

**TITLE OF REPORT : CHAMPION NEWS AND FINANCE REPORT****REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES****1. SUMMARY**

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

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being.
- 2.2 That the Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure and balances carried forward from the Visioning, Development and Ward Budgets. Spreadsheet attached as Appendix A.
- 2.3 That the Committee considers awarding support funding to CAYPOW (Children and Young People of Westmill) as set out in 8.7 of this report.
- 2.4 That the Committee note that Walsworth Ward Members have funded litter pickers for Friends of Walsworth Common.
- 2.5 That the Committee note that the Oughton Ward Member has funded Hitchin Sea Cadets and CAYPOW (Children and Young People of Westmill).

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Development 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 in the Grants procedure.

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 6 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 elected 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 Discretionary Development 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 A Area Committee Budget Spreadsheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2012/13.

7.2 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year 2011/12 including balances and past expenditure relating to the allocated and un-allocated Area Capital Visioning Budgets available to the Committee.

7.3 The current level of unallocated funds within the Committee's Central Area Grant Budget is £21,278.

7.4 The current levels of unallocated funds within the Committee's Ward Discretionary Budgets are:

Bearton Ward	£1,500
Highbury Ward	£1,500
Oughton Ward	£800
Priory Ward	£800
Walworth Ward	£1,403

7.5 The current level of unallocated funds within the Committee's MoU Budget is £2,610.

## **8. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS**

### **8.1 National Citizenship Project**

The Community Development Team were approached by the organisation, By Design Group, that had received the Government contract for the 2013 programme of National Citizen Service. Part of the four week programme includes designing, planning and delivering a social action project within their community. The local organiser requested the Community Development Officers for a presentation, to the young people on community projects and getting involved with the local community.

This has proved very worthwhile, with one of the projects being delivered at St Michaels Road underpass, which now has a lovely cheerful mural, designed and painted by the young people. Groups are also raising money for local and national charities including The Sanctuary in Hitchin and highlighting the homeless issue by sleeping out. Another group raised money by having a music day in the Market Place in Hitchin.

### **8.2 NHMEF Surgery**

A surgery took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> July . The surgeries will now take place four times a year in October, January, April and July. The next will be on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013, 3pm – 3.30pm and Members are requested for their availability.

### **8.3 YOR Radio Update**

Groundwork continued to fund the radio until the end of July. Other avenues are being explored to continue the radio including a Peoples Millions stage one application to support the group and the outcome of this will be received in September. If successful with the first stage then work will continue, with partners, to constitute the group and enable it to become sustainable as a voluntary organisation and attract funding.

### **8.4 Smartys Day Nursery**

Smartys Day Nursery celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and part of the celebrations being planned is a Fun Day at the Nursery on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September from 11am – 2pm.

Smartys is now a Company Limited by Guarantee and Charity Commission registered. The current Manager has been in place for nearly a year and the Trustees and Management Committee are now well established and looking forward to the next 20 years.

### **8.5 King George V Skate Park**

Groundwork has undertaken further work with the Skatepark users and some contractors, but the estimates are still coming in very high.

The Area Committee funded the design stage of the skate park but there is money left over £4,299. With the Committee's approval this sum can be kept to add to the sum allocated under the Green Space strategy for improvements to the King George V Skatepark, in 2016/17

### **8.6 YOPEY –Young Person of the Year Award**

The Young People of the Year Award Ceremony is taking place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013, at Hertford Regional College campus at Turnford. There are two invitations available and Councillors have been emailed the details. RSVP details are required by the organisers.

Hitchin Area Committee supported the organisation with funding of £300 this year.

#### 8.7 **CAYPOW (Children and Young People of Westmill)**

CAYPOW was formed by partnership organisations to support volunteers and other organisations carrying out youth work on Westmill. The management committee of CAYPOW manage the Coffee Mill, a shop unit in John Barker Place where some of the group's youth activity happens. Other youth work, supported by CAYPOW uses the Community Centre, the MUGA and school premises.

The shop premises are owned by North Herts Homes and are rent free although CAYPOW do have to pay building insurance to NHH as well as fire and pay insurance for the contents and resources in the building, electricity etc. as well as repairs, fire extinguisher checks and PAT testing etc. and public liability and DBS checking for the volunteers.

CAYPOW recently applied for funding of £1,500 from the County Councillor's locality budget to pay for the amenities, resources, repairs, insurances etc. at the Coffee Mill and was granted £750 on the understanding that they apply to Hitchin Area Committee for match funding of £750.

This money will help to continue the support and the use of the Coffee Mill, for the excellent youth volunteering work that takes place on Westmill which will continue in the proposed new build Community Centre.

#### 8.8 **Rhythms of the World 2013**

The events around the town and the family fun day on the Sunday in the Market Place, organised by Rhythms volunteers in July, were very successful with lots of people attending and finding out how to get involved with the Rhythms festival. The Trustees are continuing to search for a site for the festival next year.

#### 8.9 **TASTE 2013**

The annual Taste Event, youth providers promoting their activities for young people, will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September in the Market Place.

#### 8.10 **Hitchin Area Update**

The Hitchin Area Update, including Highways Projects, is attached as Appendix B. This is a working document and amendments can be made at meetings or emailing the Community Development Officer.

### 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 includes discretionary grant aid/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 has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 In the past few years there has been no inflationary allowance to the main Area Committee Budget and the 2012/13 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 relevant 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 that may arise.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Development 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 A – Annual Grant and Development Discretionary Budget Summary
- 15.2 Appendix A.1 – Hitchin Area Committee Detailed Budget 2013/2014
- 15.3 Appendix B – Hitchin Area Committee Update
- 15.4 Appendix C – Grant Report for CAYPOW

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## **17. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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