

**CONTRIBUTION TO NEWSTARTS VEHICLE**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Roger Hollingworth
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering
Wards Affected	All

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet consideration of a proposal to contribute funds from balances to the LSP to support the purchase of a new vehicle for NewStarts Charity to enable them to continue their work supporting vulnerable people by providing free furniture and other household goods.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Cabinet is asked to :**

- 2.1 Recommend to Council the release to NewStarts from balances of up to £20k to be used for the purpose of assisting NewStarts to purchase a new vehicle for the collection and delivery of furniture.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The estimated maximum contribution towards the new vehicle is £20k. It is proposed that this funding be released from balances in 2012/13. The funds would be transferred to NewStarts van and a partnership arrangement will be developed with the LSP to ensure that maximum benefit can be derived for vulnerable people supported by NewStarts. The van will be owned by NewStarts with no further financial liability by the Council.
- 3.2 NewStarts will continue to raise funds towards the cost of the van from other agencies and partners. The contribution from the Council will be offset by any other funds available.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.3 There are no specific legal implications as a result of this contribution. The Council will not incur any future liabilities for service delivery or ongoing maintenance of the van. The arrangement will be set up in a formal partnership agreement between Bromsgrove District Council, LSP and NewStarts. The purpose of this will ensure that NewStarts continue to deliver the service specified to vulnerable members of the community and will allow monitoring statistics to be reported back to the partners.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.4 NewStarts is a charity which helps vulnerable people - particularly those who are homeless or have recently been homeless and are in need. They provide free furniture, bedding, household items such as curtains and carpets, kitchen equipment, toiletries, toys and in many cases free food for individuals and families who have been referred to them by the social agencies – eg; BDHT, NHS, CAB.
- 3.5 The van is used to take the furniture to the homes of the people who have been referred to the charity. From delivering to 363 homes in 2009/10, the need has risen to 746 in 2011/12 with increases anticipated in the future due to the financial climate.
- 3.6 The van is also used to collect the furniture which is donated to the charity so this can be recycled to those who need it. Since 2009/10 the charity has made 5,088 collections.
- 3.7 The collection of unwanted furniture also saves waste going into landfill. Since 2009 NewStarts have recycled 562,000kg of unwanted furniture.
- 3.8 The current van used for the collections and delivery is over 9 years old and is costing a considerable amount in repair and maintenance costs.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.9. By providing the funds to contribute towards the van the charity can continue its service to all vulnerable members of the community.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The LSP will develop a partnership agreement with the charity to ensure that all outcomes are delivered and monitored in the future.

**5. APPENDICES**

N/A

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A

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