

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANT APPLICATION**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES****1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To bring to the Committee's attention details of a recent request received for Area Committee Grant Funding made by Children & Young People on Westmill.
- 1.2 It is with the Chairman and Vice Chairman's agreement that this late application for funding toward summer holiday activities is put before the Hitchin Area Committee as a matter of urgency.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee considers grant funding of £660 towards young people's Summer activities for Children and Young People on Westmill (CAYPOW). That the funds be allocated from Oughton Ward Discretionary Budget using the uncommitted amount allocated to Community Projects in March 2009. (as outlined in 8.1 and Appendix A).
- 2.2 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Hitchin.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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 4 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 the item raised within this report.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 5.1 Consultation with both Ward Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of the funds for this project.
- 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 This report has been brought as an additional urgent item to Committee, which the Chairman of the Area Committee has agreed to include on the agenda..

8. PROJECT/ ACTIVITY/ SCHEME DETAILS

8.1 Children and Young People of Westmill (CAYPOW)

CAYPOW are requesting £660 funding for the provision of Summer Activities for Children and Young People on the Westmill estate during the school holidays.

As issues surrounding Anti Social Behaviour on the Westmill Estate inevitably increase over the School Summer break, it is deemed important to provide a range of structured activities for young people and children in the area.

The activities will aim to divert those attending from behaviour that is likely to be anti-social to others living in the community and prevent possible criminal activity.

Oughton Ward members have been requested to fund this project from their Discretionary Ward Budget.

Match funding is also being requested from Hertfordshire County Councillors Locality budget for £200 and from Hitchin Youth Trust for £2,000.

The grant report for this project is outlined in Appendix A.

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 grant 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 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 the start of the 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 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. In terms of this particular request, Oughton Ward is recognised as one which demonstrates pockets of deprivation, higher unemployment than its surrounding wards and therefore any support in terms of either free or low cost activities during summer holidays for all youngsters in the area is to be commended. The proposals also include provision of refreshments, important given the high level of children/young people who would generally receive free school meals during term time.

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: Hitchin Area Committee Budget Report 2014/15

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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