

## **COMMUNITY ACTION DERBY: GRANT FUNDING UPDATE for 2020-2021 AND REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING 2021-2022**

Report of the Head of Housing Management

### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the grant awarded to Community Action Derby covering December 2020 to November 2021. This was approved at Operational Board in December 2020 to support volunteering opportunities for customers living on in our communities.
- 1.2 This report also seeks approval to continue to support Community Action Derby through grant funding £20,000 for December 2021- November 2022.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the grant funding outcomes through working in partnership with Community Action Derby from December 2020 to November 2021.
- 2.2 To note that the coronavirus pandemic has impacted the delivery of elements of the grant, but Community Action Derby's work has been pivotal to Derby's response to the pandemic.
- 2.3 To approve a further grant of £20,000 to Community Action Derby for the period December 2021 to November 2022. 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.
- 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 build momentum for Derby Homes volunteering aims and objectives in our communities.

### **4. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 4.1 Derby Homes' partnership with Community Action Derby has had another successful year, despite undertaking another challenging year with the pandemic altering business as usual.

- 4.2 Since the approval of the Community Action Grant in December 2020, 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 2020-2021 grant due to the pandemic, Derby Homes allowed Community Action the flexibility to support Derby's communities.
- 4.3 In particular the Derby Community Hub was developed, with Community Action as the conduit, out of the need for a central place to co-ordinate support for vulnerable people and those in need of support during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Hub came together in March 2020 and has been supporting people ever since. As government lockdown was extended and a three-tier system of restrictions put into place, the hub provided a shining example of organisations such as Derby City Council, Community Action, local community organisations and residents working together to create a safe, kind-spirited city that looks after its people.
- 4.4 Some of the most notable figures from the amazing work of the hub include:
- 581 Active Volunteers
  - 75,611 Volunteering Hours
  - Savings that equates to £926,901 – almost £1million in hours

In total, 1,867 people volunteers their time, and there was a total of 3,157 requests for support from residents in Derby (included in the figures above).

- 4.5 In conjunction with The Derby Community Hub, The Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance (F4TA) was created to co-ordinate specifically the food provision for people in need of support. For many people this was the first time they had experienced food poverty and together with people who were shielding or did not have any family to offer support, the food response was a vital lifeline. Some of the most notable figures from the F4TA are:
- £10,000 cash donations
  - 5,000 eggs donated
  - 9,000 Easter eggs donated
  - 450 food parcels distributed per week
  - 3,000 Pizzas and 1,500 donuts donated
  - 19,000 cans of cola donated.
- 4.6 In addition to food and monetary donations, there was also coordinated support for people in other ways. These were anything from safe and well checks on vulnerable customers to lockdown packs to give people a treat. Community Action helped coordinate:
- 150 Jigsaws
  - 60 Coffee and Brownie hampers
  - £40k of brand-new clothes
  - 500+ safe and well checks
  - 10,000 meals provided by the Gurdwara (Sikh temple).

- 4.7 Volunteering has been such an important part of the city's recovery from Covid-19. To mark Volunteers' Week 1 - 7 June 2021, Derby Homes celebrated in partnership with Community Action Derby and Derby City Council. To show our appreciation and thank all the volunteers of the community support hub, videos of the organisation's leaders such as Maria Murphy, Kim Harper and Rachel North were shared over the week. Interviews from volunteers were also shared, talking about the importance of volunteering and over 1,000 thank you cards were sent in the post to the hub volunteers.
- 4.8 The success of the Community Hub has shown that communities that work together are stronger and more resilient, this is a concept Derby City Council are trying to embed as part of their Better Together project.
- 4.9 To develop volunteering in Derby Homes over the next year, we will need to regain the momentum which was lost during the impact the pandemic and renew the focus on developing employee volunteers and increasing activity in our community rooms.
- 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:
- Help advertise and develop Derby Homes' Virtual Panel
  - Support Derby Homes' Employee Volunteer Policy
  - Develop a programme of volunteering opportunities for our employees
  - Support Derby Homes community groups and volunteers with training or advice as necessary
  - Explore and Develop how Social prescribers may work in Derby Homes community rooms.
  - Work together with Derby Homes to support and develop Employability projects for customers
  - Work with Derby Homes to support a Volunteer Celebration in June 2022
  - Help specific Derby Homes' groups such as DACP, Customer Voice or Youth Panel as necessary
- 4.11 We recognise that we are over some of the worst of the pandemic, however economic recovery and community resilience are still undergoing changes, and the true impact of this may not yet be realised. 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 we will 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 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 Derby Homes' and Community Action Derby and reported quarterly to the Customer Engagement and Community Development Manager.
- 4.13 In summary, this grant will allow the Derby Homes' volunteering offer to be strengthened through partnership with Community Action Derby but it will also support the wider strategic objective of Stronger Communities.

## **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.

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

- 7.1 Derby Homes Memorandum states:  
  
“(22) 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, Community Action Derby 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 The Public Health Inequalities group co-ordinate activity across local partners to reduce health inequalities in Derby. The partnership has been established by Derby City Council and Community Action Derby as a joint venture in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The pandemic highlighted significant inequalities in

health risk factors disproportionately experienced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, people living in areas of deprivation and disabled people. The partnership builds on existing good practice and joint working developed prior to and during the COVID-19 response, by providing a shared space for discussion, decision making and actions to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities primarily for those groups mentioned.

## 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 Universal Offer.

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:

Holly Johnson / Customer Engagement and Community Development Manager / 01332 888418 / [Holly.Johnson@derbyhomes.org](mailto: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	17/11/2021
<b>Derby Homes Accountant</b>	Helen Samuel	02/11/2021
<b>Company Solicitor</b>	Taranjit Lalria	12/11/2021
<b>Head of Service</b> (Operational Board reports)	Lorraine Testro	02/11/2021