

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

SUBJECT: Co-ordinate and promote volunteer pathways across the VoG in response to WG shielding (Vale Heroes).

1. **Originating / Department / Service** –

Resources

2. **Reason for Seeking Emergency Powers** –

PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW and attach appropriate Committee report / minute/ memo * (* delete as appropriate)

The CMT Gold meeting discussed this issue on Thursday 26th March in light of on-going consideration by WG as to how to provide food to vulnerable residents (shielding). This had been a matter of much consideration during the last few days and there was no clear direction emerging from WG as to what their approach would involve. There was a lack of clarity as to what was expected of Local Authorities, although it was clear that Authorities would have a role in connecting with those shielding on behalf of WG.

Alongside this there is much interest in volunteering, hence there is a need to establish a working relationship with the voluntary sector and a call was facilitated between the VoG Council, GVS and Age Connects on the afternoon of the 26th March. The outcome of that conversation was reported to CMT Gold on 27th March when it was agreed to establish 'Vale Heroes' a web based hub for volunteering and a hub for those requesting assistance.

This brings together a crisis support network on the one hand with a base for volunteers to make contact on the other. In terms of resources this involved use of existing, albeit repurposed staff and allows the Council to be in a position to support, promote and sign post volunteers to local agencies whilst at the same time supporting (either directly, or by signposting) those who require support. It also allows the Council to have a network approach in place in readiness for the WG shielding process to be rolled out during the latter part of the week commencing 30th March.

As part of the process, an option to be progressed would be to make a one off crisis grant to GVS of £2k for them to provide equipment or finance to community groups specifically to respond to the Coronavirus outbreak. This grant would not be for GVS to cover any costs incurred themselves and should be paid to groups within the next 6 months. We would ask for details of how it was spent and for any funds to be returned if not used.

3. **Policy Framework and Budget** –

PLEASE INDICATE as appropriate that the matter that you are seeking the use of Emergency Powers for is a Cabinet or Council function.

Cabinet

Council

4. **Relevant Scrutiny Committee** –

Corporate Performance & Resources

IMPORTANT

The following sections **must** be completed **prior** to the request being submitted to the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Section for processing.

I confirm (delete as appropriate)

(a) ~~That there are no financial implications and the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or the Deputy Leader has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers; **or**~~

(b) That, in view of the financial commitments, the Head of Financial Services, the appropriate Chief Officer, the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or Deputy Leader have been consulted and are in agreement with the use of the Emergency Powers and that

~~(c) For matters relating to the Planning Committee the Chairman of the Planning Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers;~~

~~(d) For matters relating to the Licensing Committee the Chairman of the Licensing Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(e) For matters relating to the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee the Chairman of the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(f) For matters relating to policy the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

Signed: D R Thomas.....

(Instructing Chief Officer)

Date:26 March 2020...

Please print name: ...D R Thomas.....

I hereby approve under my Emergency Powers the attached recommendation(s) on behalf of the Cabinet / Council (please delete as appropriate).

Signed: ...D R Thomas .. **Date:** ..26 March 2020.....
Managing Director

NB Should the relevant portfolio Cabinet Member be unable to be consulted only the Leader and / or Deputy Leader be consulted in their absence.

N.B. Cabinet: 23rd March, 2020 Minute No. 295