

# DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

**Decision maker:** Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities

**Date:** 11 July 2017

**Decision in the matter of:** Social Franchise Model Pilot Offer Award - Connected Community Centres

**Decision:**

1. That under the pilot social franchise offer agreed in July 2015 approval be given to award a franchise which will be reviewed annually to:
  - Audlem Public Hall Community Group, Audlem
  - Bridgend Centre, Bollington
2. That each of the organisations be awarded a start up grant of up to a maximum of £2k to support and enable them to meet the franchise criteria, to be used to obtain the items set out in the application form (e.g. Broadband/ Wi-Fi enablement, CVS membership, insurances, IT equipment, phone lines, and other issues identified) .

**Background:** As part of the Connected Communities Strategy, Cheshire East Council is leading a programme of work with partners to develop vibrant and sustainable community venues across the borough.

By piloting a social franchise model it has allowed the Council to work in collaboration with key stakeholders in neighbourhoods, delivering services at a range of key buildings in the heart of communities. Working with local partners who own or manage community assets is key to service delivery and tackling local priorities, and to providing the right services in the right place, at the right times. They can be the flagship venues for delivery points in the local communities for Cheshire East Council, partners and commissioned services.

The pilot franchise model provides a robust framework to establish a recognised standard of governance and ensures consistent service standards across services and activities provided. This has been quality assured through the completion of a Community and Voluntary Sector quality mark.

The expressions of interests by Audlem Public Hall and Bridgend Centre were submitted prior to development of the new Connected Community

Centre social franchise model. They are both committed to becoming active members of the Connected Community Networks and both venues have adhered to the criteria set out in the pilot social franchise model.

**Background Documents:**

The background papers for this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

**Approved:**

Signed .....  
Councillor Paul Bates (Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities)

**Date:**

11 July 2017

**Advising Officer:**

Signed .....  
Dan Coyne (Delivering Differently Manager – Partnerships Manager and Communities)

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**Decision maker:** Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities

**Date:** 11 July 2017

**Decision in the matter of:** Social Franchise Model Revised Offer Amendments Connected Community Centres

**Decision:**

1. That approval be given to the amendments made in the social franchise model.
2. That approval be given to for 30 venues during 2017/18 and 2018/19 to be proposed to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Communities to be awarded franchisee status.

**Background:** As part of the Connected Communities Strategy Cheshire East Council is leading a programme of work along with partners to develop vibrant and sustainable Connected Community Centres in identified priority locations, including key service centres and those neighbourhoods which feature in the top 25% nationally in terms of overall deprivation.

Revisions to the existing social franchise model will allow the Council to focus on key areas, engage communities in decision making, and to promote collaborative working to identify and tackle local priorities. The establishment of 30 Connected Community Centres over the next 2 years will be key to service delivery and to ensure we are tackling local priorities, and providing the right services in the right place, at the right times.

The Cabinet Member for Communities approved the pilot social franchise offer for Community Hubs on 20 July 2015. The revised social franchise model has used the learning highlighted in the Connected to Services report approved by Cabinet on 8 March 2017.

The revised franchise model provides a greater offer for franchisees and higher expectation on local stakeholders to make decisions. The emphasis is on local organisations, through established networks and partnerships, to identify priorities within a footprint and to work collectively using the Connected Community Centre as the delivery point for service delivery to tackle those identified priorities. The venues will be visible to local partners

and residents with branded signage displaying “Connected Community Centre” along with the Cheshire East logo. Each venue will be quality assured through the completion of a Community and Voluntary Sector quality mark named GRIPPP.

The financial offer associated with this social franchise model is time limited for two years. It is important if Cheshire East Council are committed to providing services in the right places at the right time for early intervention and prevention and that the Connected Community Centres are recommended as delivery points through commissioned contracts when applicable.

**Background Documents:**

The background papers for this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

**Approved:**

Signed .....  
Councillor Paul Bates (Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities)

**Date:**

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**Advising Officer:**

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**Decision maker:** Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities

**Date:** 11 July 2017

**Decision in the matter of:** Social Franchisee Award Proposals Connected Community Centres

**Decision:**

1. That approval be given to the award the Connected Community Centre social franchise to:
  - St Barnabas Church – Crewe
  - The Welcome Café – Knutsford, Longridge
  - Jubilee House, Wishing Well – Crewe
  - St Johns Church – Macclesfield, Weston and Ivy
2. That a maximum grant of £5,000 over 2 years be awarded to reserve the use of facilities for the delivery of early intervention and prevention services.

**Background:** The Cabinet Member for Communities approved a pilot social franchise model for Community Hubs on 20 July 2015 and a model was adopted and monitored for development. As a result of learning from the pilot franchise model the Cabinet subsequently agreed to a set of changes on 8 March 2017 and a set of detailed amendments are now proposed.

The venues at St Barnabas Church Crewe, The Welcome Café Knutsford, Jubilee House Crewe and St Johns Church Macclesfield have agreed to adhere to all of the criteria, offer and expectations and completed the necessary applications. The financial offer set out will last for 2 years only and within that time the Council will be supporting the Connected Community Centres to find sustainable funds and activities to continue to provide local residents with a range on priority tackling services.

The proposed organisations have been selected by local neighbourhood partnerships made up of key stakeholders in that locality. No other appropriate venues in these localities wanted to be considered for franchise status. An evaluation process is in place if more than one organisation expresses an interest in becoming a Connected Community Centre within a identified priority location.

**Background Documents:**

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**Approved:**

Signed .....  
Councillor Paul Bates (Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities)

**Date:**

11 July 2017

**Advising Officer:**

Signed .....  
Dan Coyne (Delivering Differently Manager – Partnerships Manager and Communities)