

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014

OFFICER DECISION WRITTEN RECORD

Reference:	OD/(to be added by Democratic Services)
Subject Matter:	Award of a UKSPF-funded grant to Community Alliance Broxbourne and East Herts. This will enable Community Alliance to carry out a feasibility study to build on the UKSPF-funded community assets and digital inclusion work so as to identify the scope of and ways to bridge the gap between residents, primarily in rural areas, and the cultural and advice services available in the district.
Date of Decision:	8 th January 2025
Exempt/Confidential information (Yes/No):	No
If Exempt/Confidential – reason why:	n/a
Name of Officer taking decision under delegated authority:	Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health
Source of delegated authority (constitution/express delegation/etc):	<p>At its meeting of 18th January 2023, Council approved the use of UKSPF funds to deliver the council's Cultural Strategy.</p> <p>At the same meeting, Council delegated decision-making authority to the Head of Housing and Health, acting in consultation with the Executive Member for Communities regarding cultural activities.</p>
Exercise of delegated authority approved by: <i>(if different from Officer taking decision)</i>	n/a
Decision:	Provide a grant of £10,000 to Community Alliance Broxbourne and East Herts to conduct a feasibility study to build on the UKSPF-funded community assets and digital inclusion work to identify the scope of and ways to bridge the gap between residents, primarily in rural areas, and the cultural and advice services available so as to facilitate access.
Reason(s) for Decision:	The feasibility study, that will be conducted between January and March 2025, is aimed at understanding and mapping the gaps in service provision for residents in rural areas of East Hertfordshire with regard to accessing cultural and advice services. This project would be carried out by Community

	<p>Alliance Broxbourne and East Herts in collaboration with East Herts Council.</p> <p>The work will see Community Alliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a community engagement model which could be used in communities across East Hertfordshire to empower communities, identify community need, facilitate access to services and deliver sustainable change • carry out a mapping of existing digital skills and financial capability provision across the district, these factors being recognised barriers to accessing cultural and advice services • identify gaps in service provision and current unmet needs • make recommendations to ensure that partner organisations are working together to optimise delivery in East Herts • produce an evaluation report. <p>This feasibility study will inform longer-term planning to address needs, principally though not exclusively for residents in rural areas. The intention is to use the outcomes / recommendations of this feasibility study as the evidence based for external funding bids to secure longer term benefits of the council's time-limited UPSPF monies.</p>
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<p>Details of alternative options, if any considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Not fund the feasibility study. NOT RECOMMENDED because the proposed study builds directly on the previous work funded by the UKSPF to map cultural assets, promote digital sustainability and support communities. In an attempt to safeguard the benefit of this prior investment and develop the work further, it is felt that this feasibility study will provide the joined-up evidence base for future external funding bids.</p>
<p>Name of Officer who has confirmed with all Members involved in taking this decision whether they have pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest:</p>	<p>Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health</p>

Name(s) of any Member who has removed himself/herself from contributing to this decision because of a conflict of interest:	n/a
Signature of Decision Maker (where decision is taken in consultation with a Member):	REDACTED
Signature of Member consulted by Decision Maker (where decision is taken in consultation with a Member):	Support confirmed by email to Jonathan Geall from Cllr Alex Daar, Executive Member for Communities at 12:38, 8 th January 2025.

SIGNATURES TO BE REDACTED.