

REGISTER OF URGENT  
DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

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**1) SUBJECT: North Devon Smartmove Funding 2014/15**

1.1 BACKGROUND

1.1.1 North Devon Smartmove (NDS), is a partnership between Westcountry Housing, Encompass South West and Freedom Social Projects

1.1.2 Since 2011/12, NDS has delivered a service to individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in North Devon. The service provides assistance for these individuals to access a private rented tenancy and support to sustain the tenancy for a period of at least 6 months.

1.1.3 The success of NDS reduces demand on NDC's Housing Services as individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, are sustainably housed.

1.1.4 NDS to date:

1.1.4.1 NDS has created and sustained the following successful tenancies:

- 2011/12 – 35 tenancies (against target of 30)
- 2012/13 – 33 tenancies (against target of 30)
- 2013/14 – 55 tenancies (against target of 30)

1.1.4.2 To date NDS has been funded by Crisis, who are a national charity for single homeless people, they are dedicated to ending homelessness by delivering life changing services and campaigning for change.

1.1.5 Crisis had been receiving funding from Central Government to promote and monitor private rented access schemes for non statutory individuals.

1.1.6 Crisis had announced there was no further funding for 2014/15.

1.1.7 NDS service was due to end on 31.5.14 because of the end/lack of future funding.

1.2 CURRENT POSITION

1.2.1 On 25.2.14 Crisis announced £2 million funding from Government to help schemes continue

1.2.2 Crisis funding criteria is:

- Scheme received funding from CRISIS in either round 1 (2011) or round 2 (2012) of the PRS access Programme.  
*Criteria met*
- Scheme has achieved at least 75% of our overall target for tenancies created over the 2 years of Crisis Funding.  
*Criteria met*
- Maximum of £20,000 per year  
*Bid is proposed to be for £20,000*
- 2 years funding available, but can be applied for one year at a time  
*Year 2 to be considered at a future date*
- Match funding must be secured and confirmed upon bid  
*Awaiting NDC decision*
- All tenancies must link into training, employment and volunteering opportunities.  
*NDS will design scheme eligibility criteria to meet criteria*
- Round 3 schemes funded schemes will have less priority  
*NDS received Round 3 funding*

1.2.3 The NDC partners have:

1.2.3.1 Stated that they need a total minimum of £53,000 to operate a viable scheme in 2014/15:

1.2.3.2 Identified £23,000 from the partnership agencies to support the bid

**1.2.3.3 Requested NDC to:**

- **Approve £10,000 funding for NDS by way of a grant.**
- **To support the NDS bid to Crisis for £20,000 to operate a North Devon Smartmove scheme in 2014/15.**

1.3 LOCAL WELFARE SUPPORT SERVICE

1.3.1 NDC had a budget of £216k in 2013/14 and is delivering within budget

1.3.2 NDC is due to receive approximately £216k for 2014/15. **This is still subject to final approval and detail between Central Government, Devon County Council and NDC.**

1.3.3 The Local Welfare Support Service is funded by Devon County Council through a partnership agreement to achieve the following three outcomes:

- To increase self-reliance and resilience
- To offer quick and effective support for those with high priority short term needs
- To provide help for people to establish themselves in or, remain in the community

1.3.4 The use of £10,000 Local Welfare Support Service funding to support a Smartmove scheme in 2014/15 will meet two of the above outcomes and therefore meet the terms of the agreement between NDC and Devon County Council.

## **2) REQUESTED DECISION:**

**2.1 To support a bid to Crisis for £20,000 by North Devon Smartmove to continue to deliver a private rented access to accommodation scheme for single persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in North Devon for the financial year of 2014/15**

**2.2 To approve £10,000 to be provided as match funding to North Devon Smartmove to enable the scheme to be viable (subject to the Local Welfare Support Service funding being agreed and received by NDC)**

**2.3 To approve that the match funding referred to at paragraph 2.2 be made available from the Local Welfare Support Service Resettlement budget (subject to the Local Welfare Support Service funding being agreed and received by NDC) and be subject to a funding agreement, the terms of which to be agreed by the Head of Environmental Health and Housing in consultation with the Head of Legal Services.**

## **3) STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE REQUEST AND WHY IT IS URGENT:**

3.1 Crisis announced on 25.2.14 a £2 million fund to help good schemes to continue.

3.2 North Devon Smartmove local partnership considered the opportunity and approached NDC initially on 7.3.14. The final partnership meeting occurred on 24.3.14. confirming the position as set out in this report. The closing date for bid is 31.3.14.

3.3 The announcement and detail was too late to present information to the March Executive and a decision is needed before the April Executive to avoid the loss of this local service that provides advice and financial assistance for local single homeless people.

**4) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** (NOTE: Please state if there are any financial implications. If so, state if there are sufficient funds within the agreed budget. If there are not sufficient funds, please state how the decision will be financed)

4.1 The intention is to use externally provided funding to support North Devon Smartmove service

**5) ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:**

5.1 The alternative is the end of North Devon Smartmove. This was already the accepted position prior to this announcement from Crisis.

6) A RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED:

To note that Councillor Biederman (Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) has a personal interest in so far as he is appointed to North Devon Smartmove as North Devon Council's representative.

7) A NOTE OF ANY DISPENSATION IF GRANTED:

Not applicable

8) THE CONSENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WAS OBTAINED ON:

27<sup>th</sup> March 2014

9) LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS (but not including published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in rule 10 of appendix 15 (Access to Information Procedural Rules) and the advice of a political advisor):

None

10) CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:

The following have been consulted on this urgent decision:

Consultee	Consulted Yes/No	Date	Response	Date
Executive Member – Councillor Faye Webber	Yes	26.3.14	Approved	27.03.14
Executive Member – Councillor Yvette Gubb	Yes	26.3.14	Approved	27.03.14
Chief Executive – M Mansell	Yes	26.3.14	Approved	26.03.14
Head of Service – J Mann	Yes	26.3.14	Approved	26.03.14
Legal – S Fuller	Yes	26.3.14	Approved	27.03.14

Finance – S Hearse	Yes	26.3.14	Approved	27.03.14
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11) APPROVED BY DECISION TAKER

Councillor Greenslade - Leader

12) NOT APPROVED BY DECISION TAKER

13) DATE THAT DECISION WAS TAKEN:

27<sup>th</sup> March 2014

# GUIDANCE NOTES

NOTE: ALL REFERENCES TO SUB-PARAGRAPHS REFER TO APPENDIX 12 OF THE CONSTITUTION

PROCEDURE FOR DECISIONS WHICH MAY BE CONTRARY TO ADOPTED PLANS AND STRATEGIES (INCLUDING THE BUDGET):

1. The Chief Executive must notify the Leader/Deputy Leader/Other Executive Member.
2. The Leader/Deputy Leader/Other Executive Member must approve the use of the procedure and notify the Chief Executive of his approval together with his reasons.
3. The Chief Executive must notify the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or if unable to act the Chairman of Council or if absent the Vice-Chairman to seek his determination as to whether the conditions detailed in paragraph 1.1 (b) (i), (iii) or (iv) are satisfied.
4. The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or if unable to act the Chairman of Council or if absent the Vice-Chairman, must confirm to the Chief Executive in writing that the proposed decision is urgent and that either of the conditions identified in paragraph 1.1 (b) (iii) or (iv) have been satisfied, the Chief Executive shall advise the Leader, Deputy Leader or other member of the Executive that the decision may be taken by a person or body possessing a relevant power to make such a decision.
5. If a decision is specific to a Ward, efforts should be made to ascertain the views of the local Councillor (s).

PROCEDURE FOR DECISIONS WHICH ARE WITHIN THE ADOPTED PLANS AND STRATEGIES (AND CAN NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE FORWARD PLAN):

1. If the Chief Executive considers that the conditions in sub-paragraph 2.1 are satisfied, he must notify the Proper Officer of the need for the decision, the reasons why it was impracticable for it to be included in the Council's Forward Plan, and whether or not the decision is required to be taken within five working days.
2. On receiving the notification, under sub-paragraph 2.3 and where satisfied that no decision is required to be taken for five working days, the Proper Officer shall:
  - (a) notify in writing the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or if there is no such person, each Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with particulars of the proposed decision, the

reasons for its urgency and the reasons for it being impracticable to include in the Council's Forward Plan;

- (b) make available for public inspection at the Council offices a copy of the written notice given to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the decision.

3. Decisions to which sub paragraph 2.4 applies, shall not be made until after five working days have elapsed following publication of the proposed decision under 2.4 (b) of Appendix 12 in the Constitution.

4. Where it appears to the Chief Executive that an urgent decision-

- (a) meets the requirements of sub-paragraph 2.1 of Appendix 12 of the constitution; and
- (b) because of the urgency cannot be deferred for five working days,

he shall seek the agreement and confirmation in writing on both those points from-

- (c) the Proper Officer; and
- (d) the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or in his absence the Chairman of Council or if there is no Chairman the Vice-Chairman of Council;

and the person or body possessing a relevant power to make the decision may proceed to make it only when the necessary agreement and confirmation have been obtained.

5. If a decision is specific to a Ward, efforts should be made to ascertain the views of the local Councillor (s).