

Agenda Item No.3 (b)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC POLICY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET**

13 December 2016

Report of the Chief Executive

**COMMUNITY PRIORITIES PROGRAMME – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING
FOR BITS AND BOBS AT HOME SERVICE**

1. Purpose of the Report

To approve an application from Councillors Ellie Wilcox, Dave Wilcox and Damien Greenhalgh for Community Priority Programme funding of £30,000 for the Volunteer Centre Glossop to support the start-up of a 'Bits and Bobs at Home' service.

2. Information and Analysis

Background

At Cabinet on 24 May 2016, Members agreed to establish a £2.271 million Community Priorities Programme using one off resources identified from General Reserves. It was agreed at the meeting that any projects requiring funding of £20,000 or above would need to seek approval by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Policy, Economic Development and Budget.

The Community Priorities Programme aims to support the development of projects which meets real identified needs, supports communities and families, build community capacity and are sustainable. All projects need to meet the following criteria:

- Support activity benefiting the designated Lower Super Output Area (LSOA).
- Support the aims and objectives of the Thriving Communities programme.
- Link into Thriving Communities activity in areas where work is currently being piloted where possible.
- Be time limited and not require ongoing funding from the Council.
- Complement, not duplicate other funding sources such as the Public Health Locality Fund, the Members Community Leadership Scheme etc.
- Show how activity can be sustained beyond the life of the funding.

- Meet an identified need which can be evidenced through for example, the English Indices of Deprivation, the Derbyshire Quilt etc.
- Be delivered within agreed timescales.
- Show how local people have helped in the design of identified activity or have been consulted or engaged.
- Show what difference will be made.

An application for funding under the Community Priorities Programme has been submitted by Councillors Ellie Wilcox, Dave Wilcox and Damien Greenhalgh for a grant of £30,000 to support Volunteer Centre Glossop (VCG) set up a 'Bits and Bobs at Home' service. This is a social enterprise being developed through Volunteer Centre Glossop and the Gamesley G52 community organisation. Other local organisations such as WellFit CIC, Glossop Arts, Derbyshire Alzheimers, Derbyshire Carers, Time Swap Timebank, Regency Hall supported living and High Peak/Bare Necessities foodbank will also be involved in the partnership. The service will target older people and people living with a disability or a long term limiting illness.

Home support jobs will be managed by a Co-ordinator and provide:

- A cleaning service which will offer paid employment/self employment to unemployed people on Gamesley and Hadfield and will be a 'charged for' service generating an income particularly through social care personal budgets.
- A home maintenance service which will be managed by the coordinator and linked to the Gamesley Tool box project to offer accredited NVQ training opportunities for unemployed people on Gamesley and Hadfield
- A DIY and gardening service run by a team of volunteers whose skills and time will be matched up to different individual situations and be delivered in partnership with VCG volunteers, Wellfit CIC, learning disability support groups and the Timeswap Timebank

This funding will cover the initial start-up costs for gardening and DIY equipment, a van, the first 12 months of a Coordinators salary and a salary for 2 days per week for the Manager. The key to developing the Bits and Bobs community business is its viability to survive as a self- financing social enterprise after year 1. The business plan will involve the tapering off of the investment by year two which will be replaced by income generation from the cleaning and home maintenance services.

VCG has approached Peaks and Dales Volunteer Services who are running a similar scheme at a profit. It took Peaks and Dales three years to get their model to the stage that it was generating enough income to cover all their costs. They will work with VCG to apply their business model so that the project can achieve a self-financing service at the end of year 1. To do this they are seconding their Home Maintenance Manager who set their service up

in Buxton, to be based with VCG for two days a week for the first year to get the service up and running. This may taper off towards the end of the first year but this is something that we VCG will keep evaluating as the service is established.

The Bits and Bobs service will be a community business not a training scheme. However it will act as the next step on a personal journey through a funded training scheme and pre-employment support. The service will offer DBS and volunteer passport training to all volunteers and staff and will gain CQC registration so that in time it has the potential to offer additional home care support services, opening up even more local employment opportunities.

The Coordinator is the key to the service. VCG would like them to be locally recruited and their role will be to visit and cost up the jobs; recruit and manage the teams of cleaners, home maintenance staff, and gardeners; co-ordinate jobs; review the work and support staff to meet agreed standards; sign off jobs, monitor costs and finance. The two day a week manager will work with the coordinator intensively over the first year to get the model established as well as mentor and train the coordinator. The income generated in year one will cover all the salaries for the cleaning and maintenance staff and the CQC accreditation. The enterprise will be run hand in glove with two Public Health and European Social Fund funded life skills and pre-employment support projects which bring with them a personal budget for each client to cover any costs that will enable them to access work. This includes NVQ training, driving lessons etc.

The information contained in the application, as submitted, meets the selection criteria as set out above.

3. Financial Considerations

Councillors Ellie Wilcox, Dave Wilcox and Damien Greenhalgh are proposing to allocate £10,000 each to the project. The total cost of £30,000 can be met from the Community Priorities Programme budget. To ensure that there is compliance with the Council's Financial Regulations, all approved projects will be issued with standard conditions of grant and will be subject to monitoring and evaluation.

4. Equality and Diversity Considerations

The Community Priorities Programme will ensure that the funding set aside will be targeted to the most deprived and disadvantaged areas of the county.

5. Social Value Considerations

The Community Priorities Programme will support the development of projects in the 50% most deprived LSOAs in the county, engaging with local people and supporting the improvement of the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the communities concerned. The cleaning service will offer paid employment and self-employment opportunities to a number of people from Gamesley and Hadfield who are currently unemployed. The home maintenance service will offer accredited NVQ training to a number of unemployed people from Gamesley and Hadfield. In addition the DIY and gardening service will be run by a team of volunteers and support further volunteering. This will also include encouraging and supporting adults with learning disabilities to engage in volunteering.

6. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; legal, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental, human resources, health, property and transport considerations.

7. Background Papers

- The English Indices of Deprivation - Report to Cabinet - 3 November 2015
- Reserves Position report to Cabinet - 26 January 2016
- Community Priorities Programme report to Cabinet – 24 May 2016
- Community Priorities Programme application for Volunteer Centre Glossop October 2016

8. Key Decision

No

9. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? **No**

10. Officer's Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Strategic Policy, Economic Development and Budget approves the application for £30,000 for the Bits and Bobs at Home Service as set out above.

Ian Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE