

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Cabinet Member Decision Paper

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**Date of Meeting: 11 July 2017**

**Report of: Fiona Reynolds, Director of Public Health**

**Subject/Title: Social Franchise Award proposals – Connected Community Centres**

**Portfolio Holder: Paul Bates – Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities**

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### 1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report is to determine the award of social franchisee status to four applicants which meet the criteria approved by Cheshire East Council.
- 1.2. The report covers the first round of grants for 2017/18 in line with Cheshire East Council's revised Social franchise Model. There are a total of 4 grants recommended to be awarded.

### 2. Recommendation

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

### 3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1. The proposed organisations have been selected by local neighbourhood partnerships made up of key stakeholders in that locality. No other appropriate venues in these locality wanted to be considered for franchise status. An evaluation process is in place if more than one organisation express interest in becoming a Connected Community Centre within a identified priority location (Appendix 1, page 8).

### 4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1. The venues below, with support from their local network / neighbourhood partnerships, have agreed to become a Connected Community Centre and adhere to the criteria set out in the revised social franchise model (Appendix 1).
  - St Barnabas Church – Crewe
  - The Welcome Café – Knutsford, Longridge
  - Jubilee House – Crewe
  - St Johns Church – Macclesfield, Weston and Ivy
- 4.2. The spend will be determined by the local partnership to ensure that local priorities are being tackled through the most appropriate and effective early intervention and prevention services available.

## **5. Background/Chronology**

- 5.1. The Cabinet Member for Communities approved a pilot social franchise model for Community Hubs on the 20th July 2015. A model was adopted and monitored for development.
- 5.2. Cabinet agreed to a set of changes based on learning from the pilot franchise model in the Connected to Services report on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (Appendix 2).
- 5.3. Detailed amendments to the franchise model have been submitted for portfolio holder approval on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- 5.4. The following venues have agreed to adhere to all of the criteria, offer and expectations and completed applications set out in Appendix 1:
  - St Barnabas Church – Crewe
  - The Welcome Café – Knutsford, Longridge
  - Jubilee House – Crewe
  - St Johns Church – Macclesfield, Weston and Ivy
- 5.5. The financial offer set out will last for 2 years only and within that time we 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.

## **6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members**

- 6.1. Crewe Central, Knutsford, Macclesfield Weston and Ivy Wards for proposed Connected Community Centres.

## **7. Risk Management & Implications of Recommendation**

### **7.1. Policy Implications**

Procurement policies will be adhered **too** in relation to the financial payment.

## **7.2. Legal Implications**

The Council has the power to award grants to organisations using its general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. In exercising the power the Council must satisfy its public law duties. In essence this means that in making the decision the Council must have taken into account only relevant considerations, followed procedural requirements, acted for proper motives and not acted unreasonably. An application process is a clear statement of the criteria that the Council is applying and is essential if the Council is to defend any challenge to its decision making process.

Franchises and grants to reserve the use of facilities for the delivery of early intervention and prevention services are being awarded to defined organisations following an application process and against set criteria. By entering into a formal grant agreement with the Council the organisations can be monitored and required to report back to the Council upon their compliance with the franchise requirements and expenditure of the grant. The decision making process was delegated to the Portfolio Holder in order to ensure that decisions can be made expeditiously and at the appropriate level.

Grant funding to organisations based on the application of the Council's published scheme satisfies the Council's public law duties.

## **7.3. Financial Implications**

The £5,000 grants provided over four singular £1,250 payments in advance made over two years for each of the four proposed franchisees using an grant offer agreement which will allow Cheshire East to recover funds if necessary, this will be funded from the Connected Community Centres reserves which were approved as part of the Connected Community Strategy by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016. This will amount to £10,000 per year for two years equating to £20,000. There is sufficient funding in this earmarked reserve for up to 30 Connected Community Centres. Pay

## **7.4. Equality Implications**

Application has been open to all asset owners in 25 Connected Community identified priority areas of deprivation and across our towns.

## **7.5. Rural Community Implications**

Not all rural areas can be offered this support as the resource needs to concentrate initially on the in Connected Community identified priority locations including the top 25% areas of deprivation.

## 7.6. **Public Health Implications**

The four proposed Connected Community Centres will be the flagship venues for public health service delivery in communities. The consideration of these venues in future commissioned contracts as delivery points to achieve outcomes will be of benefit to local hard to reach residents, achieving a greater reach and assisting with outcomes for the commissioned providers.

## 7.7. **Risk Management**

All risks will be mitigated through continuous monitoring of the franchise model.

## 8. **Access to Information**

8.1. Revised Social Franchise model application form that outlines offer and expectations (Appendix 1).

8.2. Connected to Services Report signed of by cabinet 8<sup>th</sup> March (Appendix 2)

## 9. **Contact Information**

Contact details for this report are as follows:-

**Name: Dan Coyne**

**Designation: Delivering Differently Manager - Partnerships and Communities**

**Tel. No. 01625 383845**

**Email: [Daniel.coyne@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Daniel.coyne@cheshireeast.gov.uk)**