

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 6 MAY 2014

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH, HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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EAST HERTS FUND FOR THE FUTURE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To endorse a new working relationship between East Herts Council, East Herts Fund for the Future (EHF4F) and the Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF).

**RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL: That:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>the proposal related to East Herts Fund for the Future (EHF4F) recommending a new operating partnership between East Herts Council and the Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF) be agreed.</b>
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1.0 Background

- 1.1 A proposal detailing closer Member involvement with the EHF4F has been discussed at Community Scrutiny Committee twice over the past year. In November 2013, it was recommended that senior officers explore the financial, legal and audit implications of this.
- 1.2 Senior officers considered these implications and the proposal and agreed there was no risk to the Council. Additionally, Officers were satisfied that EHF4F's eligibility criteria and proposed grants assessment process was sufficiently robust to ensure effective use of any Council funds directed toward fundraising events.
- 1.3 Since this meeting in December 2013, the proposal was discussed at a pre executive meeting in February 2014. At this time, it was agreed that a closer working relationship between the EHF4F and the Council's civic leaders was a good idea in

principle but that it was not appropriate for the Executive to take a decision on the current proposal.

- 1.4 Officers were asked to meet with the Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support, the EHF4F Fund Holder, the HCF Grants Manager and the Council's current Vice Chairman to discuss an alternative way forward.
- 1.5 The Executive agreed in principle to place the EHF4F on the Council's list of external charitable bodies. This means that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council would serve on the Fund's Advisory Committee and assess grant applications during their term of office.

## 2.0 Report

- 2.1 Members are now asked to consider and agree a new proposal detailed in **Essential Reference Paper B**. This proposal has been endorsed by the incoming Chairman of the Council and other stake holders.
- 2.2 The proposal details a new operating approach and partnership that will ensure a closer working relationship between Members and this independent endowment fund.
- 2.3 Incoming Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council will be invited to choose how they would like to get involved with the Fund. One of the options is that all of the funds raised through the Chairman's core fundraising events (Civic Dinner, Civic Service, Chairman's Drinks, Pantomime) are paid to EHF4F as the Chairman's nominated charity for the year. These events are paid for through the Chairman's Fundraising Expenses budget.
- 2.4 If this is not the chosen option, the Fund will still serve as a "holding account" for any income raised. This will be paid out at the end of the year to either EHF4F or another charity benefitting the residents of East Herts. Interest earned during the year will remain with the Fund.
- 2.5 It is hoped that this closer working relationship will revitalise the Fund and ensure that the legacy continues. Another benefit of adopting this approach is that future Chairmen would be able to show their support for a range of small, local organisations, helping to address the diverse needs of the District.

### 3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

#### Background Papers

None

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