

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

FUNDING AGREEMENT: THE WELCOME



Report Reference C-23-32
Meeting Date 25th March 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. 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. Council considered the request at the January council meeting and resolved to defer consideration pending further information. An informal meeting of members was held in February where the scope of the additional information required was discussed, this has been supplied to members.

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 ongoing viability.

2.0 FUNDING REQUEST

The previously circulated funding request outlined a number of funding options:

- a) Funding of Meal Delivery Service - £61,440
- b) Funding of CEO cost - £48,772
- c) Funding of Support Staff cost - £47,144
- d) Funding of Premises Costs - £20,500

These were all provided to be indicative of the costs the charity has. The charity has made clear that it would welcome any financial commitment the council was willing to give towards the delivery of its services; its objective is to secure a multi-year agreement for funding to provide funding certainty and to have the formal support of the Town Council.

3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

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