

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To work with key organisations across the county as part of the COVID recovery plan to facilitate a number of grant schemes and direct delivery to support the whole population to be active and experience new opportunities.																									
Date of decision:	16 th August 2021																									
Decision maker:	Paul Smith, Interim Director for Adults & Communities																									
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Decision taken by Cabinet to approve the COVID 19 Recovery Plan on 24 June 2021: That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Place, Director Adults and Communities, Director Children and Families and Director of Public Health be authorised to take all operational decisions to implement recommendation including, but not limited to, the procurement and commissioning of the identified projects (as set out in the detailed action plan)</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieIssueDetails.aspx?Id=50037702&PlanId=0&Opt=3#A158109</p>																									
Ward:	Countywide																									
Consultation:	<p>The COVID Recovery Plan was approved by Cabinet on 24 June 2021 which provides funding of £6m to support the economy, community wellbeing and organisation with recovery. The plan provided an overview of the schemes for delivery, which included 'Get Active' and all appropriate consultation was undertaken at this time.</p> <p>The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and supportive of the project.</p>																									
Decision made:	<p>To work with key organisations across the county as part of the COVID recovery plan to support the whole population to be active and experience new opportunities through culture and leisure facilities. A number of these organisations will facilitate this through grant schemes along with some elements of direct delivery.</p> <p>This is an amended version of a previously published decision. Please follow the below link to view the original decision: https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8112</p> <p>Below is an overview of the spend allocation with more detail on each element following below the table:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Name of organisation</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Type of delivery/ Amount</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Total (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Partnership</td> <td>Grants – £155K Direct Delivery- £45K</td> <td>200,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Halo</td> <td>Direct delivery</td> <td>185,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Foundation</td> <td>Grants</td> <td>125,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary Care Networks</td> <td></td> <td>100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stride Active</td> <td>Grants – £70K Direct Delivery – £30K</td> <td>100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community First</td> <td>Grants</td> <td>80,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Grand total</td> <td>790,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Herefordshire & Worcestershire Sports Partnership (200K)</p>		Name of organisation	Type of delivery/ Amount	Total (£)	Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Partnership	Grants – £155K Direct Delivery- £45K	200,000	Halo	Direct delivery	185,000	Community Foundation	Grants	125,000	Primary Care Networks		100,000	Stride Active	Grants – £70K Direct Delivery – £30K	100,000	Community First	Grants	80,000		Grand total	790,000
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Grants

- Extend the Tackling Inequalities Fund (TIF) that is already in place – grants to help reduce the negative impact of coronavirus and the widening inequalities in sport and physical activity e.g. to set up a new activity or activities in a rural area.
- Grants for grass roots sport for COVID recovery.

Direct Delivery

- Walking Programmes – training support for walk leaders, coordination and development of walking sports / games and an offer for workplaces.
- Taster sports sessions – a 12 week Programme, linked in with the Health Trainers – giving people opportunities to try different sports – a package of different tasters.

Halo (185K) -£60,500 of this was directly awarded to Halo Services Limited on 7 July 2021. Decision title: Decision to directly award £60,500 funding to Halo Services Limited to support the delivery of the COVID Recovery plan and deliver swimming activities.

- Free intensive swimming lessons for children in the school holidays
- Free learn to swim Programme for a month following successful completion of the intensive course of lessons.
- Free family swimming sessions
- Free access to swimming lessons for adult non-swimmers
- Provide mass participation activity events across the county
- To provide free gym membership for young people undertaking GCSE/A Levels predicted 15% uptake of membership

Community Foundation (£125k)

- To provide coordination to administer grants that support improved green outdoor space and infrastructure through both capital and revenue grant allocations.

Primary Care Networks (£100k)

- To allocate Taurus and PCNs funding to provide activities and opportunities to connect people into their communities and improve wellbeing

Stride Active (£100k)

Grants:

- Delivery of a grant Programme targeted at schools who have previously not engaged or are in receipt of very little funding for physical activity.

Direct delivery:

- Sustainable training for all schools – equip school staff with the knowledge and confidence to increase levels of physical activity, but particularly how this can be used as a COVID recovery tool.
- Support for children and families through the existing Active Families Programme, including 1-1 support and activity bags for families and children to help them learn and have the resources to be active at home.

	<p>Community First (£80k)</p> <p>To provide coordination to administer grants that support improved access to art and cultural based activities.</p>
<p>Reasons for decision:</p>	<p>The global Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting measures taken to reduce the spread of the virus have had an unprecedented impact on the national and local economy and on people’s wellbeing and mental (as well as physical) health. Nationally the magnitude of the recession caused by the pandemic is unprecedented, GDP declined by 9.8% in 2020 the steepest drop since records began in 1948.</p> <p>The pandemic has also had a severe impact on people’s mental health and wellbeing, due to long periods of anxiety, isolation, and uncertainty. The Herefordshire Community Wellbeing Survey 2021 found 28% of people reported high levels of anxiety, 32% experienced drop in household income, 33% doing less exercise, and 30% sleeping less well. Wellbeing is lowest in those living in the most deprived areas.</p> <p>The council has worked across all directorates to support businesses, residents and communities throughout the pandemic to remain as safe as possible and to prevent and reduce spread of infection and protect those most vulnerable in our society.</p> <p>Our focus now moves towards recovery. Over the coming months the true impact of the pandemic will become better known for the economy, community wellbeing and organisation.</p> <p>To support the recovery cabinet approved a £6.1m COVID Recovery Plan which includes the economy, community wellbeing and organisation. The recovery plan now focuses on the immediate impactful actions we need to take in the short term. Our priorities are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Establish Safe and Welcoming Places</i> - <i>Support Business Viability and Resilience,</i> - <i>Support Employment</i> - <i>Support Wellbeing.</i>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>The COVID recovery plan budget allocation must be committed within the 2021/22 financial year, we want to ensure that this money can reach those smaller groups who can really make a difference in our communities and to the residents of Herefordshire.</p> <p>The value of the contract with Herefordshire & Worcestershire Sports Partnership is above the threshold set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and therefore this contract is not subject to a waiver however the risk of challenge is considered to be low given the fact that Herefordshire & Worcestershire Sports Partnership are in an almost unique position to deliver the grant programme within the council’s timescales given their existing processes and procedures. Legal Services will be involved in drafting the contracts which will include suitable monitoring and clawback provisions.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>The option of allocating all of these funds internally through grants was considered but rejected for a number of reasons including tight timescales and capacity. The main factor for rejecting this option was to ensure that the grants were made available to a wide range of applicants to cover a number of different areas in a short period of time. Each partner chosen focusses on a different cohort of the population therefore increasing the physical and cultural options to Herefordshire’s residents across the county.</p>

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

None

Signed Date: 02/09/2021

Interim Director Adults & Communities