

Cheshire East Council

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Integration

Date of Meeting: 06 November 2017

Report of: Director of Public Health

Subject/Title: Social Franchise Award Round 2 – Connected Communities Centres

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Janet Clowes

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report is to determine the award of social franchisee status to seven applicants which meet the criteria approved by Cheshire East Council.
- 1.2. The report covers the second round of grants for 2017/18 in line with Cheshire East Council's revised Social Franchise Model. There are a total of 7 grants recommended to be awarded.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. To award the Connected Communities Centre social franchise to the following:
 - Beechmere Extracare Village - Crewe
 - The Georges Community Centre, The Wishing Well Project - Crewe
 - TS Ambuscade - Crewe
 - St Andrews Parish Hall - Crewe
 - Belong - Crewe
 - Poynton Civic Hall – Poynton
 - Church of the Resurrection - Broken Cross and Upton Priory
- 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 applied to be considered for franchise status. An evaluation process is in place if more than one organisation express interest in becoming a Connected Communities Centre within a identified priority location (Appendix 1, page 8).

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1. The venues stated in 2.1, with support from their local network / neighbourhood partnerships, have agreed to become a Connected Communities Centre and adhere to the criteria set out in the revised social franchise model (Appendix 1).
- 4.2. The way in which the individual grants are spent 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 8th March 2017.
- 5.3. Detailed amendments to the franchise model were then approved by the portfolio holder for Finance and Communities on 11th 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:
 - Beechmere Extracare Village - Crewe
 - The Georges Community Centre, The Wishing Well Project - Crewe
 - TS Ambuscade - Crewe
 - St Andrews Parish Hall - Crewe
 - Belong - Crewe
 - Poynton Civic Hall – Poynton
 - Church of the Resurrection - Broken Cross and Upton Priory
- 5.5. The grants are for 2 years only and within that time the Council will be supporting the Connected Communities Centres to establish sustainable funds and activities to continue to provide local residents with a range of priority tackling services.
- 5.6. About the venues:

Beechmere Extracare Village:

This venue lies in the heart of the St Barnabas ward of Crewe in a neighbourhood of multiple deprivation, including many health inequalities. The venue is well connected to local transport links, connected to a range of services including a doctor's surgery. This accessible modern venue regularly hosts various health and social events and houses a number of services and wants to continue to do so as a Connected Communities Centre.

The Georges Community Centre:

This venue is closely aligned to Jubilee House which was agreed as a Connected Community Centre by Cheshire East Council on 11th July. This venue is also managed by Wishing Well who have provided an extensive range of services for over a decade. The Georges is recognised locally to be a one stop shop for services and Wishing Well are forward thinking as to how they can evolve working with Cheshire East Council as a Connected Communities Centre.

TS Ambuscade:

This is a large MOD building, situated in Crewe East that is only used 3 evenings per week. Officers at Ambuscade are very keen for this site to be used as a community venue during the day and weekends to offer local services to those who need it. Currently 28% of children are living in poverty in this ward whilst having the worst education attainment in Cheshire East with only 45.3% of young people obtaining 5 or more GCSE's. It therefore makes sense for this building to host a range of services. This is an excellent opportunity to utilise a resource that sits empty during the day but could be used to provide intervention and preventative services to tackle local priorities by becoming a Connected Communities Centre.

St Andrews Parish Hall:

This venue is in the South Ward of Crewe and would make an excellent, vibrant and engaged Connected Communities Centre. Parts of Crewe South are recognised as being in the top 10% of areas nationally for deprivation. It has the most ethnically diverse population in the Borough with up to 25 different languages being spoken by its residents. It is therefore vital that services and outreach are community focused and fully embedded, speaking to each resident in a way that meets their needs and embraces their lifestyle and culture. This venue is managed by and committed to the local community already housing many services and has the capacity for more services to be delivered.

Belong:

This venue is in the South Ward of Crewe and aims to compliment the work they already do in relation to Dementia to serve the local community. They are passionate about helping and supporting not only older people and those living with a dementia, but extending this to their friends and loved ones too. Social isolation and health and wellbeing go hand in hand and with the extensive programme of activities and events, together with functional venues throughout the building, Belong can offer a solution to decrease isolation in the community, increase fitness and mobility through activities and fully utilise existing partnerships they have such as Cheshire Dance, Deafness Support Network. Community is at the heart of everything they do and they would be an ideal Connected Community Centre in the area.

Poynton Civic Hall:

Poynton is a town with a population that is recognised as housing above the national average number of older people. Poynton Civic Centre is in the heart of the town and the community with a designated information point and staffed reception. It is ideally situated next to a GP practice, library and supermarket. Services delivered in the building currently include: a lunch club for those living with dementia, falls prevention and fitness classes, and University of the Third Age. The centre also operates a scheme hiring mobility scooters to residents and visitors. There are also many activities for young children such as rhyme time and baby massage classes. Whilst the five modern rooms for hire are well utilised the organisation is committed and passionate for other services to be delivered from this venue to address the needs of the population.

Church of the Resurrection:

The Church of the Resurrection was founded in 1964 as a chapel to St Peter's but in 1975 it became the district church for parts of the civil parishes of Macclesfield and Prestbury. Recent investment in the building now means the residents of Upton Priory have a multi-purpose venue; the hall has been designed for local residents and groups to utilise and host events. Becoming a Connected Community Centre will allow the venue to reach out to local people and accommodate more services.

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

- 6.1. Crewe St Barnabas, Crewe North, Crewe East, Crewe South, Poynton East and Pott Shrigley and Macclesfield Broken Cross And Upton Ward for proposed Connected Communities 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 activity 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 grant payment will be made in four singular £1,250 payments, paid in advance made over two years to each of the seven proposed franchisees. A grant offer agreement will be used which will allow Cheshire East to recover funds if necessary, this will be funded from the Connected Communities Centres reserves which were approved as part of the Connected Communities Strategy by Cabinet on 8th November 2016. This will amount to £17,500 per year for two years equating to £35,000. There is sufficient funding in this earmarked reserve for up to 30 Connected Community Centres.

7.4. Equality Implications

Application has been open to all asset owners in 25 Connected Communities identified priority areas of deprivation.

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 seven proposed Connected Communities 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).

9. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:-

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