

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Acceptance of Grant from Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund for the delivery of the Veteran to Veteran volunteering scheme
Date of decision:	4 December 2020
Decision maker:	Natalia Silver, Assistant Director Corporate Services
Authority for delegated decision:	Herefordshire Council's Constitution Scheme of Delegation, Part 3: Section 7 – Officer Functions: 3.7.5 Operational decisions.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>The decision to bid for the funding was originally discussed at Herefordshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership (HAFCP) and Armed Forces Operation Group. It was also discussed with the trustees of the Veteran Support Centre.</p> <p>The request to bid was accepted through Management Board on 10th September 2020.</p>
Decision made:	To accept the grant offer of £19,627 from the Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The acceptance of this grant will enable the ongoing employment of the Veteran Support Centre Manager along with the employment of a volunteer co-ordinator to enable the veteran to veteran volunteering scheme to be continued from the success of the voluntary effort that took place as a call to action from Lockdown 1.</p> <p>The Veteran Support Centre has recently achieved charitable status in record time so this with the grant will also support a transition period from when the Council removes itself from the delivery of the VSC allowing the facilitation role that has been provided to be withdrawn in a sensible and appropriate manner.</p> <p>The VSC is also now open following a rigorous risk assessment to ensure that it was covid-safe to undertake face to face appointments in line with other public facing buildings that the council has a responsibility for.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Financial risks – will be minimised as salary costs will be paid to existing employee and the proposal is to utilise Hoople for a short term contract for the 1 day per week volunteer co-ordinator. Other elements of the grant associated with activities for veterans and costs/training for volunteers will be managed through the council's budget management system for supporting and reporting on the delivery of the grant as per usual processes;</p> <p>Legal – unlikely to have any legal risks due to the financial management side. The delivery of the volunteering scheme will ensure that no volunteer will be put at risk through this process;</p> <p>Equality considerations – unlikely to feature in the delivery of this scheme.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	There were no other alternatives considered because of the nature of the grant criteria and identified need to continue the project activity and funding for the VSC Manager post.

**Details of any
declarations of interest
made:**

No declarations of interest.

Signed..... Date: 4 December 2020