

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANT APPLICATIONS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Officer has been involved.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.
- 1.3 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Area Committee Grant Funding made by community groups and local organisations.
- 1.4 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee delegated budgets

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards within the Area Committee Development Budget Spread sheet attached as Appendix 1
- 2.2 The Committee is asked to allocate underspent funds from the 2014/15 financial year to projects for the 2015/16 financial year. Members are reminded that projects over 2 years old must be reallocated to a new project code.
- 2.3 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £400 to the Baldock & District Branch of the Royal British Legion to assist with the purchase of a new branch flag to be flown at and above Baldock town's war memorial.
- 2.4 The committee is asked to confirm continued support for the release of Memorandum of Understanding Grants to the 7 Groups in Baldock that currently benefit namely Baldock Town Twinning (£240), Ashwell Museum (£260), Baldock Festival (£820), Baldock Retirement Sewing Club (£320), Baldock Rotary Club (£750), Baldock Seniors Club (£1040) and Baldock Town Partnership (£1860). On confirmation from Members, the Baldock CO will arrange for the release of funds during April 2015. Alternatively, if Members would like an update from any or all of the groups, prior to the release of funds, the Baldock CO will invite groups to present at the June Baldock & District Area Committee.

- 2.5 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £480 to Merry Go Round Under Fives to assist with the purchase of a listening post and story telling cds.
- 2.6 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £500 to the Baldock Town Partnership to assist with publicity and hire of entertainment costs for the upcoming Baldock Big Lunch in June 2015.
- 2.7 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £415 to Christchurch Baldock to assist with room hire costs for their summer play scheme event which will be held at Baldock Town Hall in August.
- 2.8 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £500 to Baldock Crusaders Netball Club to assist with the purchase of new equipment for the Juniors Section and to assist with coaching fees for delivering junior coaching between March and June for those aged 9 to 14 years.
- 2.9 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £630 to Hinxworth Young People to assist with the purchase of new equipment for the Hinxworth Youth Club including a television, a Wii console and games, a pool table, cd player and cds and table football.
- 2.10 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £500 to Ashwell Parish Council to assist with costs associated with producing a Neighbourhood Plan, including printing and publicity costs.
- 2.11 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £400 to Rushden & Wallington Parish Council to assist with the purchase of dog bins for Wallington Village.
- 2.12 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £500 to Saracens Cricket Club to assist with facility hire costs, equipment costs and coaching fees for training sessions.
- 2.13 The Committee acknowledges the recent Grant Award of £500 to Baldock Town Partnership to assist with the cost of hiring an artificial ski slope for the Baldock Christmas Event on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December 2014.
- 2.14 The Committee acknowledges the recent Grant Award of £1,000 to Baldock Town Youth Football Club to assist with the production of plans and fees associated with the refurbishment of the Baker's Field pavilion.
- 2.15 The Committee acknowledges the recent Grant Award of £500 to Rushden & Wallington Parish Council to assist with the cost of purchasing a new wooden notice board for Rushden village Hall.
- 2.16 The Committee acknowledges the recent Grant Award of £350 to Ashwell Music Festival to assist with the printing and publicity costs associated with the festival.
- 2.17 The Committee acknowledges the recent Start Up Grant Award of £150 to Hinxworth Young People, a new youth club facility for the village.
- 2.18 That the Committee considers awarding support funding in relation to any potential Highways schemes, provided they align with the NHDC Medium

Term Financial Strategy, and as proposed and discussed under section 8.11 of this report.

- 2.19 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the Baldock & District Area.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Officer.
- 3.2 This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation, assists in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget and ensures actions are performed within the Authority's Financial Regulations and the guidance of the Grants policy.
- 3.3 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and Priorities of the Council.
- 3.4 Production of this report is a requirement of the 'Priorities for the District' in which the Community Development Officer is required to produce a formal report to the Area Committee a minimum of four occasions per annum in line with the Civic Calendar.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 There are no alternative options being proposed other than those detailed within the text of this report. However in the course of debate at committee, Members may wish to comment and offer additional views on any of the items raised within this report.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 5.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects
- 5.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external agencies/groups has taken place with regard to funding proposals for Area Committee Funds.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This Report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix 1 Area Committee Budget Spreadsheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the 2014/15 financial year.
- 7.2 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year 2013/14 including balances and past expenditure relating to the allocated and un-allocated budgets available to the Committee.
- 7.3 Members are reminded that any project codes over 2 years old must be reallocated to a new project for the 2015 /2016 financial year.
- 7.4 This report has been produced to keep Members informed of the work of the Community Officer for Baldock. This is a requirement of the 'Priorities for the District' in which the Community Officer is required to produce a report for members on 4 occasions per annum.
- 7.5 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £400 to the Baldock & District Branch of the Royal British Legion to assist with the purchase of a new branch flag to be flown at and above Baldock town's war memorial.
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- 7.18 The Committee acknowledges the recent Start Up Grant Award of £150 to Hinxworth Young People, a new youth club facility for the village.
- 7.19 Members are asked to note the funding applications currently being considered as detailed in the table below.

Ward	Project
Baldock Town / Baldock East	Funding support for Baldock Community Centre to assist with cost for enhancement works and DDA improvements to the Youth Wing building.
Weston & Sandon	Funding Support for Clothall Village Hall Committee for the purchase of tables and chairs for the venue*.

*The Head of Policy and Community Services has confirmed to the trustees that the Council's Auditors will accept draft paperwork as submitted to enable release of both this grant and the £5000 previously retained by the Council to enable the hall to open. A response and agreement of that approach is currently awaited from the trustees so this can proceed.

- 7.19 The current levels of unallocated funds within the Committee's Ward Discretionary 2014/15 Base Budgets are:

Ward	Base Budget	Preallocated	Remaining
Baldock Town Ward	£7210	£4469	£11679
Baldock East Ward	£2760	£799	£3559
Arbury	£2770	£1074	£3844
Weston & Sandon Ward	£1921	£3960	£5881

8. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS

8.1 Baldock Town & District Partnership Updates

Since the December Area Committee, the Partnership has held the Baldock Christmas Weekend event. An update on this event is included later in this

report. As well as the above listed event, the Partnership also continues to run and manage the Baldock Weekly market, the Baldock Network Group and the Baldock Networking lunches.

Weekly Markets

As reported in the December report, the Weekly market is now located on the paved areas of the High Street from Mansfield Road downwards. The market continues to trade well and to ensure continued support from traders during the quieter winter months; the Baldock Town Partnership (BTP) has given traders half price rent for January & February. The BTP has also had interest from numerous traders who are interested in supporting the Baldock Weekly market in the warmer months.

Baldock Monthly Market

The monthly Market will be starting up again in March after the winter break. As with previous years the monthly market will be held on the second Saturday of each month between March and November. The BTP is currently visiting other local markets, in the hope of attracting new traders to the Baldock Farmers Market

Events

Future events planned by the BTADP include:

- Baldock Beast 2015 – (Sun 15th February 2015)
- Farmers & Crafts Market – (Sat 14th March 2015)
- The Baldock Big Lunch – (Sun 7th June 2015)

8.2 Sale Drive

NHDC Legal Team continue to work with the developer to secure the adoption of the land from Barratt Homes to Hertfordshire Highways; senior NHDC officers are in discussion with BDW homes to stress that this transfer should take place as soon as possible, and that the developers' previous decision not to engage a legal adviser has increased delays thus far. There are also issues first to be resolved in regard to other commitments which the developer must meet, also in Sale Drive.

Formal adoption of the land therefore remains to be completed.

Funding for the works has been forwarded to Highways for the works and the works have been added to the Highways Work Programme but cannot be carried out until the land adoption has been completed.

8.3 Avenue Park

Members will recall that funding was awarded to Avenue Park Sports Association back in June 2014 to assist with a Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Project to install a chairlift at the venue. The chairlift has now been installed and all refurbishment work associated with the installation is now complete.

8.4 Baldock Festival

The Baldock Community Officer has been assisting the Baldock Festival Committee with plans for the 32nd Baldock Festival. The Baldock CO will be assisting the group with the safety and parking paperwork for the event as

well as addressing any licensing and enforcement issues that arise. The Baldock CO will also assist with publicising and promoting the event both in Baldock and the surrounding villages.

8.5 **Baldock Beast Multi-terrain Half Marathon 2015**

The Baldock Beast Half Marathon will be returning to Baldock for a fourth time on Sunday 15th February. At the time of writing this report 390 runners had signed up for the event, but an estimated 430 are expected come race day. The Baldock CO has supported the BTP with the safety paperwork for the event and produced detailed hand over notes so that the BTP can run the event independently in future years. A verbal update on the event will be presented to the March Area Committee meeting.

8.6 **Baldock Big Lunch**

The Baldock Big Lunch will be returning to Baldock High Street for a fifth time on Sunday 7th June. The Big Lunch is a nationwide initiative set up by the Eden Project which encourages communities to come together and sit down for lunch. This event has always proved popular in Baldock with the 2014 event attracting around 400 people.

The Baldock CO will assist the BTP with the planning for this event and will also help with the completion of all paperwork that is required by North Herts Safety Advisory Group. Finally the Baldock CO will help to publicise and promote the event around the villages.

8.7 **Bakers Field Pavilion Project**

During 2015, the Baldock CO and the Community Manager will further assist in the development of project where possible.

The Communities Manager met with Club representatives just prior to Christmas and assisted in the drafting of a project / business plan. Further information has also been provided for inclusion into the plan during January.

When it is deemed to be nearing completion, the next step will be for the draft plan to be submitted to Andy Cavanagh, Head of Finance, Performance & Asset Management for consideration, initial comment and feedback from the appropriate Officers within other sections of the Authority, including through the Asset Management Group.

8.8 **Highways Matters**

It was agreed that a section entitled 'Highways Matters' is included within the Area Champion's News Report for each committee cycle to facilitate debate and enable appropriate feedback on any of the proposed or listed schemes.

Any new proposals will be forwarded to the respective Herts County Councillor for consideration, who will in turn report back and advise the Committee accordingly.

9. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees confirm that they may establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary

organisations which include discretionary grants//financial support. However, this does not include grants for district wide activities.

- 9.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides that the Council has power to do anything which it considers likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. This would apply on the basis that financial assistance to voluntary and community organisations improves the economic, social or environmental well-being of the District or part of it.
- 9.3 Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.
- 9.4 The Committee **as a body** has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described. Whilst individual ward members may comment on and support (or not) any grant application put before the committee, the decision to award is afforded only to the Baldock and District Area Committee itself under the Council's Constitution and provided such committee is quorate at the time of such decision.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 In the past few years there has been no inflationary allowance to the main Area Committee Budget and the 2014/15 baseline budget has stayed the same as the previous year.
- 10.2 The former MoU Budget is subject to a 7.1% reduction each year through to financial year 2015/16.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no risk entries that have been recorded on Covalent, the Council's Performance & Risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1st October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5th April 2011. There is a General duty, described in 12.2, that public bodies must meet, underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.
- 12.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- 12.3 The projects which comprise the Community Officers' workload, and area committee funding assigned to community projects are assessed to ensure that they are as inclusive as possible to members of the local community. The only deviation to this is where a minority group may specifically receive funding or allocation of resources to address a particular area of need or 'gap' in provision.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 As the recommendations made in this report do not constitute a public service contract, the measurement of 'social value' as required by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 need not be applied, although equalities implications and opportunities are identified in the relevant section at paragraphs 12.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report

15. APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix 1 - Area Committee Development Budget Spread sheet.
- 15.2 Appendix 2 – Area Committee Work Programme 2014/15.
- 15.3 Appendix 3 – Grant Application for Baldock & District Branch of the Royal British Legion.
- 15.4 Appendix 4 – Grant Application for Merry Go Round Under Fives
- 15.5 Appendix 5 – Grant Application for Baldock Town Partnership.
- 15.6 Appendix 6 – Grant Application for Christchurch Baldock
- 15.7 Appendix 7 – Grant Application for Baldock Crusaders Juniors Netball Club
- 15.8 Appendix 8 – Grant Application for Hinxworth Young People
- 15.9 Appendix 9 – Grant Application for Ashwell Parish Council
- 15.10 Appendix 10 – Grant Application for Rushden & Wallington Parish Council
- 15.11 Appendix 11 – Grant Application for Saracens Cricket Club

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.