

Executive Member Response To Environment & Economy Select Committee Review of the Economic Impact of Covid-19

Date Recommendations agreed by Environment & Economy Select Committee (the recommendations were Updated by the Chair, Scrutiny Officer, AD Stevenage Direct Services & SD Tom Pike on 29 11 21):

Monday 21 October 2021
(circulated Tuesday 30 November 2021)

Date responses should be made by:

Executive response on behalf of the relevant Executive Portfolio Holders should be received by Tuesday 25 January 2022

Recommendations:

Executive Response:

Support for Young People

RECOMMENDATION 1 - Medium term recommendation regarding Young People (Spring/Summer 2022) – Supporting third sector response to provide training opportunities for young people.

That the Executive support, with whatever means are at its

Response to be developed by AD Communities & Neighbourhoods & Executive Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Leisure and Culture.

The success of North Herts College and partners in securing

<p>disposal the efforts of STEMPOINT East to provide some hands on events in 2022. This would support STEMPOINT to promote and build science capital in young people, particularly those who may not naturally choose STEM learning routes. Possible venues to support this could be the STEM Centre, NH College, Canyon’s Scout building and the environmental charity Waste Not Want Not.</p> <p>Action: AD Communities & Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Community Renewal Funding for STEM City ambitions will provide some resource to drive such activity in early 2022.</p> <p>This is welcome news, given the severe financial constraints faced by the Council following a decade of spending reduction and steep pressures brought by Covid-19.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to embed this approach through co-operative neighbourhood teams and their reach with young people and youth activity in local neighbourhood settings. The teams will work with relevant children and young people providers to reach those young people who may not naturally engage with STEM opportunities.</p>
<p>Support for Young People</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDATION 2 – Long term recommendation regarding Young People (Starting Spring 2022 and for remainder of the year) – Supporting partners outreach to local young people and their families.</u></p> <p>That the Executive be asked to consider the work of the sub group focussing on the impact of Covid-19 on Young People. This work identified a successful project led by HCC, YCH (Services for Young People, Children’s Services) at the Oval with a small group of young people who would be in danger of becoming NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training). It is recommended that Officers engage with the interested partners (HCC YCH, STEMPOINT and NH College) to explore what role SBC could play to roll out to other outreach opportunities as identify young people/families to help those families with encouragement towards careers and employment in general.</p>	<p><i>Response to be developed by AD Communities & Neighbourhoods & Executive Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Leisure and Culture and the Executive Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods & Co-operative Council.</i></p> <p>Such projects led by YC Herts (HCC) are welcomed and we will work to embrace within local co-operative neighbourhood working arrangements. It is proposed that a review meeting is held between the community development service and YC Herts to plan future youth outreach and engagement and to ascertain such opportunities such as “jobs Clubs” to support skills, training and employment opportunities for young people.</p>

<p>Potential locations to focus as sub-ward levels include Bedwell, Shephall and Martins Wood. HCC and SBC Local Community Budget funding could be targeted at a short term project to extend this initiative.</p> <p>Action: AD Communities & Neighbourhoods</p>	
<p>Support for Young People</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDATION 3</u> – <u>Long term recommendation regarding Young People & Vulnerable Families (Starting Spring 2022) – Using social outreach models / events to identify and help vulnerable local young people and their families.</u></p> <p>That the Executive Portfolio Holders for Neighbourhoods & Co-operative Council, Children, Young People, Leisure and Culture and Communities, Community Safety and Equalities be asked to consider the case study of Brandles School, using foodbank outreach to vulnerable families. To ask these Executive Portfolio Holders to provide examples how this type of outreach is used or consider how this could be used through the Co-operative Neighbourhood Management or other programmes or other ways where the Council could reach out to vulnerable families to help their young people access services and opportunities.</p> <p>Action: AD Communities & Neighbourhoods</p>	<p><i>Response to be developed by AD Communities & Neighbourhoods & Executive Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods & Co-operative Council, Children, Young People, Leisure and Culture and Community Safety and Equalities</i></p> <p>Over the past two years the council’s play service has evolved to have a greater focus on child and family wellbeing. This has included administering support for vulnerable households during the Covid-19 pandemic and working more closely with the Young Peoples Healthy Hub (targeting High School age children. The service is currently exploring partnership bids to extend this service offer and the opportunities to outreach to other vulnerable groups. This also includes closer working with Children’s Centres and family support agencies, and making the most of the anticipated return of family intervention responsibilities to the Community Safety team. In addition the Council is re-procuring a leisure operator and has built in an “active communities” element into the specification, which will encourage greater outreach and new forms of engagement in community and neighbourhood settings.</p>
<p>Support for Young People</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDATION 4</u> - <u>Medium to long term recommendation</u></p>	<p><i>Response to be developed by AD Planning & Regulatory and AD Communities & Neighbourhoods & Executive Portfolio Holder for</i></p>

<p><u>regarding Young People (Starting Spring/Summer 2022 and for remainder of the year) – Working with partners together to identify a project lead and sources of funding for a local work experience project.</u></p> <p>That the Executive Portfolio Holders for Economy, Enterprise and Transport and Children, Young People, Leisure and Culture should work with partners, including schools, the third/voluntary sector and employers, both large and small, who identify their social responsibility, to seek funding sources and a project lead/project manager to establish a local work experience project for Stevenage school leavers in 2022 to enable them to find local employers who can offer work experience. This is proposed as a recommendation for the Executive to consider for 2022, and may require initial Council pump priming and resource to support project management.</p> <p>Action: AD Planning and Regulatory and AD Communities & Neighbourhoods</p>	<p><i>Economy, Enterprise and Transport and Children, Young People, Leisure and Culture.</i></p> <p>There is currently no Council resource to support this initiative but this will be picked up as part of the meeting with YC Herts (HCC) who are responsible for youth provision to explore the opportunities to create work experience opportunities for young people locally.</p>
<p>Support for Young People</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDATION 5 - Long term recommendation regarding support for Young People (Starting in 2022) – Supporting HCC Education and partners re long-term funding to support the STEM Centre.</u></p> <p>That the Executive Portfolio Holders for Economy, Enterprise and Transport and Children, Young People, Leisure and Culture be asked to consider the case study of the Herts Careers School Hub, that all partners work together to establish how funding can</p>	<p><i>Response to be developed by AD Planning & Regulatory and AD Communities & Neighbourhoods and Executive Portfolio Holders for Economy, Enterprise and Transport and Children, Young People, Leisure and Culture.</i></p> <p>Through the successful CRF bid resources have been secured to accelerate STEM Centre ambitions. The council will be working with North Herts College and partners to support this.</p>

<p>be found to assist the STEM Centre to secure its future funding.</p> <p>Action: AD Planning and Regulatory and AD Communities & Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>The programme for the community renewal fund project on Community Wealth Building, led by Stevenage Borough Council on behalf of all partners, was agreed by Herts Growth Board in late January. It includes the following deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joining up work around employment and skills opportunities locally and connecting with the Hertfordshire wide employment gateway www.hopinto.co.uk • A delegated grants scheme in each district for VCSE sector and micro-businesses to develop opportunities for people to improve life skills and access employment opportunities • Work across 10 districts and with HCC to unlock local opportunities through procurement activities • Work across 10 districts and with HCC to unlock local opportunities through strategic planning • Measuring the impact and feasibility for further work to build community wealth in Hertfordshire
<p>Impact on vulnerable groups</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDATION 6 - Short to Medium term recommendation regarding various vulnerable groups impacted by the pandemic (Starting Spring 2022 and for remainder of the year) – monitoring the progress of the CV-19 Community Reassurance Cell’s impact assessments.</u></p> <p>That the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities, Community Safety and Equalities be asked to engage HCC and partners via the Covid-19 Community Reassurance Cell to check that they carry out a revised impact assessment on the impact on BAME, Disabled and Young People, looking at all ten local areas. This notes that Stevenage had particular challenges with</p>	<p><i>Response to be developed by AD Communities & Neighbourhoods and the Leader and Executive Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Equalities.</i></p> <p>The Community Reassurance Cell has now completed its work and reported to the Herts Leaders Group.</p> <p>The Cell has done a great deal of work in identifying the disproportionate impact on BAME and other minority groups during the pandemic. The Leader has asked the question in the county council budget scrutiny process about how this work will be carried forward and resourced as it moves into the mainstream work of</p>

<p>disabled, BAME and young people, who in many cases started the pandemic in a deficit position and were in danger of this being further compounded, and that the impact assessment leads to direct initiatives to seek to address any gaps in provision for these groups.</p> <p>Action: AD Communities & Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>HCC, particularly in relation to looking whether a disproportionate impact of, for example, long covid will be mitigated. There has been an extensive county council topic group on health inequalities of BAME groups, where this was considered. It may help members of E&E to see the outcome of that scrutiny which is attached along with the Executive member response to that scrutiny review.</p> <p>At a local level the Social Inclusion Partnership is working to champion local action to tackle emerging inequalities. Alongside this the Stevenage Equalities Commission is leading a particular focus on impacts on BAME communities locally and will be proposing a number of recommendations in summer 2022. We look forward to receiving these recommendations in due course and working together with our communities as we respond to the deep challenges presented by the pandemic, and the case to be made to government for adequate local funding.</p>
<p>Impact on the Council's financial position and wider economy impact</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDATION 7 - Medium to long term recommendation regarding the monitoring of progress of the Council's financial position and the local economy and the position of various vulnerable groups impacted by the pandemic</u></p> <p>That the Environment and Economy Select Committee will bring back two snapshot update reports one six months from receiving the formal Executive Member response to the review (the two months statutory response is on February 2022, so a six month</p>	<p><i>Response to be developed by SD Tom Pike and the Leader on behalf of the Executive.</i></p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic continues to present very significant challenges to the local community and businesses in Stevenage. Regular reviews into the financial impact on the Council are underway.</p> <p>The Executive welcomes the recommendation for the E&E Committee to receive further snapshot reports into the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and impacts on vulnerable groups within our community.</p>

update will be in June 2022) from the date of the final report being circulated to the Executive (December 2021) and one year on from this date (January 2023). These reports will check on the economic position of the Council and of the local economy and see how the vulnerable groups identified in the review are, post pandemic

Action: SD Tom Pike