

Committee: CABINET

Agenda Item

Date: 24 OCTOBER 2013

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Title: FOODBANK

Portfolio Holder: COUNCILLOR HOWARD ROLFE

Key decision: no

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to contribute financially, and by leasing a room, towards the development of a Foodbank in Saffron Walden which will in future link with Thaxted, Stansted and Great Dunmow.

Recommendations

2. Members are recommended to approve the following:
 - a) Initial start-up fee of £1,500 and an ongoing annual running cost of £300 per annum.
 - b) The lease of the upstairs section of the Garden Room in Saffron Walden for food storage for one year, initially.

Financial Implications

3. The Council has a budget for Access to Services funding of £20,000 per annum and it is envisaged that the initial fee of £1,500 and the ongoing annual payments of £300 could be allocated from that budget. The purpose of the budget is to provide financial assistance to enable the development of services locally which are determined as of benefit to the community.

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None

Impact

5. The following level of risk has been identified:

Communication/Consultation	Local organisations (Citizen's Advice Bureau, Salvation Army etc.) have communicated that they have been involved in supporting people who are in need of food parcels in the district.
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Community Safety	None
Equalities	None.
Health and Safety	None.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None.
Sustainability	None.
Ward-specific impacts	Those in need of food parcels would be supported in the wards in Saffron Walden and surrounding villages.
Workforce/Workplace	None.

Situation

6. Information received from agencies involved in the Local Strategic Partnership Health & Wellbeing Group and other partners in the district has highlighted the increasing need for people to receive food parcels in the short term. Additionally, there is concern that when further changes in benefits' legislation takes effect this demand will increase.
7. The Health & Wellbeing Group established a working group to explore the possibility of further developing foodbanks. The working group comprises representatives from the District Council, Uttlesford Citizen's Advice Bureau, Salvation Army, Churches Together, Stansted Foodbank, Uttlesford Volunteer Centre, Parenting Platform, Waitrose, Saffron Walden, The Trussell Trust, Spangles Children's Centre and the LSP Children & Families Group Chair.
8. The Uttlesford Foodbank Group has been working with the Trussell Trust a national organisation that supports and oversees the development and operation of Foodbanks. It provides best practice guidance, training packages and support. The Trussell Trust requires an initial payment of £1,500 for affiliation and the procedural packages, also, there is an annual ongoing fee of £300 for affiliation.
9. The Salvation Army and Waitrose, Saffron Walden, are committed to supporting and leading on managing the Foodbank and will organise the training for the volunteers required to operate the project. An official launch of the scheme to secure volunteers is due to be held in November with the Foodbank planned to commence operation in February 2014. (The Volunteer Centre will also be supporting the scheme by advertising for volunteers.)
10. It has been established that the upstairs section of the Garden Room (Day Centre in Jubilee Gardens) in Saffron Walden will be an excellent and central venue for food storage. As the scheme is to be run largely by volunteers and voluntary sector agencies use of this accommodation free of charge is

essential. It is proposed that the lease of that section of the facility be for one year initially. The Salvation Army will provide the insurance for the food stored on these premises. The District Council will continue to be responsible for the insurance of, and third party insurance for visitors to, the premises, repairs, utilities and services. However, it should be noted that the premises will only be used as a storage facility with volunteers transferring the food to distribution points i.e. churches and other venues. As the venture is voluntary and charitable, the lease should be excluded from the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

Risk Analysis

11. There is a low level of risk associated with this initiative, as follows:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That food is not donated or the project is mismanaged.	1 – The likelihood is low because both the Volunteer Centre the Salvation Army and Waitrose are working together on this project, therefore, a good level of support is built into the scheme from the beginning.	2 – The impact of the scheme not working would be that residents in need find it more difficult to obtain support and would have to travel further to gain support	Partner agencies are working together to ensure that the project is a success and with the Trussell Trust (an experienced national organisation) overseeing and supporting the scheme it is envisaged that any risks will be considerably minimised.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.