

COMMUNITY ACTION DERBY GRANT FUNDING UPDATE FOR 2019-2020 AND REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING 2020-2021

Report of the Head of Housing Management

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the grant awarded to Community Action Derby for the year 2019/2020. This was approved at Operational Board in August 2019 to support volunteering opportunities for residents living on estates that we manage.
- 1.2 This report also seeks approval to support Community Action Derby for the same amount of £20,000 for 2020/2021.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note grant funding outcomes of our partnership with Community Action Derby from September 2019 - August 2020.
- 2.2 To approve a further grant of £20,000 to Community Action Derby from Derby Homes for the period December 2020 – November 2021. The grant is subject to the approval of Derby City Council.

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 To maintain momentum for Derby Homes volunteering aims and objectives in their communities.

4. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 During 2019/2020 Derby Homes had another successful year working in partnership with Community Action. Even though Community Action had seen a reduction in its overall funding and resources, the partnership was able to meet the agreed objectives until March 2020. Some examples of success in the first 2 quarters include them offering funding advice and marketing support to Chellaston Baby and Toddler Group, compilation of films for our 100 years celebration, IT training at Max Road and Whitecross House, helping the DACP with their M&A's and a 'Health Check' of Customer Voice.

- 4.2 For the first half of the grant (until March 2020), the overall success of the £20,000 grant included:
- 3,223 Hours of volunteering to support local organisations
 - 1970 people placed into volunteer roles
 - 23 Groups supported to improve their governance in addition to developing skills and knowledge
 - Number of Derby Homes residents engaging in training: 33 volunteers, 6 sessions of 11 people
 - 5 organisations accessed direct training to help retain and use volunteers.
 - Community Action's team of 4 Volunteer Digital Champions provided support and guidance to 26 Derby Homes individuals during the year.
- 4.3 The grant outcomes for Community Action were relaxed in March 2020, to allow flexibility to support the needs of Derby during COVID-19. During this period Derby City organisations and agencies were forced to refocus their priorities. There was a requirement for partners to come together in order to meet the needs of Derby citizens through a stronger community's approach. Community Action Derby were instrumental in this process, working in partnership with Derby City Council, Derby Homes, Health and the communities in Derby to develop the Community Hub. The Hub provided much needed support to vulnerable members of the community, many of whom are our tenants
- 4.4 This meant that the focus on outcomes already agreed with Derby Homes as part of the funding agreement had to change. The response to the pandemic required a rapid approach and Derby Homes fully supported Community Actions change in focus. There was a clear need to alter its aims and objectives in order to support Derbys Community Hub approach, the success of which could not have been achieved without the knowledge and expertise they were able to provide.
- 4.5 The grant funding from Derby Homes demonstrated value for money and support for our communities during unprecedented circumstances. Community Action has calculated a Social Return on investment in terms of funds available to support delivery of its projects and the additional value captured through funding attracted, volunteer capacity and hours provided. It has been confirmed that this calculation delivers a return of £8.26 for each pound invested in the organisation.
- 4.6 Other funders that have supported Community Action include:
- Derby City Council – through ring-fenced Neighbourhood funds
 - Derby City Council COVID-19 emergency grant, administered through Community Action to groups in the City
 - National Emergency Trust (Foundation Derbyshire)
 - Martin Lewis Fund
 - Severn Trent Community Fund.

From March to August 2020 Community Action and the hub have supported an average of 581 volunteers to deliver 75,611 hours of support, a resource value to the city of £926,901.

- 4.7 Community Action remains the lead infrastructure organisation in Derby and the Volunteer Centre will continue to provide a volunteer brokerage service to support Derby Homes encouraging volunteering in its communities. We seek to approve continuing to support this offer through a grant of £20,000 over a 12-month period to Community Action Derby.
- 4.8 Due to the change in circumstances, we needed to review last year's performance indicators with Community Action and agree a new programme of support. Moving forward we have agreed on indicators that will compliment Derby Homes and Community Action Derby during this difficult time. It has been proposed and agreed that £20,000 grant for 2020/2021 would:
- Develop a social prescription project with Derby Homes
 - Help advertise and develop Derby Homes' Virtual Panel
 - Support Derby Homes' Employee Volunteer Policy
 - Support Derby Homes community groups or volunteers with training or advice as necessary
 - Work together with Derby Homes to support and develop Employability projects
 - Work with Derby Homes to support a Volunteer Celebration in June 2021
 - Help develop and increase social media followers and online engagement, including the use of online training and recruitment videos
 - Help specific Derby Homes' groups such as DACP, Customer Voice or Youth Panel as necessary
- 4.9 Derby Homes would recommend strengthening volunteering in Derby through partnership working for opportunities in the communities to flourish. By Derby Homes providing funding to Community Action Derby they would be able to provide support, advice and training on behalf of Derby Homes whilst allowing Community Action Derby to use their resource to match volunteers based on their skills, abilities and requirements.
- 4.10 The grant funding will be monitored through the established relationships between Derby Homes' and Community Action Derby and reported quarterly to the Customer Engagement and Community Development manager.
- 4.11 In summary, this grant will allow the City's volunteering offer to be strengthened through partnership with Community Action Derby, reinforce an Employee Supported Volunteer Scheme, support the Council's wider strategic objective of Stronger Communities and the Universal Approach, in addition to developing the Customer Engagement and Community Development team strategy customer engagement.

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 Do nothing - this was felt to limit opportunities within the voluntary sector and not in line with the Councils and Derby Homes strategic objectives.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This strategy was developed through consultation with the Community Development Manager and the Strategic Director of Communities and Place at Derby City Council.

7. FINANCIAL & BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The £20,000 will be funded from the Corporate Initiatives budget within Derby Homes

8. LEGAL AND CONFIDENTIALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 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.”

9. RISK

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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 Universal Offer.

10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Community Action Derby is overseen by Derby City Council's Health and Well-being board, ensuring equalities implications are robustly monitored citywide.

11. POLICY REVIEW IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 This Grant will be reviewed annually in line with Derby Homes' policies.

12. COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Grants that Derby Homes propose need to gain approval of Derby City Council prior to formal award.

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

Personnel
Environmental
Health & Safety

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

Holly Johnson / Customer Engagement and Community Development Manager / 01332 888418 / Holly.Johnson@derbyhomes.org

Background Information: None

Supporting Information: None

This report has been approved by the following

Managing Director	Maria Murphy	11/11/20
Head of Service	Lorraine Testro	23/10/2020
Head of Service – Finance & Income	Michael Kirk	21/10/2020
Head of Governance and Corporate Services - Company Solicitor	Taran Lalria	21/10/2020