2. In terms of interests, it was noted that (as with many of the Districts organisations) that a District Councillor, Cllr Bill Davidson, was a NHDC representative on the Royston Day Centre, the Chairman of the Centre’s Management Committee and Trustee of the building. Cllr Davidson was not, however, in attendance at the Panel that made the recommendation to award the grant. This information is detailed for transparency purposes, was considered by the decision maker in consultation with the Executive Member and did not affect the decision to award the grant.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The total of funding recommended by this meeting of the Panel is £4,000 taking the total amount that has been recommended by the grant panel to £77,700.

## **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 to the Grant Panel for 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.
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**14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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

**15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 There are no pertinent Environmental Implications associated with any items within this report

**16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Officers have received and approved the grant application, mission statement and accounts. Covid 19 Special Reserve Fund 2020 (Community Grants) Protocol.

**NOTIFICATION DATE**

7<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Signature of Executive Member Consulted .....  
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Date ...October 2020.....

Signature of Decision Taker .....



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**Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**