

**REPORT TO:** PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING

**DATE:** 15 JANUARY 2021

**TITLE:** WAIVER OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS PROVISION OF CEV FUNDING TO RAINBOW SERVICES, HARLOW.

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** COUNCILLOR CHRIS VINCE, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING

**LEAD OFFICER:** SIMON HILL, HEAD OF GOVERNANCE (01279) 446099

**This is not a Key Decision  
Call-in Procedures may apply  
This decision will affect no ward specifically.**

**RECOMMENDED that:**

- A** A decision to waive Contract Standing Order No. 9.8(c) is given by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer to enable the Council to enter into a one off grant of £20,000 to Harlow Rainbow Services to enable them to continue provide support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) residents during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**REASON FOR DECISION**

- A** To ensure the health and wellbeing of CEV residents in Harlow.
- B** To allow the Council to submit its plan on how to spend CEV funding to Essex County Council by 31 January 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

1. As part of the response to Covid-19, the County Council is providing financial support on a per capita basis to support the CEV. Harlow Council is to be provided with £48,490, based on a calculation of £10 per CEV resident. The Council must commit to spend this by 31 March 2021 and any unspent funds will be returned to the County Council. The Council must submit a plan of how it intends to spend the money by 31 January 2021. Further detail is set out in Appendix B to the report.
2. Part of the funding is for the provision of support for those who are classified as CEV. During the first lockdown CEV individuals were asked to shield and to

make alternative arrangements to receive essentials. Where access to food could not be provided through friends, family or other support networks, the Council worked with partners to provide food to CEV individuals.

3. The most recent lockdown has reintroduced shielding and means that some CEV individuals will require assistance again. Therefore the Government has produced guidance (attached as Appendix A to the report) which sets out how support should be provided to these people.

## **ISSUES/PROPOSALS**

4. As set out in Section 5 of the guidance, councils have discretion to decide how best to facilitate access to food. It also states that councils may want to provide links to local support schemes.
5. Rainbow Services is a local charity that provides infrastructure support to local voluntary and community groups, supporting and sharing information on subjects relevant to the sector. They work closely with communities to develop mutual support networks, resilience, and improve health and wellbeing through skills development, access to health interventions, and community capacity building work such as the Community Builder programme. They have been instrumental in the forming of partnerships and collaborative working across Harlow and the wider voluntary sector.
6. The Council had been working effectively with Harlow Rainbow Services during the first and second lockdown to assist CEV individuals and has continued to work with them throughout the pandemic.
7. There are no other organisations operating in Harlow that can provide a service to provide suitable support and expertise across the whole voluntary and community sector in Harlow to enable the multitude of support required during the Covid-19 pandemic.
8. It is for this reasons set out above that it is considered appropriate to waive the relevant Contract Standing Orders which would require multiple quotations to be received. As set out in Section 1, paragraph 3 of the Contract Standing Orders, a joint written decision of the appropriate Head of Service and/or the Section 151 Officer with the relevant Portfolio Holder to waive a Contract Standing Order in the following circumstance.
  - a) When a Lead Officer has given detailed reasons for the Exception; (e.g. efficiencies, savings, limited market, statutory duty or requirement, social value, furtherance of equality duty, engagement of SME or third sector organisation) or some other substantial reason
9. It is therefore recommended that £20,000 of the funding provided the County Council is given to Harlow Rainbow Services to enable them to continue to provide food packages and other support to CEV individuals and the pandemic

continues. This work will be carried out in line with the MHCLG Guidance and shielding and the scope set out in Appendix B.

10. Expenditure of the grant awarded will be monitored to ensure that it complies with the terms of the grant awarded by Essex County Council.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environment & Planning (Includes Sustainability)**

None specific.

**Author: Andrew Bramidge, Head of Environment & Planning**

### **Finance & Property (Includes ICT) and Section 151 Officer**

The costs are to be met from the budgets allocated by Essex County Council for the delivery of this activity. The waiver provides for the delivery of the required and appropriate provision of service to allow continued support to CEV residents in Harlow.

**Simon Freeman, Deputy to the Chief Executive and Head of Finance and Property Services**

### **Housing**

As outlined in the report.

**Author: Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

### **Community Wellbeing (Includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)**

As contained within the report.

**Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing**

### **Corporate Procurement**

No exceptions shall be made from these CSOs otherwise than by a joint written decision of the appropriate Head of Service and/or the Section 151 Officer with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

This is permissible when Lead Officer has given detailed reasons for the Exception; (e.g. efficiencies, savings, limited market, statutory duty or requirement, social value, furtherance of equality duty, engagement of SME or third sector organisation) or some other substantial reason

**Tina McDermott (on behalf of the Legal Services Manager)**

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – MHCLG Guidance on CEV Funding

Appendix B – CEV Funding Specification

## **Background Papers**

None.

## **Glossary of terms/abbreviations used**

CEV – Clinically Extremely Vulnerable