BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

DELEGATED MEMBER DECISION

£25,000 Grant to Bassetlaw, Community & Voluntary Service

NB Officers advising members to make a delegated decision must be satisfied

- that the Council’s Constitution authorises the making of such a decision
- that the decision is in accord with the Council policies and legal powers
- that any expenditure has been authorised and that a financial reference is included on the form sent to a member
- that the relevant Portfolio Holder is consulted about the decision
- that the Leader signs off the decision.

In cases of any doubt advice must be sought from the Council’s Financial and/or Legal officers.

The Council’s Code of Conduct in relation to Declaration of Interests applies in exactly the same way to Delegated Decision making.

OFFICER SEEKING A DELEGATED DECISION –

Neil Taylor
Chief Executive

CABINET MEMBER BEING CONSULTED ON THE DECISION:

Cabinet Members – Simon Greaves, Leader of the Council

IS THE DECISION CONFIDENTIAL?  

No

(IF yes - apply Public Interest Test below)

SCHEDULE 12A - PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

The author of this report, Neil Taylor, has determined that this matter is not confidential.

OFFICERS ADVICE:

Bassetlaw Community & Voluntary Services (BCVS) are the nominated local co-ordinator for the local arm in Bassetlaw of the national Humanitarian Hub, which is supported by this Council. Both BCVS and BDC are working in partnership with the County Council as the Government cascades down the information about local vulnerable people from the national list of 1.5m vulnerable people.

The community is therefore relying on BCVS for this valuable work and they need to be robust enough to provide it. The recommended grant will provide them with some stability to help maintain the vital support service. It recognises that they are incurring additional costs beyond those that they would normally have budgeted for. These costs include additional hours being worked by their employees, volunteer expenses, mileage costs, security costs for the Worksop distribution centre and ongoing specialist cleaning of their offices which are being used as a multi agency hub (staff are doing it themselves at the moment). It will help to ensure they can retain staff at pressing periods when overtime etc is required as they gear up their work to help local people and co-ordinate the effort of the third sector and local volunteers in the district.

A grant of £25,000 is therefore recommended to support this key local institution.
IMPLICATIONS:

a) For Service Users

This is a critical time for everyone and particularly those people locally that need support. As part of the national humanitarian hub framework the district council is supporting the cascade of information and resources down from the County Council and helping BCVS distribute food and provide support. As they are a small, but crucial organisation that coordinate the local volunteers this is a big step change for them financially and logistically. This grant will assist them with the vital role they are fulfilling.

b) Strategic & Policy

Supporting local people at this time is vital and BCVS’s work is an important part in Bassetlaw’s local response.

c) Financial – Ref: 21/63

This commitment can be met from the Council’s Contingency 2020/21 budget.

d) Legal – Ref: 04/04/2020

This is in accordance with the Council’s wellbeing powers and the Investing in the Community theme from the Council Plan.

e) Human Resources

None directly arising from the report

f) Community Safety, Equalities & Environmental

This major community crisis requires a supportive response, as do local people in vulnerable need. The Council is applying its direct resources to support the community and BCVS at this time as it takes the Government plan for shielding and support and puts it into practice.

g) General Data Protection Regulations

None directly arising from the report

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

BCVS need support at this testing time, the Council can decide to support them or not.

DECISION (With Reasons):

BCVS need the support and the Council should make this forthcoming to ensure the local humanitarian aid effort is supported adequately.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: N/A

SIGNATURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER

DATE…..14.4.2020..............................................................

SIGNATURE OF LEADER.........................................................
(or in his absence DEPUTY LEADER)
The original of this form when signed should be sent to the Democratic Services Unit who will then copy to:

Monitoring Officer
Section 151 Officer
ALL Members to provide for scrutiny