

## Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	<b>Financial Support to Havering Volunteer Centre</b>
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Viddy Persaud, Lead Member for Community Safety and Public Protection
<b>SLT Lead:</b>	Jane West, Chief Operating Officer
<b>Report Author and contact details:</b>	Jerry Haley, jerry.haley@havering.gov.uk
<b>Policy context:</b>	Government advice following the outbreak of Covid 19 virus in the UK
<b>Financial summary:</b>	The Council currently fund the Havering Volunteer Centre for £56k per annum for core grant. Owing to current covid 19 crisis, the volunteer centre is inundated with much needed volunteer resource. There is a need to co-ordinate this resource with full time staff. LBH staff from the Community Development area of the council will also help to co-ordinate efforts. For a three month period the cost of additional staffing is £28,778.46.
<b>Relevant OSC:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Board
<b>Is this decision exempt from being called-in?</b>	Yes. It is a non key decision by a member of staff.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

## Key Executive Decision

Communities making Havering	[X]
Places making Havering	[x]
Opportunities making Havering	[x]
Connections making Havering	[]

## Part A – Report seeking decision

**1.1. The report seeks funding of £28,776,46 from the COVID 19 emergency fund that central government is granting local authorities at this time of crisis.**

1.2. This is based on a 12 week basis to enable 5 extra members of staff to ensure resilience.

1.3. Please note: salary has been costed at London Living Wage of £10.75 per hour for full time employees on a month by month basis as HVC is a LLW employer.

1.4. The Havering Volunteer Centre are one of the Council's key partners in securing community and volunteering support since the outbreak of Covid 19. They are also members of Volunteering and Community Action Bronze Group making an invaluable contribution to the Council's community response

1.5. The Havering Volunteer Centre currently co-ordinate 3000 volunteers and most of these now will be engaged in volunteering duties since the covid 19 outbreak.

1.6. These duties include:

- Supporting delivery of food and other essentials to residents who are unable to leave their homes (for example 28 pints of milk were delivered today)
- Telephone befriending
- Home visiting (if it is ok to do so)
- Use of transport as necessary
  
- Promote COVID 19 messages and materials available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>
- Use of anyone known to organisations with community language skills. The volunteer centre currently of a band of 45 translators
- Listening, welfare support, comforting and befriending skills

1.7 There have been 95 new registered volunteers in the last few days. This number is likely to grow significantly with thousands of residents throughout the Borough 'volunteering' support on COVID 19 groups on Facebook and other social media.

1.8 Of these 95, 17 have already been processed with ID and security and are now 'good to go'. The HVC are fast tracking the rest.

## **Key Executive Decision**

1.9. In line with Government self-isolation guidelines, it is important that these volunteers are within the correct age groups and all volunteers are aged between 25 and 55. At the moment 46 individuals are being supported with another ten referring today. This is likely to steadily increase.

### **AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE**

This decision can be taken by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Under part three of the constitution, a member of the Senior Leadership Team can 'In consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to apply for, accept and manage external funding up to a limit of £500,000 per grant in support of any function within their Directorate provided that any financial contributions by the Council are made from within existing budgets'.

### **STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

These decisions have been taken as a result of the changes in government and PHE advice on social distancing and self-isolation following the outbreak of Covid 19.

### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Other options that will run parallel to this are the use of Havering Council staff to support the Havering Volunteer Centre.

### **PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION**

The Community Action and Volunteering Support Bronze Group has been consulted on these proposals

### **NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER**

Name: Jerry Haley

Designation: Senior Community Resilience and Development Officer

Signature:

Date: 24/3/2020

## Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives a local authority the power to do anything that individuals generally may do. The council's contribution to costs of voluntary and community organisations through grants is within the scope of this general power.

The Authority will need to ensure that the distribution of grants is fair and proportionate and complies with its duties under the Equality Act, set out in more detail below.

This is also an emergency power bestowed on local authorities by Government

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

This report is recommending extraordinary actions to be taken by the Council and its voluntary sector partners following HM Government's advice on Covid 19. The financial implications for some of these changes will be short term and one off costs.

The costs will be closely monitored as with all grant arrangements with the voluntary sector

### **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)**

There are no direct human resource implications for the Council other than volunteering resource in this time of crisis. The project management and implementation will be met by the Havering Volunteer Centre.

### **EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

## **Key Executive Decision**

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

This paper proposes action to support vulnerable residents and ensure that services are maintained.

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The core of this report seeks to maintain the health and well being of the Borough at time when many residents will be unwell, need to go into self isolation and not able to provide for themselves.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There are none other than the Government Guidance listed

**Key Executive Decision**

**Part C – Record of decision**

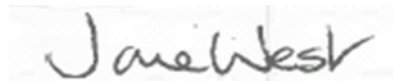
I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

**Decision**

Proposal agreed

**Details of decision maker**

Signed



Name: Jane West

Cabinet Portfolio held:  
CMT Member title: Chief Operating Officer  
Head of Service title  
Other manager title:

Date: 20/03/2020

**Lodging this notice**

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Debra Marlow, Principal Committee Officer in Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

**For use by Committee Administration**

This notice was lodged with me on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_