

# SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

## Report

**Subject** : Salisbury Community/Social Supermarket  
**Committee** : Services Committee  
**Date** : 3 November 2020  
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### 1. Purpose of Report:

1.1. This report introduces a Community/Social Supermarket for Salisbury. The report gives details of how a Community/Social Supermarket can be run and considers the benefits from the community.

### 2. Background:

- 2.1. Since the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic, Salisbury City Council's (SCC) Communities Team, working in partnership with local CIC<sup>1</sup> Anybody Can Cook (ABC), have been supporting on average 45 Salisbury families per week with a free food delivery service.
- 2.2. There are currently approximately 80 local families registered with the Council in need of support. The Team have made approximately 1,399 deliveries since March 2020, providing around 22,933kg of food. The Communities Team believe there are many other families also in need of assistance who are not currently known to the team.
- 2.3. The food is sourced from surplus or near end date food donated by local supermarkets, and also collected from Fareshare in Totton, which although chargeable, is at a significantly below market costs.
- 2.4. Currently the Fareshare food purchase is being funded by a grant from the Wiltshire Community Foundation.
- 2.5. This model is not sustainable by the Council or its partners. The current scheme is a significant use of SCC staff time, which will be required for other project and tasks, and the Wiltshire Community Foundation is not guaranteed to continue. The Council is seeking to proactively establish an alternative provision that is not subject to the potential temporary funding, so that families in need of this service has continuity of service.
- 2.6. The Community/Social Supermarket aims to provide an alternative way of providing food to those in need in the local community, and it is proposed the SCC consider opening a community/social supermarket working with local partner ABC.

### 3. What is Community/Social Supermarket? :

3.1. Community/Social Supermarkets are comparable to conventional supermarkets that sell food and consumer products. The target shopper for community/social supermarkets are those with low income. Access is restricted to the stores via a membership scheme. Membership is conferred upon the presentation of an income statement to provide evidence of low income.

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<sup>1</sup> Community Interest Company

- 3.2. The shop's limited stock consists of surplus products that are supplied free of charge or at a greatly reduced rate. These products are unsellable for various reasons, for example, they are close to their expiration date, they are surplus products, in the wrong packaging and so on. All product are still consumable.
- 3.3. The key aims of social supermarkets are to:
  - 3.3.1. financially support people with low income
  - 3.3.2. prevent food waste
  - 3.3.3. provide job or volunteering opportunities
- 3.4. A longer term goal is to provide a café co- located with the shop, where people will access advice and guidance from other agencies, for example, Citizens Advice Bureau, debt advice, learning opportunities, careers advice and so.
- 3.5. The membership fee of approx. £3.00-£5.00 per week will be used to cover the costs of operating the supermarket, when fully established.
- 3.6. The operating costs of the Salisbury community supermarket are estimated at approx. £30,000- £43,000 per annum, including staff costs. This means the scheme would need to attract approx. 200 members at £4 per week to cover the operating costs.
- 3.7. Latest [HM Government](#) figures from May 2017 show that there are 460 households with children in Salisbury are claiming Out of Work Benefit effecting 2430 children aged 0-18 years.
- 3.8. Until membership numbers are built up to the levels shown in para 3.6 above, SCC could provide pump priming funding from the agreed Community Development budget to allow the scheme to commence. It is suggested up to £10,000 in 2020/2021 could be set aside for this project if required.
- 3.9. It is proposed that initially the shop would open to shoppers for two days a week

#### 4. **Your Local Pantry:**

- 4.1. [Your Local Pantry](#) is a franchise offered by Church Action on Poverty and Foundation Stockport. This franchise offers all of the support and tools necessary to open and operate a Community/Social Supermarket.
- 4.2. The franchise package includes:
  - 4.2.1. Cash management and stock control software
  - 4.2.2. Branded aprons, polo shirts
  - 4.2.3. Cool bags and thermometers (up to 100)
  - 4.2.4. Reductions on shop-style fridges/freezers
  - 4.2.5. A tried and tested package ready to roll with recorded social impact
  - 4.2.6. Support with business planning
  - 4.2.7. Media support for launch
  - 4.2.8. Advice and support throughout
- 4.3. The cost of the package is £2,000 plus annual membership fee of £500.
- 4.4. It is proposed that SCC/ABC work with Your Local Pantry to deliver a community/supermarket for Salisbury.
- 4.5. If SCC can open Salisbury Your Local Pantry supermarket before the end of the year, they can take advantage of available Covid funding and receive all of the support listed above, plus a commercial retail fridge and freezer for no charge. The total package is worth approximately £4,000.

#### 5. **Benefits of Community/Social Supermarkets:**

- 5.1. Operating a community/social supermarket in the city offers the following benefits:
  - 5.1.1. Members are able to access good food with dignity and choice,

- 5.1.2. This model can bring social, financial and health benefits to members including reducing isolation, averting food poverty and improving people's mental health,
- 5.1.3. Pantry members in other areas have saved £650 a year on average on their shopping bills, and every £1 invested in pantries had generated £6 in social value as reported in [Your Local Pantry Social Impact Report](#).

## 6. Management of the Supermarket:

- 6.1. It is proposed that the project will be managed via Service Level Agreement (SLA) with CIC Anybody Can Cook (ABC).
- 6.2. The detail and any associated costs of the SLA are yet to be fully determined.
- 6.3. ABC has been a key partner of the Communities Team during the pandemic. They have brought energy, enthusiasm and expertise to the food delivery service since the beginning of the pandemic, and continue to significantly contribute to the development of alternative food provision ideas.
- 6.4. ABC has the relevant experience and necessary qualifications to manage such a project which involves food hygiene and related issues.
- 6.5. ABC will be responsible for the operational management of the business, plus managing the shop manager and any volunteers. SCC will retain oversight and control via the SLA.
- 6.6. SCC's Communities Team will be available to sign post supermarket members to partner agencies for further support, enhancing community engagement whenever possible.

## 7. Location:

- 7.1. The proposed location is 59 Catherine Street, a property owned by Salisbury City Council. This property has been vacant since December 2017, apart from a short period when it was occupied, free of charge, by Alabaré for non-commercial initiative. The property is currently being advertised for commercial rent as [shown here](#).
- 7.2. It is proposed that this property be made available to ABC/SCC without charge for this project.
- 7.3. If SCC were to agree to use this property for the Community/Social supermarket, it would necessarily forego the potential annual rent of £19,500.
- 7.4. There is a need for some remedial work to be carried out for this property to be suitable as a food retail business. These works include decoration and flooring, plus basic shop fitting (shelving). The costs for these works is estimated to be £3,450 +VAT, not including flooring. These costs could be paid from the previously agreed Community Development budget as shown in para 3.6 and 3.8 above. Recently electrical and fire safety works have been carried out, funded by the relevant agreed Repairs and Maintenance budget, to ensure the building is safe for any future user.
- 7.5. Currently SCC pays National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) of £9,481 per annum in 2020/2021. The Council's empty property exemption period was in 2018 and the Council's liability for NNDR resumed in Nov 2018. If the proposed use of this building was agreed, because this project would be using the building for charitable purposes, it should qualify for the mandatory reduction of 80% of the rateable value. Local authorities also have the discretion to grant relief of up to 100% to ratepayers who qualify for mandatory relief as per [Wiltshire Council's Non-domestic rate discretionary relief policy](#).

## 8. Recommendation:

It is recommended that Committee:

- 8.1. Agree to SCC working with ABC to deliver Community/Social Supermarket for Salisbury
- 8.2. Agree to the use of 59 Catherine Street for this purpose
- 8.3. Agree to make a recommendation to the Finance and Governance committee at its next meeting that SCC should be allowed free use of 59 Catherine Street for this project, noting loss of potential income from commercial hire and the potential decrease in SCC's NNDR costs
- 8.4. Agree to opening the Community/Social Supermarket by the end of 2020 to take advantage of the available Covid funding
- 8.5. Agree to delegate the Communities Working Group authority to agree the final arrangements for this project, including the SLA.

## 9. Wards affected : All

10. **Background Paper:** Annex A - Children in out of work Households (Salisbury) - May 2017.

## 11. Implications:

- 11.1. **Financial:** As shown in this report.
- 11.2. **Legal:** An appropriate license or lease will be drawn up as required.
- 11.3. **Personnel:** Nil in relation to this report.
- 11.4. **Environmental Impact:** Project will result in a reduction in food waste.

Annex A to report to Services Committee dated 3 Nov 2020

Children in Out of Work Households (Salisbury)

**Table 1. Number of Children living in Out-of-work Benefit Claimant Households by Ward at May 2017**

LA Code	Local Authority	Ward Code	Ward	Age						Number of Households
				Age 0-4	Age 5-10	Age 11-15	Age 16-18	Age 0-15	Age 0-18	
E06000054	Wiltshire UA	E05008386	Salisbury Bemerton	95	120	60	40	270	315	160
E06000054	Wiltshire UA	E05008387	Salisbury Fisherton and Bemerton Village	15	15	15	0	40	45	25
E06000054	Wiltshire UA	E05008388	Salisbury Harnham	20	25	20	10	60	70	35
E06000054	Wiltshire UA	E05008389	Salisbury St Edmund and Milford	15	10	5	5	35	40	30
E06000054	Wiltshire UA	E05008390	Salisbury St Francis and Stratford	20	15	10	5	45	50	30
E06000054	Wiltshire UA	E05008391	Salisbury St Mark's and Bishopdown	60	55	30	20	145	165	85
E06000054	Wiltshire UA	E05008392	Salisbury St Martin's and Cathedral	30	50	25	10	105	115	60
E06000054	Wiltshire UA	E05008393	Salisbury St Paul's	20	15	5	5	40	45	35
Totals				<b>275</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>460</b>
Total number of Children 0-18										<b>2430</b>

Source : <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-out-of-work-benefit-households-31-may-2017>