

# Individual Executive Decision Notice

<b>Report title</b>	Crowdfund Wolves Community Fund – Homeless Period	
<b>Decision designation</b>	GREEN	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor John Reynolds City Economy	
<b>Wards affected</b>	(All Wards);	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Richard Lawrence, Director of Regeneration	
<b>Originating service</b>	Service Development Team	
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Place Directorate	26 March 2018
	Leadership Team	11 June 2018
	Strategic Executive Board	24 July 2018
	Cabinet (Resources) Panel	

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## Summary

To approve a grant payment of £567 to The Homeless Period project from the Crowdfund Wolves Community Fund.

## Recommendation for decision:

That the Cabinet Member for City Economy, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration agrees to approve a grant payment of £567 from the Crowdfund Wolves Community Fund to The Homeless Period project.

Signature

Signature

Date:

Date:

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 In response to a report on Local Neighbourhood Partnership underspend and Crowdfund Wolves on 11 June 2018, Strategic Executive Board (SEB) agreed to draw down from the Efficiency Reserve £9,100 and a further draw down of £10,900 from the Local Strategic Partnerships reserve to create a total budget of £20,000 for a community fund for Crowdfund Wolves. This was agreed at Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 24 July 2018.
- 1.2 It was further agreed that the Cabinet Member for City Economy, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration agrees the allocation of £20,000 to match fund Community Projects on Crowdfund Wolves.
- 1.3 Crowdfund Wolves is a crowdfunding platform for civic projects in Wolverhampton. It utilises smart technology to attract funding and support community initiatives as part of Spacehive, the UK's dedicated civic crowdfunding platform. Spacehive has streamlined key processes involved in proposing, funding and delivering projects – from checking the viability of ideas to identifying and applying for funding from grant-makers and the “crowd” at the same time and reporting back on the impact they make.

People can pledge from £2 to support projects and the money only leaves their bank account should the project secure their target funding. Spacehive integrates grant funding and crowdfunding and has the support of funders such as Esmee Fairbairn and Growing a Greener Britain. It can also capture experts' time as match funding. As a result, the success rate for projects on Spacehive is much higher than other basic crowdfunding sites – a 52% project success rate compared to a crowdfunding platform average of 24%.

## **2.0 Progress with Crowdfund Wolves**

- 2.1 Crowdfund Wolves was soft launched at Make:Shift, Wolverhampton's annual ideas festival in November 2017. A formal launch was delivered during March 2018 as part of Resident's Programme with over fifty participants. A number of projects are being supported and the first project reached its funding target on 12 June 2018 from a combination of crowd funding and grant funding from Esmee Fairburn.
- 2.2 Many Crowdfund sites have a community fund of their own to pledge to projects. The small fund from the reserves gives an opportunity for the Council to support projects that will improve local spaces and places, support local residents/ community groups and engender a sense of local pride. Projects funded could also contribute to creating efficiencies for the Council or evidence the development of skills in line with the proposed funding allocation from the two relevant reserves.

2.3 The proposed project is The Homeless Period. Their overall aim is to reduce period poverty in Wolverhampton via the collection and distribution of sanitary products, underwear, wipes and toiletries. By doing this they aim to increase school attendance and improve the lives, health and well-being of women and girls experiencing/at risk of period poverty. In addition to the distribution of essential items they deliver educational support and social action projects within schools, to increase young people's awareness of period poverty, remove the stigma associated with menstruation and provide young people with the opportunity to contribute to the wider community. The Homeless Period is run by a team of dedicated volunteers and managed by a Board of Trustees. They are reliant on the donations of individuals, organisations and businesses across the city, but are now seeking funding to extend the reach and the support they provide.

2.4 The criteria for awarding the Council funding is:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria met</b>
Projects must benefit Wolverhampton residents and/or projects must be located in the city boundaries	Yes
Projects must have already raised at least 50% of the funding through crowdfunding, the council will provide no more than 10% of the total project costs in the first instance with a further review if needed	Yes
Projects must contribute to improving places, spaces or residents' quality of lives	Yes
Schemes that provide added value/additionality will be prioritised e.g. use of volunteers	Yes
The Council would support those projects which make a significant contribution to the delivery of the corporate plan, deliver skills and/or contribute to efficiency outcomes.	Yes

#### **4.0 Evaluation of options**

4.1 The options are outlined below:

Do nothing and enable unclaimed grant funding to be returned to the Council's reserves. Given the relatively small sums being discussed, this sum would have a relatively small impact on the Council's reserves but could have a large impact on small community projects.

## **5.0 Reason for decision(s)**

- 5.1 Use of the remaining allocation of reserve funding on the LNP budget for Crowdfund Wolves, would both support our local communities offering good value for money and maximum impact. For example, the evaluation of the Community First fund found that £27.2 million in funding recommendations to 17,956 projects yielded £93 million in matched funding.

## **6.0 Financial implications**

- 6.1 A total budget of £20,000 was approved at Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 24 July 2018 for a community fund for Crowdfund Wolves. The proposed grant of £567 for this project will be funded from this existing budget.
- 6.2 The project is seeking to raise a total of £5,666. Aside from the Council's contribution, the remaining amount will be raised through crowdfunding.
- 6.3 There are no additional cost implications in this proposal. If this project is approved it will leave £19,003 remaining in the Crowdfund Wolves Community Fund.  
[ES/15112018/W]

## **7.0 Legal implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.  
[JSM/14112018/A]

## **8.0 Equalities implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report, however Crowdfund Wolves has the potential to have positive equalities implications. An Equalities Impact Assessment for Crowdfund Wolves highlighted the need to reach out to specific communities of geography, interest and identity.

## **9.0 Environmental implications**

- 9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report. However, since the focus of Crowdfund Wolves is about improving spaces and places we can reasonably expect projects designed to improve the environment to be submitted.

## **10.0 Human resources implications**

- 10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

## **11.0 Health and well-being implications**

- 11.1 The project has direct health and well-being implications for women. By addressing the stigma associated with period poverty, the project will have a knock-on effect for women's self-esteem and confidence and aims to increase school attendance.

## **11.0 Corporate landlord implications**

11.1 There are no direct Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report. However, it is feasible that projects may approach the Council about the possibility of community asset transfer of land or buildings.

## **12.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 12.1 Spacehive Branding – 16 October 2017. Inclusive Growth Board and Place Leadership Team
- 12.2 Crowdfund Wolves – Spacehive Civic Crowdfunding Update - 23 October 2017. Place Leadership Team
- 12.3 Special Advisory Group - Community Governance Review - 16 February 2018.
- 12.4 Cabinet 23 October 2013 – Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy
- 12.5 Cabinet 25 February 2014 – Budget 2014/15 Outcome of Consultation
- 12.6 Cabinet 23 April 2014 - Transition from Local Neighbourhood Partnerships to Community Led Economic Development