

12 June 2018		ITEM: dem services to add number
Delegated Authority to Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health		
Appointment of Local Authority Observer to ‘Community Hubs Thurrock’ Charitable Incorporated Organisation		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Rebecca Price, Community Development Officer		
Accountable Head of Service: Les Billingham, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care and Community Development		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Hubs are a partnership between the voluntary sector (led by Thurrock CVS), statutory sector (led by Thurrock Council), and communities - each bringing assets and resources.

In order to provide structure, stability, a consistent policy framework and access to a broad range of potential external funding streams, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (hereon ‘CIO’) – ‘*Community Hubs Thurrock*’ – has been formed by Thurrock CVS for the purpose of supporting the long-term sustainability of the hubs programme in Thurrock.

The constitution for the new CIO (Appendix 1) sets out the requirement for a Local Authority Observer, that, whilst not a Trustee, is entitled to attend and observe Board meetings of the Trustees. The purpose of this report is to gain delegated approval from the Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health to appoint the Community Development and Equalities Manager to this new role.

1. Recommendations

That the Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health:

- 1.1 approve the appointment of Natalie Warren, Strategic Lead: Community Development and Equalities to the role of Local Authority Observer for the Charitable Incorporated Organisation ‘Community Hubs Thurrock’ in line with the Council’s Constitution, Chapter 12, Part 2.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 It is now almost five years since Thurrock first explored the concept of a community hub. The community hubs programme has since developed seeking to mobilise passion within communities working with volunteers to help build resilience within neighbourhoods along with relationships and connections between people and services.
- 2.2 Five hubs are now open across Thurrock in South Ockendon, Chadwell St Mary, Stifford Clays, Tilbury and Purfleet. Another hub steering group is established in Aveley with a small offer currently delivered from the Aveley Library whilst a new hub build is subject to development.
- 2.3 In consultation the Community Hubs Partnership Network (comprising Thurrock CVS, engage, representatives from all hub steering groups and the Council's Library Services and Community Development and Equalities Team), Thurrock CVS has recently established a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation 'Community Hubs Thurrock'. The CIO will work with Thurrock Council to support the strategic and sustainable development of hubs – especially for the purpose of securing funding across all six hubs, tendering for services, employing staff, essentially achieving an economy of scale across neighbourhood programmes. The organisation will be underpinned by a single, and consistent, policy framework enabling transparency and clear accountability in the day-to-day operation of hubs.
- 2.4 Extracted from the Constitution for 'Community Hubs Thurrock' (Appendix 1), the objects of the CIO are:
- ❖ to provide or assist in the provision of facilities and support in the interests of social welfare to individuals who have need of such facilities and support by reason of their youth, age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances, with the object of improving their conditions of life;
 - ❖ to advance education;
 - ❖ to promote equality and diversity;
 - ❖ to relieve unemployment; and,
 - ❖ to preserve and protect good health and to relieve ill health.

Governance

- 2.5 A board of trustees, primarily comprising the existing Community Hubs Partnership Network (discounting Thurrock Council staff), has been established to oversee the operation of the new CIO. A Local Authority Observer is invited to support the trustees for the purpose of attending and observing board meetings of appointed trustees, they will not, however, have the right to vote nor any of the other rights of the trustees set out in the constitution.

Local Authority Observer

- 2.6 In accordance with the constitution for the CIO (Section 15 (15.1-15.5)) a Local Authority Observer may be *'appointed and removed by Thurrock Council in such manner as Thurrock Council from time to time determines provided that no person will be appointed as a Local Authority Observer'*.
- 2.7 Based on the Council's role through the development and delivery of the Community Hubs programme since its inception, the Council's Community Development and Equalities Manager is considered the most qualified and experienced lead to perform the function of Local Authority Observer to Community Hubs Thurrock, CIO.
- 2.8 In line with the Council's Constitution, Chapter 12, Part 2 (1.2 (c)) – Outside Bodies, an officer may be appointed by the Council to *'to observe, perhaps participating in discussion, but taking no part in decision- making or management'*.
- 2.9 Following receipt of advice from the Head of Legal Services, the decision to appoint the Strategic Lead: Community Development and Equalities to fulfil the role of Local Authority Advisor to Community Hubs Thurrock CIO may be delegated to the Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health who may grant approval to proceed on this basis either independently or, if they deem necessary, in consultation with Directors Board.

3 Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 There are no specific issues associated with the appointment of the Local Authority Advisor to the CIO and no alternative officers within the Council with the skills or experience considered necessary to perform this role at the present time.

4 Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The appointment of the Strategic Lead: Community Development and Equalities Manager to the role of Local Authority Advisor will allow the Council to support the strategic development and ongoing sustainability of the hubs programme through the operation of Community Hubs Thurrock, CIO.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 The appointment of the Community Development and Equalities Manager has been taken in consultation with Thurrock CVS, the Community Hubs Network Partnership, Thurrock Council's Head of Adults and Communities, the Head of Legal Services and the Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The Community Hubs programme supports the delivery of all community strategy objectives.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: Jo Freeman, Management Accountant Social care & Commissioning, Corporate Finance

There are no direct financial implications associated with the appointment of a Local Authority Observer to Community Hubs Thurrock, CIO. Indirect cost may be incurred although these are limited to officer time in kind only to attend relevant meetings associated with the operation of the CIO.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: David Lawson, Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

The position referred in this report is for a Local Authority Observer rather than adviser with no voting or participation rights.

In line with the Council's constitution, it is sensible to record the decision to appoint an officer to an outside body formally for the protection of the officer, the Council indemnities and/or insurances, as well as ensuring the appointment is formally recorded as a duty for the Community Development and Equalities Manager.

What is involved is an operational level liaison role so the Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health may record the appointment in an ED2 Form giving the reasons and options (though the director may wish to consult Directors Board if there are deemed to be sensitivities).

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: Natalie Warren: Strategic Lead Community Development and Equalities

The Community Hubs programme promotes the inclusion of all groups and residents across the borough. The CIO has been established for the purpose of enabling the sustainability and continued advance of the hubs programme supporting all residents including those with protected characteristics. The appointment of a Local Authority Observer is based on the skills and experience of that individual in the development and delivery of the hubs programme only. There are no known diversity and equality implications arising from this appointment.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None.

Report Author:

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