

## **Funds received from the DEFRA Hardship Fund**

### **Summary:**

**To agree the local awards to ensure of the ongoing support to the main registered foodbanks who support our community in Surrey Heath.**

### **Portfolio: Support and Safeguarding (Cllr Josephine Hawkins)**

Date Signed Off: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

**Wards Affected: All**

### **Recommendation**

**The Executive is advised to RESOLVE that**

- (i) £29,000 be awarded to Camberley Besom; and**
- (ii) £11,922 be awarded to the Woking Foodbank**

**from the DEFRA Hardship funding received by the Council.**

## **1. Key Issues**

- 1.1 On 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as part of the Surrey County Council Covid-19 weekly intelligence update, all districts were advised of an award from the Government's DEFRA Hardship fund of a Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food (Annex A). It was confirmed that this could not be used to fund services internally, nor for any food provisions funded during lockdown.
- 1.2 The Council's Chief Accountant confirmed receipt of £40,922 on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020.
- 1.3 The Council has fully supported Surrey Heath Prepared and its foodbank service this year. It is forecasted that the demand for food parcels will increase over the next year from either a 2<sup>nd</sup> Coronavirus Wave, or through the downturn in the economy, and increase in unemployment from the fallout of the Pandemic.
- 1.4 It is proposed to award the full funding received, to be split between the Camberley Besom and the Woking Foodbank, which incorporates a provision for the whole of Surrey Heath,
- 1.5 On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 the Portfolio Holder reviewed the proposals and has recommended supporting the proposals set out in Annex B. The proposals are also supported by the Acting Chief Executive.

## 2. Resource Implications

2.1 There are no cash resource implications as the Council is seeking to award the full monies received from DEFRA.

## 3. Options

3.1 The Executive has the option to;

- i. Fund the organisations in line with the proposed amount in Annex B;
- ii. Fund the organisations to a greater or lesser amount of their requested sum;
- iii. Not fund the organisations.

## 4. Proposals

4.1 It is proposed that the Executive agree the proposed awards, as set out in Annex B.

## 5. Corporate Objectives and Key Priorities

5.1 The funding of voluntary organisations allows the Council to meet its objectives to:

- Work in partnership with local organisations to provide support to the community and diverse open space and recreation facilities.
- Understanding and supporting local voluntary groups.
- Significantly contribute to civic pride through the provision of events and green spaces.
- Work in partnership with the voluntary and third sector to extend opportunities in the Borough.
- Encouraging greater involvement from local clubs and organisations including volunteering.

<b>Annexes</b>	<b>Annex A – DEFRA Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food Annex B – Proposed Grant Awards</b>
<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>None</b>
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**Camberley Besom**

**Award £29,000**

The Camberley Besom is the main established foodbank provision that supports all urban areas of Surrey Heath and regularly distributes a minimum of 50 food parcels per week. They receive referrals from Citizens Advice, Frontline, SHBC Housing/Family Support/welfare, SCC Children's and Adult Social Care teams, Accent and other social housing providers.

During the Covid-19 lockdown period of the service relocated to High Cross Church and were managed as part of the Surrey Heath Prepared community group.

From August the Camberley Besom have re-established within their own location, and the Council continued to support with delivering parcels and funding a weekly food order until the 4<sup>th</sup> September from Sainsbury's.

This funding will ensure the Besom are able to retain the food parcel service, meeting the local need and helping to alleviate local food poverty. Contingency plans exist for a 2<sup>nd</sup> wave or localised lock down.

**The Woking Foodbank**

**Award £11,922**

The Woking Foodbank is the main established foodbank provision that supports all of rural areas of Surrey Heath, and Woking.

They receive referrals from Citizens Advice, Frontline, SHBC Housing/Family Support/welfare, SCC Children's and Adult Social Care teams, Accent and other social housing providers.

This funding will enable the support to the rural villages within Surrey Heath to continue retain the food parcel service, meeting the local need and helping to alleviate local food poverty in meeting the need.

Contingency plans exist for a 2<sup>nd</sup> wave or localised lock down.