



# FUTURE OF NETWORK PROJECT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 48/19

10 JUNE 2019

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The purpose of this Report is ask the Town Council to consider a recommendation from its Community Development Working Group to provide a limited amount of financial support to ensure the continuation of its Network Project.

**No. DETAILS**

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**1) BACKGROUND**

- a) The Network Project is an open, drop-in advice session started by the Town Council's first Community Development Officer Julia Aratoon and Councillor Jason Mack in 2012 operating each Thursday morning at the Library.
  - b) Its continuation over the last seven years has been secured through the voluntary commitment of Jason Mack and an experienced community volunteer.
  - c) Its importance has grown as poverty and vulnerability among individuals and families have increased including cuts to Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit and the roll-out of Universal Credit.
  - d) The circumstances of both of the service's providers are changing and the consequences for the continuation of it were considered at the 22 May Meeting of the Community Development Working Group.
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**2) PROPOSAL**

- a) The retention of the experienced community volunteer is critical to the service's future.
  - b) The Community Development Working Group agreed unanimously to recommend the Town Council to fund her role at a rate of £30 a week to staff the Thursday morning sessions at the Library and related research commencing on 1 July.
  - c) The role will be managed by the Town Council's Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy.
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**3) RECOMMENDATION**

The Town Council agrees to fund the Advisor role within the Network Project at the rate of £30 a week from 1 July at a total cost of £1,170 in the current financial year.

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