

Resources Department
Town Hall, Upper Street

Report of: Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Meeting of: Executive

Date: 14 March 2024

Ward(s): All

Subject: Monitoring Report February 2024

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Paragraph 8.10 in the Part 3 of the Council's Constitution authorises Corporate Directors to take decisions that would ordinarily be reserved to the Executive, where the matter is urgent and delay would seriously prejudice the interest of the Council or of the public.
- 1.2 Paragraph 8.11 in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution requires that any decisions made under the above provisions are reported to the next meeting of the Executive. Procedure Rule 68 also requires that the Proper Officer reports to the council on those occasions on which either the call-in provisions were waived or a key decision was taken which had not appeared in the Forward Plan or five clear working days notice had not been given.
- 1.3 The Corporate Director Community Wealth Building, made a decision using the urgency procedures on 'Andover Health Centre Funding' on 12 February 2024. The five clear working days' notice was achieved and the decision was available for call-in, but it was not possible to publish the 28 day statutory notice of our intention to take the decision.
- 1.4 The decision was considered urgent because the financial contribution NHS England are making to the project has been allocated within the current financial year and it is necessary for the Council to enter into a binding agreement to receive the funding before 16 February 2024. It was therefore not possible for the 28 day statutory notice to be issued or for this decision to wait for a future meeting

of the Executive and the urgency provisions in the Constitution were used to ensure that the project can proceed.

- 1.5 A key decision was also taken by the VCS Committee at its meeting on 30 January 2024, titled 'The Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants Programme 2024-28'. Although this decision was not taken under the urgency procedures, a general exception notice was issued for this item as the matter was not publicised 28 days in advance of the decision. The report was published in the agenda five clear working days' in advance as usual. This report confirmed the funding allocations to voluntary sector organisations over the four years of the programme. The decision could not wait until the next meeting of the Committee as a decision was required to allow the funding to be allocated for the start of the new financial year.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. To note the decisions detailed in this report and the attached appendix.

3. Background

- 3.1. In accordance with the Constitution, the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors and Chief Finance Officer are authorised to take decisions where the matter is urgent. If the decision concerns an executive function, or it has not been possible to comply with the statutory notice period or call-in has been waived, the exercise of authority under that provision must be reported to the next available meeting of the Executive.

Andover Health Centre Funding

- 3.2. The Corporate Director Community Wealth Building took the decision using the general exception procedures in accordance with paragraph 8.10 in Part 3 of the Constitution.

- 3.3. Decisions were made on the following recommendations and are notified to the Council for information:

'To agree to receive a funding contribution of £4.313m from NHS England towards the costs of the Andover Health Centre Scheme at 7 Newington Barrow Way, subject to the agreement of a 25 year lease with NHS England.'

'To note that any unspent monies from the £4.313m contribution will be ringfenced for other health related projects in Islington that will be agreed with NHS England, or will be returned to NHS England.'

'To note that If the scheme does not go ahead, the £4.313m contribution (less any costs incurred in relation to the scheme) will be returned to NHS England.'

'To note that a further report will be brought to the Executive to agree to enter into a lease with NHS England for the provision of the Andover Health centre at 7 Newington Barrow Way.'

- 3.4. The relevant report is published on the [Democracy Website](#) and attached to this report as an Appendix.

The Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme 2024-28

- 3.5. The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee (VCS Committee) took a key decision at its meeting on 30 January 2024. Although this decision was not taken under the urgency procedures, a general exception notice was issued for this item as the matter was not publicised 28 days in advance of the decision.

- 3.6. The decisions taken were:

'To note the update on the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2024-28'

'To confirm the funding allocation of £2,711,500 per full financial year and over the programme for four years, totally £10,846,000 as detailed in Appendix 1',

- 3.7. The relevant report is published on the [Democracy Website](#) and is also attached to this report as an appendix.

4. Implications

- 4.1.1. The implications are detailed within the attached appendices.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. To comply with the rules in the Council's Constitution, the Council is asked to note the decisions made using the urgency provisions and where it was not possible to publicise the decision for 28 days in advance.

Appendix:

- Decision report: [Andover Health Centre Funding](#)
- Decision report: [Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants Programme](#)

Background papers:

- None

Final report clearance:

Authorised by: Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Date: 20 February 2024

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