

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL
CABINET – 7 MARCH 2017
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

JIMMY MACS GRANT

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Welwyn Hatfield Community Housing Trust (“the Trust”) has been providing grant funding to Jimmy Macs to provide services for older people living in the community. This report asks Cabinet to approve the continuation of this grant funding, now that the Trust’s services are being delivered by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.
- 1.2 The services provided by Jimmy Macs helps Housing Services to deliver its community-based outcomes.
- 1.3 The grant is also linked to the use of the Jim McDonald Centre which is managed by Housing Services and which is the operational base for Jimmy Macs.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- 2.2 Approve a grant of £59,500 to Jimmy Macs Activity Centre for the Retired and Disabled for financial year 2017/18 to continue the services previously paid for by the Housing Trust.
- 2.3 Agrees that this grant, payable from the HRA, is treated separately to the Community Grants Fund managed by the Grants Board and is monitored via a report to the Cabinet Housing and Planning Panel.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 In July 2014 the Trust took over the management of the Jim McDonald Centre. Jimmy Macs is a charity which is based at the Jim McDonald Centre.
- 3.2 Jimmy Macs provides a range of services for older people living in the borough. These services include a lunch club, social, cultural and education events and arranging day trips and holidays.
- 3.3 The services provided by Jimmy Macs assist Housing Services in meeting its objectives by adding to the quality of life for its tenants and people living in the wider community, for example through reducing social exclusion, promoting good health and helping people to remain independent for longer. A significant proportion of Jimmy Macs clients are council tenants.
- 3.4 The Trust has provided grant funding to Jimmy Macs to enable these services to be delivered since it took over the Jim McDonald Centre in July 2014. This grant funding was previously provided by the council.

3.5 The annual grant is £59,500. Of this £27,500 is offset against the rental charge for space at the Jim McDonald Centre used by Jimmy Macs and the remaining £32,000 is paid to Jimmy Macs through 12 monthly instalments. The latter payments are used by Jimmy Macs to pay staff and other costs as required to keep the service running. Jimmy Macs also raises money through charity events. Without the grant funding Jimmy Macs would not be able to fund its activities.

4 Legal Implication(s)

4.1 The grant funding is from the Housing Revenue Account and is therefore distinct from the Community Grants Fund budget awarded by the Grants Board.

5 Financial Implication(s)

5.1 There are no additional financial implications as a result of this report. The annual grant of £59,500 is included in the HRA budget for 2017-18.

6 Risk Management Implications

6.1 Grant funding has been provided by the Trust from the Housing Revenue Account since July 2014 and was provided by the council prior to this date. No new risks are identified.

7. Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

7.1 None directly arising from this report.

8 Procurement Implication(s)

8.1 There are no implications as a result of this report.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

10 Link to Corporate Priorities

10.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priorities "Engage with our communities and provide value for money" and "Maintain a safe and healthy community".

11 Equality and Diversity

11.1 No Equality Impact Assessment is required as a result of this report.

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