

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To reallocate £100K to Herefordshire Community Foundation as part of the Covid recovery plan to meet demand for two existing grant schemes
Date of decision:	20 January 2022
Decision maker:	Director for Resources and Assurance
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/ielssueDetails.aspx?Ild=50037702&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI58109</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	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.
Decision made:	<p>The initial Get Active proposal approved £100K to be allocated to Taurus and the PCNs to provide activities and opportunities to connect people into their communities and improve wellbeing.</p> <p>Below is a link to this decision:</p> <p>Decision - *Amended* 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 - Herefordshire Council</p> <p>The new proposal is to redirect this £100K to the Herefordshire Community Foundation with £73K for the Get Active - Green spaces grant scheme and £27K to the support for the Community and Personal Resilience - VCSE sector grant scheme, bringing the total allocations to: Green spaces £198K and VCSE £467K</p>
Reasons for decision:	<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</p>

	<p>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> <p><i>Establish Safe and Welcoming Places</i> <i>Support Business Viability and Resilience,</i> <i>Support Employment</i> <i>Support Wellbeing.</i></p> <p>The PCN proposal had a number of elements but due to the tight timescales and the current pressures that PCN's are already under there is a risk on capacity and capabilities to deliver the project within the timescales.</p> <p>The Herefordshire Community Foundation Green Space grant scheme and the VCSE sector grant scheme are well oversubscribed based on the first round of applications and to ensure effective delivery and impact the proposed change is to align the funding to the existing grant schemes:</p> <p>Green spaces received viable applications totaling £207,378 (£125k Covid Recovery funding is currently allocated to this grant scheme within the initial decision).</p> <p>Support to the VCSE Sector grant scheme received viable applications totaling £263,772. £440K Covid recovery funding is currently allocated however it was agreed that this would be split into two phases, this first phase (200K) and then a second phase targeted at any gaps identified by the VCSE sector survey which is due to be completed in January 2022.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>The potential risk that Taurus and the PCN's are not in agreement with this change has been discussed by the SRO with the clinical directors and all are in agreement with this decision</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>The option to allocate this funding to a new grant scheme was considered, however after the review of the current grant schemes and the number of viable applications received it was agreed that the £100K would be best allocated to support our established COVID Recovery Grant schemes.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>none</p>

Signed

Andrew Lovegrove
 Director of Resources and Assurance

Date: 20 January 2022