



# REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

## PORTFOLIO AREA: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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**Date of Meeting:** 17th February 2012

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**Public**

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**Key Decision:** No

**Recorded in Forward Plan:**

**No**

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**Inside Policy Framework**

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**Title:** CARLISLE CHURCHES TOGETHER  
**Report of:** The Director of Community Engagement  
**Report reference:** CD24/12

### **Summary:**

This report provides an update on plans by Churches Together in Carlisle & District to support homelessness initiatives in Carlisle

### **Recommendations:**

Members are requested to consider the information in the report and resolve whether or not to approve the Council's amendment to include a grant of £5,000 to Carlisle Churches Together for the delivery of homelessness initiatives in Carlisle.

**Contact Officer:** Keith Gerrard

**Ext:** 7350

**Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None**

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 1.1 Churches Together in Carlisle and District have been in existence since the late 1980s. It is open to any Christian Church in Carlisle and District who wishes to join. They currently have members from about 15 churches which represents about a third of all places of Christian worship in the district.
- 1.2 Its aims are to enable Christians of any denomination to work together in unity. They do this by both prayer and worship and through practical measures within the community in which they live. Often described as Practical Christianity.
- 1.3 Examples of these measures over the last few years have been setting up of the Street Pastors, and Carlisle One World Centre and the Homeless Food Voucher Scheme. At present, Churches Together are in the process of setting up a food bank in conjunction with other agencies in the City, such as the CVS and COWC. They also have some involvement in the Johns St Hostel for the homeless.

## **2. GRANTS FROM CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL**

- 2.1 The proposed funding grant would enable Churches Together to continue to develop the initiatives mentioned above.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the Wellbeing Team would support and monitor the appropriate targeting of resources to enhance the initiatives proposed by Churches Together. This could include awareness raising sessions through community centres or staff delivering activity that adds to existing or proposed projects.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the Executive consider the proposal associated with budget amendments raised at Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> February, the allocation of a grant allowance of £5,000 to Churches Together in Carlisle and District to fund homelessness initiatives

## **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To support Churches Together in its programme to work with homeless people.

## 5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Appropriate targeting of resources to enhance proposed initiatives
- Financial – This non-recurring revenue grant can be funded either from Council Reserves or from existing base budgets in 2011/12, enabling the grant to be paid in 2011/12. There is an unused budgetary provision, carried forward from 2010/11, within the Audit Shared Service which can be vired to Community Engagement to fund the payment
- Legal – grant should be subject to the condition that it is used for the purpose Council indicated (i.e. Homelessness).
- Corporate – Link to Corporate Priorities of Increased sense of community empowerment and self reliance
- Risk Management –
- Environmental – N/A
- Crime and Disorder –
- Impact on Customers – Provide an additional service for homeless people
- Equality and Diversity – All projects will be inclusive

**Impact assessments**

**Does the change have an impact on the following?**

<b>Equality Impact Screening</b>	<b>Impact Yes/No?</b>	<b>Is the impact positive or negative?</b>
Does the policy/service impact on the following?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Positive</b>
Age	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Positive</b>
Disability	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Positive</b>
Race	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Positive</b>
Gender/ Transgender	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Positive</b>
Sexual Orientation	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Positive</b>
Religion or belief	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Positive</b>
Human Rights	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Positive</b>
Health inequalities	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Positive</b>
Rurality	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Positive</b>

**If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:**

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**If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.**