

CABINET MEETING – 11 JANUARY 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART 1

Title of Report:

Award of grant funding to the Connected Places Catapult.

Author(s):

Report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods.

Purpose of Report:

To approve the award of a grant to the Connected Places Catapult to upgrade and extend the initial Homes for Healthy Ageing Challenge in Sunderland.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to authorise the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods to award a grant of £80,000 to the Connected Places Catapult on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? **Yes**

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The proposed passporting of £80,000 of grant funding to Connected Places Catapult will supplement the funding already secured and provide an increased opportunity of testing a greater number of solutions which could make an impact in the fight against cold, damp and fuel poverty in the City, and through this holistic approach the delivery arrangements for managing the funding are more efficient. Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group have made a funding contribution to the Council of £80,000 on this basis. Given that the funding to be passported to the Connected Places Catapult exceeds £50,000 then Cabinet approval is required.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The alternative option is not to award the grant and instead for the Council to undertake procurement and contractual arrangements and management of the project separately leading to inefficiencies and additional resource implications. Consequently, this alternative option is not recommended.

Impacts analysed;

Equality N/A
Privacy N/A
Sustainability N/A
Crime and Disorder N/A

Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? **Yes**

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? **No**

Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? **No**

AWARD OF GRANT FUNDING TO THE CONNECTED PLACES CATAPULT.

Report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To approve the award of a grant to the Connected Places Catapult to upgrade and extend the initial Homes for Healthy Ageing Challenge in Sunderland.

2. Description of Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to authorise the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods to award a grant of £80,000 to the Connected Places Catapult on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Connected Places Catapult are a network of world-leading technology and innovation centres established by Innovate UK and part funded by central government. They are the UK's innovation accelerator for cities, transport, and places. The Catapult recently published a Homes for Healthy Ageing Challenge fund to which UK cities could apply. Five winning cities would each receive access to a central funding pot held and managed by the Connected Places Catapult of £130,000 per location to enable them to identify and trial technological innovations to solve issues related to the ageing society. The Government has identified 'ageing society' as one of its four Grand Challenges and has set out a mission to help people enjoy at least five extra healthy, independent years while narrowing the gap between the experiences of the richest and poorest. The Homes for Healthy Ageing Challenge aims to concentrate on a specific problem, bringing government, businesses, and organisations across the country together to make a real difference to people's lives.
- 3.2 Under the direction of Sunderland's Ageing Well Board Sunderland's bid focused upon finding solutions to cold, damp and fuel poverty affecting older people. Sunderland had a strong bid and were chosen to be one of the first cities to participate. This also provided the Sunderland project with access to the support of the Catapult and funding of £130,000. This funding enables the Sunderland project to fund awards via the Catapult to solution providers to develop, test, deploy and/or showcase their solutions in the Sunderland testbed. It is also designed to cover costs associated with project management, testing infrastructure requirements, and costs incurred by stakeholders in recruiting participants particularly the voluntary and community sector (VCS) stakeholders in the city.
- 3.3 Although the Catapult funding is welcome it is limited in scale and only enables the city to test a small number of solutions in situ and with the remainder enabling other solutions to only demonstrate their effectiveness in bench testing and showcasing, rather than in a live trial.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 To improve and live test more solutions a supplementary funding bid was made to Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for a total of £80,000. This additional funding which will be passported to the Connected Places Catapult will greatly increase the numbers of solutions that can be deployed and tested live in situ and will cover any supplementary costs incurred by stakeholders in recruiting additional participants. This supplementary bid has since been approved by the CCG.
- 4.2 Through combining the funding amounts from both the Catapult and the CCG it will enable management, procurement, and payments to stakeholders in recruiting participants particularly the VCS to be processed in a timely manner. Additionally, through this holistic approach, the delivery arrangements for managing the funding are more efficient.

5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 The proposed passporting of £80,000 of grant funding to Connected Places Catapult will supplement the funding already secured and provide an increased opportunity of testing a greater number of solutions which could make an impact in the fight against cold, damp and fuel poverty in the City, and through this holistic approach the delivery arrangements for managing the funding are more efficient. Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group have made a funding contribution to the Council of £80,000 on this basis. Given that the funding to be passported to the Connected Places Catapult exceeds £50,000 then Cabinet approval is required.

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 The alternative option is not to award the grant and instead for the Council to undertake procurement and contractual arrangements and management of the project separately leading to inefficiencies and additional resource implications. Consequently, this alternative option is not recommended.

7. Impact Analysis

(a) Equalities

N/A

(b) Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA)

N/A

(c) Sustainability

N/A

(d) Reduction of Crime and Disorder – Community Cohesion / Social Inclusion –N/A

8. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

(i) Co-operative Values

The Council is a co-operative council and actively promotes its co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. It is considered that the proposals contained in this report align with these co-operative values.

(ii) Financial Implications

The grant to Connected Places Catapult of £80,000 will be funded from the additional funding secured from the CCG's contribution to the Council of £80,000 in respect of improving Sunderland's Healthy Ageing Challenge.

(iii) Legal Implications

As explained above, the proposed grant from the Council is to be funded by the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group's contribution. The proposed grant must therefore be applied in accordance with the terms specified by the CCG which require the funding to be used in respect of improving Sunderland's Healthy Ageing Challenge through the Connected Places Catapult. The Council will enter into a grant funding agreement with the Connected Places Catapult to ensure that the grant funding is applied in accordance with the CCG's requirements.

9. Background Papers

N/A

