

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

FUNDING AGREEMENT: THE WELCOME



Report Reference C-23-26
Meeting Date 15th January 2024
Agenda Item 8
Prepared by Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Town Council has received a request from The Welcome to provide a four-year funding agreement; the request document is appended to this report and provides more information on the charity, its work and options for funding.

All members were invited to a meeting with the CEO and new Chair of The Welcome, this took place on 16th November and was attended by Cllrs Dalzell, Forrest, Hartley and Russell.

The Welcome has previously received significant funding from the National Lottery and The Henry Smith Charity but has been unsuccessful in securing further multi-year funding agreements creating a funding gap of £100,000 per year as funding has been prioritised in more deprived areas. The charity has made some progress reducing this deficit through sponsorship and small grants, but seeks funding from the Town Council on a multi-year basis to further support its viability.

2.0 FUNDING REQUESTS

The funding request outlines three options:

- a) Funding of CEO cost - £48,772
- b) Funding of Support Staff cost - £47,144
- c) Funding of Meal Delivery Service - £61,440

A more detailed breakdown for these costs is provided in the appended financial information.

At the meeting, a further option was suggested:

- d) Funding of Premises Costs - £20,500

The charity would welcome full or partial funding for any costs; its objective is to secure a multi-year agreement for funding to provide funding certainty.

Any funding award would require a further increase in the precept, the impact on the Band D council tax ranges from £3.42 per year (3.52%) to £10.24 per year (10.53%).

3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

Council should determine whether to enter into a four-year funding agreement with The Welcome commencing 1st April 2024.