

DECISION NOTICE - CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RELATED
Key Executive Decision taken by an OFFICER

KEY DECISION Subject: The Establishment of a Community Response Team for Stevenage to ensure immediate support to those who are vulnerable and self-isolating due to Covid-19

DECISION TAKER:**Name:****Job Title:****Signature:****Date:****REASON WHY THIS DECISION DID NOT APPEAR ON THE FORWARD PLAN AND THE URGENCY PROVISIONS WERE NOT FOLLOWED:**

This key decision was taken as part of the Council's emergency response to the national Coronavirus Emergency. Due to the necessary speed of decision taking at this time it was not possible to comply with the Council's Constitution that includes the requirement to give 28 days' notice of the decision to be taken; publish details 5 clear days before the decision was taken; publish the decision within 2 days of it being taken; and provide the 5 day call-in period before implementation. Nor was it possible to comply with the Urgency provisions in the Constitution

DECISION TAKEN:

Agree the formation of a community response team to support Covid-19 relief efforts. The team will be launched on Monday 6 April and will be reviewed on a weekly basis in line with demand.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Recent demands via the CSC and Cllr enquiries have suggested that there is additional demand for support to those who are not in the shielded category but are vulnerable and self-isolating at home.

Support is in place for residents from the shielded population who have received a letter for the NHS. These needs should be met by countywide provision that has been put in place. Countywide support via Herts Help has been unable to meet local demands from other vulnerable residents swiftly due to capacity issues in the earlier stages of the outbreak. The service does not have the local knowledge of offers of support that have been made directly to SBC and therefore not establishing the response team would risk requests

for support not being met quickly and offers of support not being matched appropriately.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED: None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The staffing for the core response team will come from existing budgets. LCB 2019/20 underspends have been agreed to fund any urgent food/essential item supplies. Costs will be monitored throughout lifetime of the response team.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Following government advice for identified people within the community to self-isolate plus the consequential impact upon those members of the community who are vulnerable or who need help and support SBC devised the establishment of a Community Response Team for Stevenage to ensure immediate support could be provided. (General Powers of Competence – Localism Act 2011)

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

Government advice affects the whole community but in particular members of the community that are already vulnerable or who may become vulnerable or may need additional support during the period and perhaps beyond the national emergency, the development and implementation of the Community Response team is to be able to provide appropriate support responses and meet the dynamic changing needs of vulnerable people within the community.

CONSULTATIONS:

Consultees fully supported the development and implementation of a Community Response team.

Executive and Opposition Group Leaders

Strategic Leadership Team

Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

I agree that this decision was reasonable in all the circumstances, was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred

I further agree that any delay likely to be caused by the call -in process would prejudice the Council's or the public interest and that the decision should not therefore be subject to call-in.

Signed:

Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date:

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION: 6 April 2020