

COMMITTEE: CENTRAL AREA **REF NO:** CAC/22/02

DATE: 22 JUNE 2022

SUBJECT: FUNDING REQUEST: LOFTY HEIGHTS
EMERGENCY RELIEF PLAN

REPORT AUTHOR: JAMES TURNBULL

SENIOR OFFICER: JUSTIN JUPP

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

Lofty Heights CIC is seeking a total of £10,000 across all Area Committees. This report requests that the Central Area Committee considers allocating £2,000 to Lofty Heights CIC to enable the provision of urgent practical help to people on the outskirts of support agencies who have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic but are not eligible for funded support.

Lofty Heights CIC is a non-profit social enterprise based in Ipswich and supports vulnerable people across Suffolk to live safely at home with its decluttering, homeward bound and house clearance service.

List of Appendices included in this report:

- a) Appendix 1 - Completed Application Form

This report has been prepared by James Turnbull,

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees

External consultees

Jaki Field, Operations Manager at Lofty Heights CIC

The following policies form a context to this report:

(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)

Building a Better Ipswich 2017

1. Item of business and issues for consideration

- 1.1 To consider the application of Lofty Heights and decide whether to agree to:
 - i) Fund the total amount requested.
 - ii) Fund a lesser amount to the amount requested; or
 - iii) Not fund.
- 1.2 The Committee will make its decision based on whether the application meets the funding criteria and the funds available to the Committee.
- 1.3 This report requests that the Central Area Committee considers allocating £2,000 to Lofty Heights CIC to enable the provision of urgent practical help to people on the outskirts of support agencies who are not eligible for funded support. Any funding granted would be ringfenced and only used to support residents in Central Ipswich.
- 1.4 Lofty Heights CIC is a non-profit social enterprise based in Ipswich and supports vulnerable people across Suffolk to live safely at home with its decluttering, homeward bound and house clearance service. Between April 2021 and January 2022, Lofty Heights have received 157 referrals for the Ipswich area.
- 1.5 Through their Homeward Bound Service, Lofty Heights have uncovered a huge need for assistance in Ipswich, where they regularly witness high levels of deprivation and hoarding. This service brings Lofty Heights into the homes of people who need support to prevent their admission to Ipswich hospital, or to enable their discharge from hospital following a health crisis. Individuals supported are often hidden from the radar of all support agencies and it is this work that brings Lofty Heights into homes at the very start of people's tailspin – the point where their lifestyle becomes a danger to their welfare or when they are brought to hospital.
- 1.6 Lofty Heights have also been approached by individuals who are not eligible for funded support but have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This project would provide any help required by disadvantaged 'between the cracks' Ipswich residents, with Lofty Heights carrying out checks to ensure that alternative funding is not available and that any prospective work would not be the remit of another statutory agency.
- 1.7 Lofty Heights have reported that a lot of support was taken away during the pandemic and has not returned since, such as cleaning services. Lofty Heights are frequently finding homes that cannot return to their regular cleaning service because their homes are too dirty or disorganised for regular cleaning to recommence. Due to visits inside the home being banned by many agencies during the pandemic, the reality of what has been happening behind closed doors has only recently come to the fore, which has a direct impact on the cost/time needed to declutter the properties in question.
- 1.8 Food shortages and reliance on food parcels has caused clutter problems for households with many individuals stockpiling items out of anxiety. Clutter has been caused by food parcels, as they contain many items that households do not use, such as pasta and rice for older people, tinned vegetables for the younger recipients.

- 1.9 The pandemic has also contributed to a crisis of stockpiled rubbish and bulky items, and inequality of access to waste disposal which poses a serious risk to the environment and the community. Lofty Heights have found that there is an issue with elderly or disabled people being unable to dispose of bulky items they are unable to take them outside for collection.
- 1.10 Lofty Heights plans to use this funding against work that would require a maximum of a single day but would focus on smaller jobs that would take half a day or less where possible to allow capacity to support more people. This would therefore promote value for money and would allow Lofty Heights to support a minimum of 58 people (11.6 individuals per area) across all five areas of Ipswich.
- 1.11 Services would include loft emptying, shed/garage clearance, small handyman tasks, removing clutter to charity for donation, garden clearance and preparation for medical/safety equipment to be installed.

2. Links to Area Action Plan

- 2.1 Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities - Domains of Deprivation:
- **Health and Disability**, which is an area action plan priority
 - Living Environment
- 2.2 Building a Better Ipswich underlying principles:
- **Safe Communities**, which is an area action plan priority
- 2.3 Other
- Pride in our Neighbourhood

3. Financial implications

3.1

| Description of expenditure | Cost (£) |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Staffing Costs: Declutter Operatives, for a team that consists of two members of staff and their van. 235 hours @ £12ppph = £5,640 Assessments by a Declutter Officer 30 hours @ £15ph = £450 | £6,465 (Requested from IBC) |

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| <p>Admin time: including detailed signposting for support, finance and care needs provision – this also ensures that persons able to fund work themselves do not receive subsidies. Also include follow up feedback calls to review benefit of the work carried out and feedback on Area Committee's funded project</p> <p>25 hrs @ £15ph = £375</p> <p><i>(Match funding for an additional 40.6 people would equate to £4525.50 of costs)</i></p> | <p>£4,525.50 (Covered by match funding)</p> |
| <p>Travel Costs (including fuel and maintenance):</p> <p>This will include Trade permits for parking at £30 per 5 tickets. Tickets could be required for each assessment and subsequent work visit. It cannot be quantified until referrals and work are completed.</p> <p>Based on 58 jobs = £696</p> <p>Fuel and maintenance using the costing 45p per mile equates to 380 miles per month as an average = £2054</p> <p><i>(Match funding for an additional 40.6 people would equate to £1925 of costs)</i></p> | <p>£2,750 (Requested from IBC)</p> <p>£1,925 (Covered by match funding)</p> |
| <p>PPE and supplies</p> <p>Required for all sorts of Jobs: Suits for dusty/unsanitary environments Plastic sheeting required for loft empties, along with PP3 silicon masks with charcoal filters for glass fibre protection Gauntlet gloves for bramble and hedgerow protection. Goggles and headgear for hedge cutting, we hold supplies but wear and tear may require replacements. Bin bags for rubbish Boxes for storage Cleaning equipment</p> <p><i>Matching funding would increase this cost by £210 to incorporate the additional 40.6 persons</i></p> | <p>£300 (Requested from IBC)</p> <p>£210 (Covered by match funding)</p> |

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|---|---|---------------|
| Marketing | £100 (Requested from IBC) | |
| <i>£70 for match funding uplift</i> | <i>£70</i> (Covered by match funding) | |
| Dedicated waste disposal For emergency waste needs (could be costed against bulky waste collection if not free) | £385 (Requested from IBC) | |
| <i>Additional £269.5 required from match funding for additional persons</i> | <i>£269.50</i> (Covered by match funding) | |
| Total project costs | £17,000 | |
| Total requested from Area Committees | South West | £2,000 |
| | North West | £2,000 |
| | Central | £2,000 |
| | South East | £2,000 |
| | North East | £2,000 |

- 3.2 There is £12,078.60 remaining unallocated in the committee's budget, which is available to fund grant applications.
- 3.3 Lofty Heights has committed £5,000 from their Breathing Space and Household Support Grants and £2,000 from their Household Support Grant towards this project.
- 3.4 Ipswich Borough Council Economic Development provided project funding of £9,500 to Lofty Heights in September 2019 towards a NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) programme for young people.
- 3.5 Lofty Heights propose to support an additional 40.6 individuals through their match funding.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Council has the power to make grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 4.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e. the Area Committee terms of reference.
- 4.3 Lofty Heights is a registered Community Interest Company (company no. [08041855](#)), and has provided its constitution, named officers, proof of bank account, year-end accounts, safeguarding policy and business plan.

5. Risks considered

| Risk Description | Consequence of risk | Risk Controls | Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1: almost impossible - 6: very high) | Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1: negligible - 4: catastrophic) |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Risk of Coronavirus infection through contact in proposed activities or area being put into local lockdown. | Covid-19 illness to staff / volunteers / clients | Measures as described in Government guidance at time (if still in place) | 2 | 3 |
| Actions to mitigate risk | Lofty Heights and any partners are required to follow the Government guidance pertaining to all relevant activities and events current at the time of delivery. | | | |

6. Options

- 6.1 Option 1 – Approve allocation of funding of £2,000 to Lofty Heights CIC to enable the provision of urgent practical help to people on the outskirts of support agencies who are not eligible for funded support.
- 6.2 Option 2 – Approve allocation of less than £2,000 as contribution to the same.
- 6.3 Option 3 – Do not fund.

7. Record of Decision taken

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8. Exemption from call in (if applicable)

I certify that this decision is urgent and therefore exempt from call-in for the following reasons:

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Signed.....

Chair of the Central Area Committee