

PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORT TO CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 28 March 2024

Councillor Martin Pearce, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Homelessness Prevention

1. Issues relating to achieving the Council's published priorities
1. Homelessness Strategy - latest 6 monthly update is being presented this evening
2. Community Grants programme - council recently approved the plan for the coming year
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2. Update or commentary on any major ongoing programmes of work
1. Community Lottery - this has been a great success since the launch. Now over 100 good causes signed up. On track to raise over £52,000 for community groups in our city.
2. Disabled Facilities grants - after the removal of the means test for stairlifts the council have helped keep residents in their homes by fitting more than 50 this year.
3. Wellbeing Exeter - really pleased that council supported the proposals to ensure the survival of this vital service after the withdrawal of all funding from both DCC and the NHS. The procurement process is still ongoing but is on track to have a new operator in place for the proposed start of the new programme.

<p>4. Severe Weather Protocol for rough sleepers - multiple responses this winter, some tremendous outcomes for those who have been supported. During the last spell 17 offers of accommodation were made, sadly only 12 of these were taken up. All those accommodated during step get specialised support to find long term accommodation.</p>
<p>5. Refugee schemes - the council continues to work with many different communities within the city to ensure that those who have arrived here under government resettlement schemes are supported during their time here.</p>
<p>6. Community buildings - an audit of buildings and capacity is set to be carried out over the coming months. This will help to identify areas of need within the city and the future sustainability of the buildings as community resources.</p>

3. Issues that may impact : services delivery/financial performance/future budget requirements
<p>1. Future funding for services - currently many of the funding streams relating to homelessness prevention end in 2025. Uncertain what future government allocations will be. Council continues to lobby for long term settlement.</p>
<p>2. The impact of cuts to funding for other authorities is a cause for concern and something which will require constant monitoring. Proposed DCC cuts to homelessness prevention services in the city have been put off until 2025. There is non certainty on the future picture currently. Significant time and resource is being put in to developing a new, sustainable model for 2025 onwards.</p>
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4. Potential changes to services/provisions being considered
<p>1. Developing a county wide response/service for homelessness prevention services is ongoing. Updates will come forward when appropriate.</p>
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5. Other matters the Portfolio Holder wishes to raise with the Scrutiny Committee
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