
Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

26th September 2019

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources – Councillor J Mutton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive Place

Ward(s) affected:

St Michael's Ward

Title:

Policy Contingency Grant – Hope Community Projects

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report is seeking retrospective approval for grant funding of £1,000 to Hope Community Projects. The funding was requested specifically to support a project support for families over the 2019 Easter school holidays.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources is requested to approve retrospectively a one-off grant of £1,000 to Hope Community Projects.

List of Appendices included:

None.

Background papers:

None.

Other useful documents

None.

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Policy Contingency Grant – Hope Community Projects

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources is responsible for approving the allocation of resources of up to £75,000 each year from an on-going Policy Contingency budget.
- 1.2 The Cabinet Member was approached by Hope Community Projects in March 2019 for a small grant funding allocation. Hope Community Projects is an initiative delivered out of the Hope Nursery in the Hillfields area of Coventry. The Hope Community Projects Family Project has been established to respond to issues that arise during school holidays such as increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes (such as loss of a free school meal, reduced working hours etc.). Project organisers reference evidence of children from disadvantaged families being less likely to access organised out-of-school activities; more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health; and more likely to experience social isolation.
- 1.3 Funding had been requested to continue the project over the Easter school holiday 2019 to support an anticipated 500 people accessing the service. The project was described as incorporating aspects such as stay and play sessions, provision of hot meals and involvement of children and parents in food preparation. The main outcomes of the project include forming a parents' group, provide training and education (e.g. cooking classes), early intervention, addressing social isolation and working to alleviate 'holiday hunger'.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

Option 1 - Reject the Funding Request

- 2.1 This option is not recommended. The Cabinet Member has already indicated his support for the project.

Option 2 – Agree to the Funding Request

- 2.2 This is the recommended option. The Cabinet Member has already indicated his support for the project for which the grant payment has been made. This report is providing retrospective approval.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 No consultation has been undertaken.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 The Cabinet Member had already agreed to this funding request and this report is gaining retrospective approval only.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

The £1,000 grant has already been paid, funded from within the 2018/19 Policy Contingency budget. Total Policy Contingency approvals for the year amounted to £26,000, leaving an underspend of £49,000.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

The project can be considered to be broadly aligned to the Council's priorities under the locally committed banner, contributing to elements including improving educational outcomes, improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

There are no key risks associated with this funding proposal.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equality and Consultation Analysis (ECA)

Given the relatively small scale of the allocation no Equality and Consultation analysis has been undertaken. The nature of the activities undertaken by the Project lead to the conclusion that approval is consistent with the Council complying with its Public Sector Equality Duty.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

No implications.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The allocation of funding will help support the activities of a community organisation within the Hillfields area of the city.

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