

### COMMUNITY ACTION DERBY REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING 2022-2023

Report of the Head of Housing Management.

#### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the grant awarded to Community Action Derby (CAD) covering December 2021 to November 2022. This was approved at Operational Board in December 2021 to support volunteering opportunities for customers living in our communities.
- 1.2 This report also seeks approval to continue to support Community Action Derby through grant funding £20,000 from December 2022- November 2023.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the grant funding outcomes through working in partnership with Community Action Derby from December 2021 to November 2022.
- 2.2 To note that the partnership between Community Action, Derby Homes (DH) and Derby City Council (DCC) is instrumental to the delivery of help and support for the citizens of Derby, in particular the Cost-of-Living Crisis.
- 2.3 To approve a further grant of £20,000 to Community Action Derby for the period December 2022 - November 2023. The grant is subject to the approval of Derby City Council.

#### 3. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 In line with Derby Homes' renewed Volunteer Strategy 2021-2024, which celebrates volunteering through on-going support to Derby's Volunteer Centre hosted by Community Action Derby. This work builds momentum for Derby Homes volunteering aims and objectives in our communities.
- 3.2 To support the Volunteer Centre for Derby city, who offer a brokerage service for potential volunteers and organisations and support volunteer-involving organisations to develop opportunities.
- 3.3 To enable continued support for Derby's citizens during the cost of living crisis.

#### 4. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 Derby Homes' partnership with Community Action Derby has had another successful year helping citizens of Derby.

- 4.2 Since the approval of the CAD Grant in December 2021, the success of the grant has been instrumental in further supporting community resilience and sustainability for vulnerable people in Derby. Although some of the scope of work had to alter from the grant, DH allowed CAD the flexibility to develop support towards the cost of living crisis. For context of scale, The Resolution Foundation estimated that to afford the increase in energy bills in January-March 2023, the poorest fifth of households will have to cut back 24% of non-essential spending. Almost 12,000 children aged 0-15 years in the city are in relative low-income families. This is a rate of 22% compared to a rate of 19% for the UK, and so this work is a key function for supporting the city.
- 4.3 After the success of the Derby Community Hub with CAD as the conduit, there was a further need for a central place to co-ordinate support for people at risk. The work began in response to an open letter from Derby Poverty Commission issued in February of this year, initiating a team from across sectors and organisations to begin meeting to consider a coordinated approach to help financially vulnerable residents.
- 4.4 After a difficult few years for many people coming out of the coronavirus pandemic, 2022-2023 is again going to be an anxious time with the growing cost of living pressures. CAD along with DCC and DH, have created a new webpage to give advice and support about dealing with the cost of living.
- 4.5 The webpage and its support will be maintained by CAD and has been created to offer as much advice as possible to those in Derby who may need it during this time. The site has been divided into sections for ease of access to information. Those sections are:

- Housing and rental support
- Help paying your bills
- Food, clothing, toiletries, and furniture
- Debt support
- Increase your income
- Support for your family
- Links to other useful services

The campaign will look at areas and groups of the city who may be more economically vulnerable and impacted by the rising cost of living – these are:

- Arboretum
- Normanton
- Alvaston
- Sinfen
- Boulton
- Derwent

- 4.6 The coordinated support through CAD will allow those in need to access other voluntary help and support services in a central location, such as The Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance (F4TA), which was created specifically to co-ordinate food provision for people in need of support.
- 4.7 Volunteering has been such an important part of the city's recovery from Covid-19 and is still impacting the city. Through supporting CAD, DH are able to help with

the economic recovery of the city during such unprecedented times. CAD last year were able to offer:

- 269 Voluntary, Community and Social enterprise groups support
- Distributed small grants to 114 local organisations
- Hosted 107,132 hours of volunteers in Derby, with a cash value of £1,377,178.
- Co-hosted the Holiday Activities and Food Programme with DCC, offering over 10,000 places for summer and winter to children between the ages of 5-16 eligible for benefits related to free school meals.

4.8 To mark Volunteers' Week 1 - 7 June 2022, DH celebrated in partnership with CAD at the Silk Mill. The Volunteer Celebration event is held annually to recognise the hard work of volunteers in Derby, with a total of 238 nominations received for over 10 awards, demonstrating its value and growth.



4.9 To develop volunteering in Derby Homes over the next year, DH propose to work with CAD to develop their Volunteer Action Pass with our customers. The Volunteer Action Pass was launched in May 2022 and is a comprehensive package of training, designed to provide people with the opportunity to build their skill set and gain the experience and confidence to be able to volunteer in all types of voluntary organisations and roles. The training is completely free and comprises of a set of 6 modules to be completed over 6 weeks. The modules are:

- Customer Service, Communication & Conflict Resolution
- Equality & Diversity and GDPR
- Volunteer Know How
- Disability Awareness
- Safeguarding
- First Aid

This project will provide essential skills for customers which may help employment opportunities or other transferable skills.

- 4.10 It is proposed that over the next year, the £20,000 grant for Community Action Derby would help deliver the following for Derby Homes:
- Build on the cost-of-living crisis campaign, supporting our tenants with financial difficulties
  - Help advertise volunteer opportunities at Derby Homes, such as the Customer Voice and Derby Association of Community Partners – also food banks, Mystery Shopping or other projects.
  - Matching volunteers to opportunities and support of setting up groups and activities within community rooms.
  - Ongoing support with Derby Homes' Employee Volunteer Scheme
  - Develop a programme of volunteering opportunities for our employees
  - Support Derby Homes community groups and volunteers with training or advice as necessary
  - Work to support and develop Employability projects for customers, such as the Volunteer Action Pass
  - Work with Derby Homes to support a Volunteer Celebration in June 2023
  - Help specific Derby Homes' groups such as Derby Association of Community Partners, Customer Voice or Youth Panel as necessary
- 4.11 We recognise that we are over the worst of the pandemic, however economic recovery and community resilience are still ongoing changes and the impact of this is high for customers in DH properties. DH would recommend strengthening volunteering in Derby through partnership working for opportunities in the communities to flourish. By providing funding to CAD we will be able to provide support, advice and training on behalf of DH whilst allowing CAD to use their resource to match volunteers and increase resilience in communities based on their skills, abilities and requirements.
- 4.12 The grant funding will be monitored through the established relationships between DH and CAD and reported quarterly to the Customer Engagement and Community Development Team.
- 4.13 In summary, this grant will allow the DH volunteering offer to be strengthened through partnership with CAD but it will also support the wider strategic objective of Stronger Communities from DCC.

## **5. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The implications of creating resource in house to manage volunteers on behalf of Derby Homes created a risk involving insurance and liability. It was preferred to support an established company with existing governance, framework and training to minimise the risk to Derby Homes.
- 5.2 If it was decided that if Derby Homes did not support volunteering in Derby, it would limit opportunities within the voluntary sector, impact on community resilience and sustainability and would not be aligned with the Councils and Derby Homes' strategic objectives.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **6. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The £20,000 grant will be funded from the Corporate Initiatives budget within Derby Homes, subject to Derby City Council's approval.

### **7. LEGAL AND CONFIDENTIALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Derby Homes Memorandum states:

"(18) Subject to the prior written consent of the City Council to make donations, grants or loans or provide services or assistance to such persons and organisations and on such terms as the Board shall think fit to further the objects of the Organisation."

### **8. COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 This is a matter which requires the approval of the Council. Grants that Derby Homes propose need to gain approval of Derby City Council prior to formal award.

### **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Community Action Derby are part of Derby's Equality Alliance through their partnership work with Disability Direct. In addition, they co- chair the Public Health Inequalities group. Through partnership and coordination with these groups, CAD work to minimise negative impacts on groups with protected characteristics and facilitate support for these groups.
- 9.2 The Derby Equality Alliance (DEA) are part of the Derby Equality Commission, who consult with groups such as the LGBTQ+ Alliance, BAME Alliance and Women's Alliance to ensure services reflect the needs of these groups. The purpose of these groups is to encourage social inclusion, reduce hate crime, deliver training and support the needs of the groups.
- 9.3 CAD holds Equality and Diversity as its core to supporting in communities in Derby. Further to the above, they work on several projects to alleviate the impact of inequality in Derby including the Autistic Spectrum Disorder support, The Public Health Inequalities group and Derbyshire Mental Health Forum,

### **10. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 This use of Community Action Derby limits the risk to Derby Homes volunteers as a robust framework of training and support will be available for Derby Homes.
- 10.2 There is a risk of damaging the relationship and profile between Derby Homes, Derby City Council and Community Action Derby by not supporting this strategic direction after giving a firm commitment to support development of the Cost-of-Living Crisis and Better Together.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Personnel  
Environmental  
Health & Safety  
Policy Review

If Board Members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact:

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Holly.Johnson@derbyhomes.org

Background Information: None

Supporting Information: None

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Managing Director</b>	Maria Murphy	29/11/2022
<b>Finance Director/Derby Homes Accountant</b>	Helen Samuel	29/11/2022
<b>Company Solicitor</b>	Taranjit Lalria	29/11/2022
<b>Head of Service</b> (Operational Board reports)	Lorraine Testro	25/10/2022