

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SECTION A

DATE OF DECISION: 4th May 2020
 PORTFOLIO AREA: Communities and Leisure
 SUBJECT TITLE: Delegation to the Head of Communities and Leisure Service

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

SECTION B – IDENTITY OF THE “DECISION-MAKER”

Name of Officer: Roger Tetstall
 Title: Chief Executive

This decision is made pursuant to Delegated Powers as set out in paragraph (2) of the “Delegations to Chief Executive” in Part 3 of the Constitution, namely:

“To do anything, in consultation with the Leader, which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of the Council’s functions subject to:

- (i) the matter being regarded as an emergency or urgent situation; and
- (ii) a report back to the Council, Cabinet or Committee concerned. “

SECTION C – SUMMARY

This decision is taken in the circumstances of the on-going public health emergency presented by the Coronavirus pandemic which continues to constitute an ‘emergency or urgent situation’.

The Council owns seven community centres which it leases to Community Associations. Community Associations provide a cost-effective means by which the Council owned community buildings can be run by and for the community. The majority of the Community Associations’ income derives from venue hire and events, both of which are now impossible under current legislative restrictions. The Community Associations have therefore immediately and unexpectedly seen their income reduce to zero. This decision enables the Council to respond quickly to any requests for assistance from Community Associations with day to day running costs who without that assistance may not be able to continue to function.

It is proposed that the cumulative total of assistance provided to Community Associations is capped at £10,000. The Head of Finance confirms that this can be met from the New Homes Bonus Reserve.

SECTION D – THE DECISION

That authority is delegated to the Head of Communities and Leisure Service in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Leisure to provide financial assistance of up to a cumulative total of £10,000 to Community Associations who are at immediate financial risk for the purpose of meeting their basic running costs. Subject to securing that if an Association subsequently receives retrospective Central Government or other support to cover these costs then the Association will repay the Council the amount of financial assistance provided to the extent of the other funding received.

SECTION E – REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The decision-maker's reasons for making the decision recorded in Section D:

As described above, Community Associations are an effective means by which Council owned community buildings can be run by and for the community, thereby providing a valuable service to the communities which they serve. The majority of the Community Associates are Charitable Incorporated Organisations or indeed charities with their limited means of raising income (hall rental and events) having been completely curtailed by current Government restrictions. This Council would not want to see any of the Associations fail for want of short term assistance in covering basic running costs either generally or whilst central Government or other funding is awaited.

As a condition of accepting financial assistance, a Community Association would be required to contract to repay the sums received from TVBC in the event that the Association subsequently received Central Government or other funding for the costs to which the Council contributed.

The decision aims to preserve the valuable service provided by Community Associations for the Community at this time of Coronavirus-based financial uncertainty.

