

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Crowdfunding for COVID19
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Viddy Persaud, Lead Member for Community Safety and Public Protection
SLT Lead:	Jane West, Chief Operating Officer
Report Author and contact details:	Jerry Haley, jerry.haley@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	Government advice following the outbreak of Covid 19 virus in the UK
Financial summary:	No financial contribution is needed from the Council in regard to this decision. Any funding raised through crowdfunding will be fed through to the first application round of the Council's 'In from the Cold' pilot that is specifically for Covid19 applications in this first round. The Council has already made a financial contribution to this and the first round. This is monies that were held in trust for the Community Sector from Performance Reward Grant. There will be for up to £75k in grants to the voluntary and community sector plus monies raised through crowd funding for COVID19 projects.
Relevant OSC:	Overview and Scrutiny Board
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	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

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

Part A – Report seeking decision

1.1 That Cabinet agree to a crowd funding page to support the voluntary and community sector for Covid19

1.2 Spacehive who are now the Council's crowdfunding partners have launched a totally free platform to support voluntary and community agencies through these traumatic times. Space hive will not take a commission for the launch of this platform and the registration process is very simple.

1.3 An example of the platform is shown here which London Borough of Waltham launched last week. <https://www.spacehive.com/walthamforestcommunityhelp> . The target of £10k was reached after a few days.

1.4 Crowdfunding is an alternative finance model that involves raising money for a project or idea via a collective of individuals, promoted online or via local media. Put simply, people are invited to donate money towards the cause or idea, if the fundraising target is met by the crowd those donations are released to the project lead for implementing that project/idea. However, the project ideally needs seed / match funding to get it started and projects that are supported by the Council generally have more chance of success (although this may not necessarily be the case in the present climate). The crowd funder platform space hive, report that 89% of projects are successful (reach predefined targets) with Council financial backing against only 52% that do not have that backing.

1.5 The benefits of Crowdfunding are as follows:

- democratic – the crowd chooses which projects succeed, any project can succeed provided it can find that support;
- transparent – backers can see where their investment is spent;
- local – backers are typically local, and therefore motivated to see the project succeed;
- easy to do – crowdfunding is almost exclusively done online through intuitive to use platforms;
- quick – funding can be secured within a matter of weeks;
- accesses a large community of potential small investors.

Organisations in Havering, like many across the country, are facing increasing challenges due to the unprecedented crisis of the Covid19 pandemic.

In light of this, The Fore, Havering Compact and the London Borough of Havering

Key Executive Decision

have decided to change the focus of the first round of the Havering Funding Programme.

The Programme will now be focussed on making small emergency grants of up to £5,000 to enable organisations in Havering to meet the changing needs of their beneficiaries and to be able to implement new ways of working effectively.

We will also remove the deadlines for registration and application. We will run the programme on a rolling application basis and speed up our decision-making process with panels being held in mid and late April. Up to £75,000 is available for this first round plus any monies raised through crowdfunding.

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 initiative

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

Key Executive Decision

Designation: Senior Community Resilience and Development Officer

Signature:

Date: 1/4/2020

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 (if any) 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

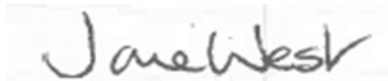
Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Jane West

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date: 07.04.20

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 _____