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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

30th March 2015

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Brandon Clayton, Phil Mould, Mark Shurmer, Yvonne Smith and Debbie Taylor

Officers:

Sue Hanley and Jayne Pickering and Sheena Jones

Democratic Services Officer:

Amanda Scarce

122. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Juliet Brunner.

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

124. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Leader on this occasion.

125. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT APPLICATIONS - HELP ME TO BE FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT

The Leader invited the Deputy Chief Executive to present the report and in doing so she highlighted a number of points, including the following:

- Members were asked to consider the recommendation from the Grants Panel meeting held on 25th March.
- The sum of £75,000 was in respect of the Financial Independence category and had been re-advertised following the demise of the Redditch branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) who had originally been awarded this sum from the 2015/16 grants.
- The grant process had been re-opened for a period of 5 weeks and a number of organisations had put forward applications.

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Chair

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- The £13,332 referred to an under spend in the grant to Redditch CAB for 2014-15, which equated to two months payments.
- The Council's Framework Agreement for the provision of debt and budgeting advice had been established during 2014/15 and the Council had entered into an agreement with a number of providers. The allocation of this money would enable the agreement to continue for a longer period of time than would otherwise be possible.

Councillor Greg Chance was a Member of the Grants panel and had chaired the meeting on 25th March. He confirmed that a number of applications had been considered and from the scoring matrix used the Bromsgrove CAB had scored the most points. He felt it was important that the under spend from 2014-15 should be used for debt advice through the Framework Agreement as opposed to simply returning it to balances.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The Financial Independence grant for £75,000 be awarded to Bromsgrove and District Citizens Advice Bureau, as per the recommendation from the Grants Panel meeting held on 25th March 2015; and**
- 2) The 2014/15 underspend of £13,332 be allocated to the Council's Framework Agreement for the provision of debt and budgeting advice.**

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 6.37 pm