

## **CLERKS REPORT**

### **5. LISKEARD TOGETHER (CORNWALL HOUSING PROJECT EXTENSION) – a). To receive the letter from Cornwall Housing and b). the response from the Liskeard Together project as attached.**

Background – Liskeard Together is a joint project involving Cornwall Housing, Liskeard Town Council, Cornwall Council, ECCABI and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Learning and Skills Partnership (the accountable body for the project). It is based upon an initial successful pilot carried out in the Berryfields' Estate in Bodmin. This saw Cornwall Housing tenants in debt and facing possible eviction provided with debt management and confidence building skills by ECCABI. A voluntary sector organisation with a track record of working with excluded individuals often with literacy and numeracy issues.

The Liskeard Together project was set up to provide a slightly enhanced version of the project in Liskeard. This is funded to a very significant degree by the European Social Fund (ESF) and helps meet Government objectives and outputs of the Department of Work and Pensions.

The Covid19 pandemic has prevented the face-to-face small group working used previously. The Liskeard Together project initially responded by short training films. More recently, they have developed live on-line practical learning sessions that have proven very popular and effective.

In common with most other ESF projects impacted by COVID19, the Liskeard Together project has requested an extension of time to achieve some of the outcomes that they have not been able to achieve.

Cornwall Housing Response – Letter A (as attached) – Cornwall Housing have indicated that as the project has had some success, that Cornwall Housing will not be taking part in the extended project as they need to refocus on “tenant services, homes and communities”.

Liskeard Together Project Response – Letter B (see attached) – requested a meeting to discuss the response. Not least as the ongoing situation with the ending of the Furlough Scheme and £20 per week Universal Credit top up is likely to put greater financial pressure on the very group that the scheme is designed to assist.

Note – the Liskeard Together Project are attempting to speak to the portfolio-holder directly and might have an update at the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Finance, Economic Development and General Purposes Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That any further update is included in the consideration of the issue and any response decided by the Committee.

**12. FREEDOM OF THE TOWN – ROYAL BRITISH LEGION** – To confirm the granting of the Freedom of the Town to the Liskeard branch of the Royal British Legion in their 100th anniversary year.

Background – The Council can adopt a special resolution under Section 249/(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and confer the “Freedom of the Town” on a military unit or base facility. The Town Council granted the “Freedom of the Town” to the Rifles (the modern successor to the former county infantry unit of the British Army) on the 29th October 2019.

At the last meeting of the Finance, Economic Development and General Purposes Committee, it resolved to investigate the granting of the Freedom of Town to a unit of the Royal Navy (possibly HMS Tamar).

This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Liskeard branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL). The RBL has over many years played a key role in supporting ex-services personnel and the holding of Remembrance Days and other civic events.

Following informal discussions amongst the councillors, led by the Mayor, this report is included on the agenda with the wording of the recommendation taken from the act:

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Council exercise its powers under Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act, and grant the “Freedom of the Town” to the Liskeard Branch of the Royal British Legion being mindful of the importance to its members and of the mutual interests that link the Town and the eminent organisation and being desirous of perpetuating the close and friendly association with the Town of Liskeard do hereby confer upon the Liskeard Branch of the Royal British Legion the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Liskeard.