

**OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME
RECORD OF DECISION**



TO BE UPLOADED TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 6 January 2023	Ref No: 2138
Responsible Officer: Caroline Malvern, Integrated Commissioning Officer.	
Type of Decision (please refer to MO Guidance):	
Key	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Key	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Freedom of Information Status: <i>(can the report go in the public domain)</i>	
Yes	
Title/Subject matter:	
Approval sought to contribute £2,000 to support adults with visual impairment the opportunity to participate in a digital enablement pilot.	
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance:	
(i) Is the decision within an Approved Budget?	Yes
(ii) Is the decision in conflict with the council's policies, strategies or relevant service plans?	No
(iii) Does the decision amend existing or raise new policy issues?	No
(iv) Is the decision significant and/or does it meet the £100,000 threshold for recording?	No
Equality Impact Assessment [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? If yes – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]	No

Summary:

Bury Council has received funding via AEB (Adult Education Budget) to deliver local Digital Inclusion projects. As part of this, Bury Council via the Business Growth and Infrastructure Directorate provided grant funding of £5,000 to Henshaw's Society to deliver support to individuals with sight impairment for 12 months.

The programme will include:

- Assistive Technology Assessment and Demonstration
- Mainstream & Specialist Technology Training
- Grant Application Support (RNIB and others)
- Skills for Seeing Training
- Digital Information, Advice and Guidance
- TechTalk (mail only)
- Knowledge Village Subscription
- Appropriate referrals into Product Partners

In their capacity as a commissioned service for Bury Council, Bury Blind Society wish to support Henshaw's Society to deliver the programme, as they recognised this pilot will help to improve accessibility and digital inclusion for the blind and low-vision community, who are often a group closed off from the internet and digital technology which can be a crucial resource for all aspects of all aspects of life.

This paper puts forward a recommendation to invest £2,000 for 12-months, as a contribution towards the premises and volunteer travelling expenses costs Bury Blind Society will incur to support adults with visual impairment the opportunity to participate in a digital enablement pilot.




Wards affected: All

Consultations: N/A

Scrutiny & Review Committee Interest: N/A

Options considered:

Decision [*with reasons*]

Decision made by:	Signature:	Date:
Executive Director – Strategic Commissioning		19 January 2023
S151 Officer		25/3/23
Members Consulted [see note 1 below]		
Cabinet Member		19 January 2023
Lead Member	NA	
Opposition Spokesperson	NA	

Notes

1. Where, in accordance with the requirements of the Officer Delegation Scheme, a Chief Officer consults with the appropriate Cabinet Member they must sign the form so as to confirm that they have been consulted and that they agree with the proposed action. The signature of the Opposition Spokesperson should be obtained if required, to confirm that he/she has been consulted. Please refer to the MO Guidance.
2. **This form must not be used for urgent decisions.**
3. Where there is any doubt, Corporate Directors should err on the side of caution and seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer.

1 Background

1.1 Bury Council has received funding via AEB (Adult Education Budget) to deliver local Digital Inclusion projects. As part of this, Bury Council via the Business Growth and Infrastructure Directorate provided grant funding of £5,000 to Henshaw's Society to deliver support to individuals with sight impairment for 12 months.

1.2 The programme will include:

- ❖ Assistive Technology Assessment and Demonstration
- ❖ Mainstream & Specialist Technology Training
- ❖ Grant Application Support (RNIB and others)
- ❖ Skills for Seeing Training
- ❖ Digital Information, Advice and Guidance
- ❖ TechTalk (mail only)

- ❖ Knowledge Village Subscription
- ❖ Appropriate referrals into Product Partners

1.3 In their capacity as a commissioned service for Bury Council, Bury Blind Society were included in the discussions to see how this pilot would impact on the rehabilitation service already offered by the Council via Bury Blind Society.

1.4 Although there would be no financial benefit to Bury Blind Society to work on this programme, the proposal was recognised as an opportunity to enhance the digital assessment undertaken during the initial home assessment by the Early Intervention Team.

1.5 Bury Blind Society have agreed:

- To identify people who would benefit from the programme.
- Use of their premises for Henshaw's to deliver clinics.
- Co-ordinate access to the programme.

1.6 There is a financial implication to the Charity's participation on the project regarding use of premises with increased utility costs, together with volunteer driving expenses bringing clients to the clinics.

1.7 There is not enough money in the grant to allow Henshaw's to contribute towards the premises costs.

1.8 The grant will not cover travelling expenses. However, there will be a small number of clients who will wish to access this service but are unable to attend the clinic without assistance. Use of public transport / private taxi is not an option to some of Bury Blind Society's clients due to needing someone to sight-guide them.

2 Financial Implication

2.1 Bury Blind Society estimates the financial implication to support the 12-month pilot is £2,028.00.

£80 per day x 2 per month = £160.00 per month

Volunteer expenses: based on one client per clinic
10-mile round trip at .45p per mile
£4.50 x 2 per month = £9.00 per month.

3 Conclusion

3.1 Digital inclusion is about making the opportunities of the internet and digital technology available to everyone, tackling inequalities and improving outcomes.

3.2 This pilot will help to improve accessibility and digital inclusion for the blind and low-vision community, who are often a group closed off from the internet and digital technology which can be a crucial resource for all aspects of life.

4 Recommendation

4.1 The recommendation is to invest £2,000 for 12-months, as a contribution towards the premises costs and volunteer travelling expenses costs Bury Blind Society will incur to support adults with visual impairment the opportunity to participate in a digital enablement pilot.

5 LET'S principles

Local -	Taking a local view, supporting development
Enterprise -	Working to find a solution to improve quality of life by removing the barriers that prevent people from getting on and connect local people to opportunities
Delivering Together -	Making a positive, practical difference
Strength-based approach-	Building on people's strengths, helping people to help themselves