Background and Impact Statement

Belvedere Community Support

1. Background

Belvedere Community Support is being established to continue and develop the community and humanitarian work currently carried out by Belveder CIC.

Belveder CIC has developed an established record of public benefit through humanitarian aid, local community support, volunteering, partnership working and public engagement. The proposed CIO will provide a clearer charitable structure for this work, with all future activities carried out exclusively for charitable purposes and for the public benefit.

The organisation's work has grown from local voluntary action in Royal Leamington Spa into a wider programme of practical support for people in need, both in the United Kingdom and overseas. Its work supports people experiencing poverty, hardship, displacement, ill-health, social isolation and other disadvantage, as well as people affected by war and humanitarian crisis.

2. Activities and impact during the year ending 31 March 2025

For the financial year ending 31 March 2025, Belveder CIC reported that it had continued to strengthen its humanitarian mission and expand its community support work. Its activities provided tangible benefit to vulnerable individuals locally and to communities affected by war overseas.

During that reporting year, Belveder CIC worked with LKQ to send 18 vehicles to Ukraine, including ambulances and specialist vehicles, helping ensure that frontline communities received essential life-saving support. The organisation's humanitarian work was supported by strong community involvement, including local residents, volunteers and partner organisations.

Belveder CIC also supported Ukrainian children and families through seasonal collections and practical support. With the support of local residents and partners including LKQ Euro Car Parts, Kenilworth Lions and Warwick Rotary Club, the organisation collected and delivered chocolate eggs, Christmas presents and other practical items, bringing comfort and joy during challenging times.

Locally, Belveder CIC delivered community support in Warwickshire. Its Sunday Lunches programme was introduced in response to direct community requests for regular support for people facing hardship. With grant funding from Warwick District Council, the programme provided warm meals, social connection and a welcoming environment for vulnerable and isolated individuals. This helped address both food insecurity and social isolation.

Belveder CIC also delivered food parcels for people in need, supported by Langar Aid. These parcels provided vital assistance, particularly during the winter months, when some vulnerable individuals had reduced access to essential supplies.

The organisation also took part in major community events, including Leamington Food Festival, Art in the Park and Warwick Pursuits Festival. These events helped Belveder CIC engage with local residents, promote cultural understanding, raise awareness of humanitarian need and encourage wider community participation in volunteering and charitable action.

Belveder CIC has also supported cultural, educational and public awareness activities. Representatives of the organisation attended the screening of the film *People* at the Embassy of the Czech Republic and participated in the "Three Years of War in Ukraine" conference organised by the

Ukrainian Medical Charity. These activities helped raise awareness of the continuing impact of the war in Ukraine and the importance of practical humanitarian support.

In October 2024, Belveder CIC hosted Eduard Fesko, Deputy Ambassador of Ukraine, who expressed gratitude for the organisation's humanitarian work and emphasised the importance of collaboration. A further significant moment was the candlelight vigil marking the third anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, where around 150 people gathered in the Pump Room Gardens in Royal Leamington Spa to honour victims and show solidarity with Ukraine.

Belveder CIC was also recognised for its contribution to community wellbeing. On 21 March 2025, the organisation was invited to the Volunteers' Reception of Appreciation, hosted by Councillor Rob Margrave, Chair of Warwick District Council. This recognised the contribution of the organisation and its volunteers to the local community.

During the same reporting period, Belveder CIC also made the difficult decision to close its charity shop on 31 January 2025 after more than two years of operation. During its lifetime, the shop played a valuable role in supporting the organisation's work, raising funds for humanitarian aid and serving as a community hub for engagement and volunteering.

3. Consultation and community response

Belveder CIC's work has been shaped by regular engagement with local residents, community groups, volunteers, partner organisations, beneficiaries and local authorities.

During the year ending 31 March 2025, stakeholder engagement took place through regular conversations with volunteers, informal community drop-ins, public events and direct feedback from individuals receiving support. This two-way dialogue helped the organisation identify emerging needs and adapt its work accordingly.

A recurring theme raised by local community members was the lack of accessible, regular support for individuals facing financial hardship, social isolation and food insecurity. In response to this feedback, and with grant funding from Warwick District Council, Belveder CIC launched the Sunday Lunches programme. This provided warm meals and a welcoming environment for vulnerable and isolated individuals. The programme continued to be shaped by feedback from participants and volunteers.

Feedback from partners, supporters and community representatives also helped guide Belveder CIC's humanitarian aid work. This ensured that assistance provided overseas was based on real and verified needs. Public engagement at community events also helped the organisation explain its work, build trust and encourage wider participation.

4. How the work has been funded and resourced

Belveder CIC's work has been delivered through a mixed model of community donations, grants, in-kind support, volunteer time and partnership working. Much of the organisation's humanitarian activity has not depended on holding large cash reserves. Instead, projects have often been made possible through donated or partner-supported goods, vehicles, supplies, logistics, volunteer driving, fundraising events and direct support from local residents, businesses and community organisations.

For example, during the year ending 31 March 2025, Belveder CIC reported that its vehicle support for Ukraine was delivered with the support of LKQ. Local residents and partners including LKQ Euro Car Parts, Kenilworth Lions and Warwick Rotary Club supported seasonal collections for Ukrainian children. Local community support was also funded and resourced through grants and partnerships,

including Warwick District Council support for the Sunday Lunches programme and Langar Aid support for food parcels.

The proposed CIO will continue to use a similar model of grants, donations, in-kind support, partnerships and volunteer contribution, with trustee oversight, financial controls and appropriate records for restricted funds, donated goods and project expenditure.

5. Continued development since the 2024/25 reporting period

Since the end of the 2024/25 reporting period, Belveder CIC has continued to develop its humanitarian and community work. This has included further ambulance and aid activity for Ukraine, community support programmes, public awareness activity, cultural and educational engagement, and projects bringing people together across Warwickshire.

The organisation's cumulative humanitarian work has continued to grow beyond the figures reported for the year ending 31 March 2025. Internal records and project documentation indicate that, to date, the organisation and its volunteers have helped coordinate approximately 65 ambulances and more than 300 tonnes of humanitarian aid and supplies. These figures represent cumulative activity over time and include work delivered through partnerships, in-kind support, volunteer logistics and community fundraising.

Belveder CIC has also continued to strengthen public awareness and international engagement through events attended by senior diplomatic representatives. In 2026, the organisation was honoured by the attendance and support of the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Republic of Poland and the Deputy Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Kingdom. Their involvement recognised the importance of Belveder CIC's work in connecting local community action in Warwickshire with humanitarian support for people affected by war in Ukraine.

Belveder CIC has also continued to develop projects that strengthen community cohesion and public awareness. One example is the Sunflower Cascade, a community project created by Warwickshire crafters to support Belveder CIC's humanitarian and community work. The project brought together people from different backgrounds and cultures across Warwickshire and beyond, united by a shared desire to help others. It helped raise awareness of humanitarian need and supported the wider mission of delivering practical help to people affected by war and hardship.

The organisation has also continued to support people locally through practical community activity, volunteer-led support and projects designed to reduce hardship and isolation. This local work complements its humanitarian activity overseas and reflects the organisation's wider mission of supporting people in need at home and away.

6. Transition to Belvedere Community Support

Belvedere Community Support is being established to continue and develop this work within a clearer charitable structure. The proposed CIO will build on the established activities of Belveder CIC while strengthening governance, trustee oversight, safeguarding, financial controls, international humanitarian aid procedures, project selection processes and public benefit reporting.

The proposed CIO's charitable objects reflect the activities already being delivered and the needs identified through community engagement. These include relieving poverty and need in the United Kingdom, preserving life and relieving sickness among people affected by war, conflict or humanitarian crisis, and advancing education and promoting community cohesion for the benefit of the public.

The trustees intend that Belvedere Community Support will continue to work with local residents, volunteers, public bodies, community organisations, charities, hospitals, humanitarian partners and supporters to deliver practical public benefit.

7. Public benefit

Belvedere Community Support will continue the same core mission: relieving poverty and need, preserving life, supporting people affected by war and displacement, reducing isolation and hardship, promoting community cohesion, and turning local goodwill into practical help for people who need it most.

The organisation's work benefits the public by:

- providing practical support to people experiencing hardship, isolation, ill-health, displacement or other disadvantage;
- supporting people affected by war and humanitarian crisis through ambulances, medical equipment, humanitarian supplies and partnership-based aid delivery;
- creating opportunities for volunteering and community participation;
- strengthening community cohesion through public events, cultural engagement, awareness activity and local partnerships;
- ensuring that humanitarian and community support is delivered responsibly, safely and with trustee oversight.

The trustees believe that the proposed CIO structure will provide a stronger and more sustainable framework for continuing this public benefit in the future.