

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

26 July 2018

Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care

**BOLOVER WOODLANDS ENTERPRISE REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF
GRANT FUNDING**

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

This report seeks Cabinet approval for The Council to provide Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise Limited (BWE) with two short term Council grants.

1. A Council grant of £80,000 to be paid to BWE so they can employ an Enterprise Manager for up to a period of 24 months.
2. A Council grant of £0.149m to extend current grant arrangements for a further 12 months from the 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2020.

2. Information and Analysis

BWE was initially set up by Derbyshire County Council as part of the day services offer in the year 2000. It was a partnership arrangement between Adult Care and Countryside Services, providing opportunities for 30 adults with learning disability to gain work based practical experience in conservation and woodlands management.

BWE was incorporated on the 12 April 2007 and was registered as a private limited company by guarantee without share capital. Currently Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise Limited operates as an arm's length organisation from the Council which limits its independence. It is not for example able apply for certain grants.

The company has a management board with 16 board members which includes 5 registered Directors.

Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise Limited is currently dependent on the funding that it receives from the Council in the form of an annual grant of £58,712 together with £89,912 of additional financial support which is currently used to fund 4 members of staff who are employed by the Council.

The Council's grant funding is due to end on 31 March 2019. The Council and BWE Board recognise that the business model for the organisation will have to change so that the organisation can move towards becoming a self-sustaining and totally financially independent of the Council.

In order to progress this the Council has commissioned Community Catalysts to review the current position of BWE and are working with the Board to establish the best way forward. Community Catalysts have recommended that the organisation should employ a dedicated Enterprise Manager that would report directly to the Board and be responsible to the Board developing a transitional structure towards establishing BWE as a Social Enterprise independent of the Council. The post will be renewed after 12 months, and extended for a further 12 months subject to satisfactory progress being made towards making BWE self-sustaining.

Community Catalysts have recommended that in order to attract the right person with the right skill set and provide enough time to achieve the required outcomes the post should be funded for a period of up to 24 months.

It is also recommended that the Council continues to financially support Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise Limited whilst the work take place to fully establish the organisation as a self-sustaining Social Enterprise. This will require a further 12 month extension of the grant to cover the period from 1 April 2019 until the 31 March 2020.

3. Financial Considerations

1. An Enterprise Manager for a period of 12 months initially based upon a £40,000 pa salary including on costs, with an option for a further 12 months subject to performance. This would amount to a total financial commitment of £80,000 over 2 years. This funding will be paid quarterly following confirmation of recruitment to post.
2. £0.149m to extend the grant to Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise for a further 12 months to 31 March 2020.

The total additional funding required from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2020 is £0.229m which can be met from the existing Adult Care budget.

4. Human Resources Considerations

The Enterprise Manager will be employed by Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise Limited.

5. Legal Considerations

No legal implications for the Council.

6. Social Value

There are a number of benefits from BWE towards becoming a self-sustaining Social Enterprise. These are businesses that trade to tackle social problems, improve communities, people's life chances, or the environment.

BWE can make their money from selling goods and services in the open market, but then reinvest their profits back into the business or the local community. Service users are supported to undertake a range of conservation work and are involved in woodlands management within the local community.

7. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: and Human Rights, equality of opportunity, health, environmental, transport, property and crime and disorder considerations.

8. Background Papers

Community Catalysts Review of Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise Limited

9. Key Decision

No

10. Call-In

No

11. Officer's Recommendation

That Cabinet approves the short term funding required to enable Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise to employ an Enterprise Manager for a period of 24 months.

That Cabinet approves the extension of the Council grant to Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise Limited for a further 12 months from 1 April 2019 until the 31 March 2020.

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MATLOCK**