

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 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 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 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards from the Development, Visioning and Ward Budgets as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2 That the Committee considers grant funding of £1500 to Hitchin Park Run to set up a free timed run on Saturday mornings on Walsworth Common. (as outlined in 8.1 and at Appendix B).
- 2.3 That the Committee considers grant funding of £1500 to Child UK to provide diversionary youth activities at King George V Playing Field for 11 weeks on a Friday night (as outlined in 8.2 and at Appendix C).
- 2.4 That the Committee considers grant funding of £800 to Hitchin BID towards CCTV cameras in West Alley, funding to be allocated from Highbury Ward budgets presently allocated to Environmental and Community Projects (as outlined in 8.3 and Appendix D)
- 2.5 That the Committee considers grant funding of £1750 to Herts Young Carers towards Transport, Volunteer Training and Equipment . (as outlined in 8.4 and at Appendix E)
- 2.6 That the Committee considers grant funding of £1332 to the Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living towards the cost of installing exterior safety lighting. (as outlined in 8.5 and at Appendix F)
- 2.7 That the Committee considers grant funding from Walsworth Discretionary Ward budget from the 2013- 2014 carry forwards of £400 towards the cost of decoration to the front exterior of the building.. (as outlined in 8.6 and at Appendix G)

- 2.8 That the Committee considers the allocation of £1,083. from Bearton Ward Budget currently allocated to Community Projects towards the instalation of water fountains in Bancroft, King George's and Ransom's Recreation grounds. (as outlined in 8.7)
- 2.9 That the Committee considers re-allocation of all Capital Visioning budget to 'Community Projects'. (Outlined at Appendix A)
- 2.10 That the Committee considers awarding support funding in relation to any potential Highways schemes as proposed and discussed under section 8.9 of this report.
- 2.11 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 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 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 expressed in the Priorities for the District.
- 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 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 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 Discretionary and 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 1 Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2014/15.
- 7.2 The spread sheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial years 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 Area Committee's 2014/15 Area Grant Budget is **£18,020**
- 7.4 There are no funds within the Area Committee's 2013/14 Area Grant Budget that remain uncommitted. However, there are £7,806 available allocated to generic headings.
- 7.5 The current level of unallocated funds within the Area Committee's existing small MoU Budget is **£280.00**

8. PROJECT/ ACTIVITY/ SCHEME DETAILS

8.1 Hitchin Park Run (PARKRUN UK)

Parkrun UK is a company Ltd by Guarantee. They enable volunteers across the country to set up their own local Parkrun. The Hitchin group would like to set up a weekly 5k run on Walsworth Common. The runs are timed and free to anyone of any ability to take part. The events will take place at 9.00am every Saturday morning.

These events are held nationwide. Currently the nearest to North Herts being in Welwyn Garden City which currently has on average 280 attendees each week. Although Parkrun is a national organisation each run is organised voluntarily by the local community for the local community. The Hitchin group will benefit from the infrastructure, support and advice from Parkrun UK. The group require a one off set up cost to start up but will be self sufficient once they get going.

There is a strong emphasis on encouraging runners to socialise after the run in a local café and participants are also encouraged to volunteer to help organise the runs in order that the local group is sustainable

The grant report for this project is presented at Appendix B.

8.2 Child UK

CHILD UK aims to achieve a beneficial and sustainable impact on the physical and emotional welfare of children and young people - transforming their lives and enabling them to fulfil their potential to create a better future society. They inspire children and young people to have a positive interest in Sport and the Performing Arts. They are requesting £1500 grant funding to provide a three month project based at King George

V Playing Fields targeting young people from Westmill who may be at risk of taking part in anti-social or unhealthy behaviour.

Description of project

Venues: Multi-Use Games Area, King George V Playing Fields, Hitchin (next to the rugby club).

Timings: 7.00pm to 9.00pm on Fridays

Dates: From 16th January to 27th March 2015.

Activity: Child UK have managed to sustain Friday Night Project for over seven years in ever changing targeted areas, making a very positive impact amongst the local community. The success has been aided by their multi-agency partnership approach. A variety of exciting multi-sports such as Pop Up Tennis, Street Golf, basketball, football and dodgeball will be offered to the young people to give them something positive to do by using the multi-use games areas; this will attempt to consistently counteract the recent higher level of anti-social behaviour (ASB). Youth Connexions will deliver workshops on-site engaging those watching or waiting to join in the activities. They will be delivering important information in the areas of Sexual Health, Healthy Lifestyle, and Substance Misuse Prevention.

The project is targeting the 11 to 19 year old age group from the Westmill Estate in Hitchin. An area which had been highlighted by all our partners as an escalating area of ASB in North Hertfordshire earlier this year. Child UK have carried out an extensive consultation with the young people with their partnership network team and they have a long list of names of young people who are at risk, vulnerable or previously engaged in ASB.

Project Objectives:

- The current project has been an enormous success over the last seven years at all of the sites. There has been a high retention rate of young people of approximately 80%, which has established a core group of participants on a weekly basis. We anticipate about 20 young people to attend each week at each site.
- By targeting the activities at peak times of anti-social behaviour the project has been able to divert the young people to positive activities during these periods. This has helped reduce anti-social behaviour, particularly the criminal damage and vandalism that has previously occurred.
- The activities promote a healthier lifestyle to the young people and reduce the risk of substance misuse, particularly with alcohol.
- The project is focusing on encouraging vulnerable young people to have greater positive participation amongst their peers in their community. Partners and stakeholders have been engaged and encouraged to work together to create positive opportunities for young people in a socially inclusive manner.
- The project is open to all young people of all backgrounds and abilities. Our projects promote equality of opportunity for all.
- The young people have established their own code of conduct and rules, with good behaviour being prevalent across such an inclusive group of young people from all backgrounds.

- The project is a joint initiative with the support of North Hertfordshire District Council, the Community Safety Team including the support of our other partners and members of the North Herts ASB group, local police, and North Herts Homes. Project delivery partners include CHILD UK, Youth Connexions and Hitchin Town FC.

Outcomes:

Promoting health and well being: The activities promote a healthier lifestyle to young people and reduce the risk of substance misuse, particularly with alcohol. Amongst our partnership team we aim to make young people aware of the dangers and pitfalls of substance misuse, and encourage them to spend their leisure time in more positive and healthy activities. Youth Connexions will deliver workshops on-site engaging those watching or waiting to join in the activities. They will be delivering recognised outcomes for young people in the areas of Sexual Health, Healthy Eating/Lifestyle, Drug and Alcohol Education and promoting positive activities and participation. The project will have a weekly theme and topic to focus on whilst the activities are running.

Promoting community safety: By targeting the activities at peak times of anti-social behaviour the project will help divert the young people to join in positive activities during these periods. This has consistently helped to reduce anti-social behaviour in North Hertfordshire.

Additional outcomes include:

- Reduction in anti-social behaviour whilst the project is running.
- Referrals to specialist/other sports clubs and activity.
- Positive feedback from young people through the use of informal questionnaires.
- Young people learn alternative ways of spending their leisure time.
- Young people learn positive ways of expressing themselves.
- Young people develop improved confidence and self-esteem from achieving a level of skill in a new activity.
- To improve the social skills of the young people.
- To mentor potential volunteers to help in future delivery and sustainability.
- To respect others and be respected.

The grant report for this project is presented at Appendix C.

8.3 Hitchin BID - West Alley CCTV

Following complaints made by local residents and businesses in West Alley, Hitchin BID have are requesting £800 funding towards the cost of purchasing and camera equipment and instalation.

The system will be an extension of the current CCTV system based in the Arcade which saves the images on a the existing Digital Video Recorder (DVR)

The system will provide clear images of the alley and rear car park area of the flats. Three cameras will be added to the current system:

- Camera 1 will be positioned in the alley to face towards the market square capturing people as they enter the alley
- Camera 2 will be positioned in the alley looking towards the rear of the flats to capture pedestrian movement in the alley.

- Camera 3 will be positioned on the wall at the end of the alley to capture movement in the car park and areas around it.

All three cameras will have infra red capabilities so that they can work in low light conditions. The total cost to supply and install the above will be £1700.

The remainder of the cost will be provided by Hitchin BID and residents of West Alley will also be financially contributing.

The grant report for this project is presented at Appendix D.

8.4 **Herts Young Carers**

The Group meets fortnightly at Nightingale House in Hitchin. The group provides emotional and practical support to young carers through recreational activities. They provide the young carers with respite and peer support in a safe and fun environment.

As young carers attending the sessions come from mostly Hitchin and Letchworth the group's grant funding application is being split 50/50 between each area committee who are being asked to consider funding of £1750 each.

The sessions run fortnightly during term-time on a Thursday evening from 7.00 – 9.00pm. This will typically be three different themed activities per session: sports / exercise based activity, a cookery activity and an arts and crafts 'project'. There is always badminton and table tennis available and a variety of games from board games to karaoke. The cookery session may involve making biscuits, cakes, homemade pizzas, etc. The craft sessions cover a variety of ideas from card-making, badges and modelling.

Herts Young Carers (HYC) was officially formed in May 2013. The Group had previously been meeting for thirteen years and was run by Carers in Hertfordshire. In March 2013 all funding was totally withdrawn by Carers in Hertfordshire. The future of the Group was very uncertain. The existing volunteers and a new incoming volunteer formed a small charity in order to secure the future of the group.

During the first 12 months of the group the focus has been on keeping the Group going, making it fully compliant by the creation of Safeguarding policy documents, training volunteers, fundraising and on maintaining the Group as a place that young carers want to attend.

The group have recruited more new children and young people. They have recently concluded a large-scale volunteer recruitment programme and have brought on-board a high quality management committee. They are now in a position to 'take things to the next level' and become fully sustainable for the future. They plan to become a Registered Charity this year. The group are applying for grant funding towards the purchase of equipment, training volunteers, transport costs and materials to publicise Herts Young Carers.

The group hope to purchase kitchen and sports equipment. They would also like to be able to purchase a laptop for use by the Group in order to maintain the website and design posters, etc.

The training of volunteers is necessary for Compliance. The group have recruited five new volunteers, who need First Aid training, Safeguarding Children training, Food and Hygiene, Health and Safety and DBS checks. We have fourteen volunteers who want to be involved with the management committee (only two are also running the Group). All volunteers will need DBS checking and Safeguarding training as a minimum. A range of additional training will be

necessary for these new volunteers.

The final request for funding relates to transport of the children by taxi to the sessions. Without these costs being met by HYC the children would not be able to come attend. As parents are not in a position to bring them to the session and a shared taxi with other group-members is the solution to enable them to attend. These costs rise significantly as the Group grows.

HYC have been successful in applications to local organisations who have given Restricted Funding for trips and outings.

The grant report for this project is presented at Appendix E.

8.5 **Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living**

The centre are requesting £1332 grant funding towards the cost of installing exterior safety lighting. Located on the boarder of Hitchin and Letchworth Garden City, the Centre caters to residents of both towns and this grant is being split 50/50 between both area committees.

This will benefit many older people, those with a disability and those who are not confident to walk on uneven surfaces during early evening and night time. Currently the Centre is less accessible to those people due to the inadequate lighting. Planning permission has been sought and approved.

The Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living is the largest and one of the most established holistic centres in the United Kingdom and proudly offers a rich and diverse menu of complementary approaches to improve and maintain health and wellbeing and prevent illness.

Their Clinics provide one-to-one complementary therapy, classes (over 80 of them each week) teaching well-researched self-help techniques which ease stress and anxiety and Counselling Services which include a low-cost scheme. They frequently partner with other charities, the NHS, local government, schools and children's centres, etc. and host a number of local community groups and initiatives at the Centre that support marginalised sectors of society including older people, carers, those experiencing mental health issues, the disabled and those with life-limiting chronic health conditions. Over 1400 people a week presently visit the Centre and receive support. This year the Centre is celebrating it's 30th birthday. Over the years it has provided support to many thousands of people from North Hertfordshire (and specifically Letchworth and Hitchin).

The Centre is widely regarded within its field as a 'Centre of Innovation and Excellence' and has just received notification that it is the 2014 CAM award winner of the highly prestigious national 'Outstanding Contribution to the Community' award.

The Centre has a special interest in developing programmes supporting older people and their carers and have previously been commissioned by both the NHS and Herts. County Council to design and implement projects that support the increasingly ageing community. Their latest pilot project, funded by Comic Relief, is a new approach to engaging with older people - 'Positive Ageing' - ran in August 2014. Targetting frailer older people.

In addition to older people, their carers too, have benefited from the Centre's work which has included innovative programmes for carers of people with dementia. They have hosted two Carer's Fairs and two Older People's Day events on behalf of the county. The Centre continues to run support programmes for carers as well as those

living with Parkinson's and other age-related conditions and is home to the Rosehill Singers, a community choir for older people. They organise events throughout the year in celebration of, for example, The Letchworth Festival, World Mental Health Day and, this year they hosted Silver Sunday (on behalf of NHDC). Frequently local organisations use the facilities to host their groups or undertake training.

The Centre has plans for developing programmes that support the community around the aging society and those experiencing long term medical conditions such as cancer.

In 1985, there were 690,000 people in the UK aged 85 and over, representing around one per cent of the population. By 2010 there were 1.4 million or two per cent of the population aged 85 and over. By 2035, there will be 3.6 million in this group, or five per cent of the population.

The Office of National Statistics estimates that locally the number of North Herts residents aged 65 years and over will increase from 21,862 in 2011 to 27,453 in 2021 that's a growth of some thirty three per cent in 10 years. Of these 8,713 will be 80 years and over. Greater longevity is a cause of celebration but it is also associated with multiple, physical and mental health conditions that place enormous strain on health and social care provision. The challenge is compounded by the need to deliver more care with fewer resources.

The Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living (LCHL) is developing a new cost-effective 'positive ageing programme' that will endeavour to engage older people over their physical and mental health and wellbeing. Ultimately it will lead to residents being better equipped to manage their transition into older age, help them to lead more fulfilled lives, remain independent and at the same time alleviate pressure upon the resources available to statutory and voluntary services.

The Letchworth Centre is embracing fully the ethos behind the Localism Act. They endeavour to fully engage with all local older people over their ability to participate fully and ensure that their needs, views and opinions are embodied within everything they do. They encourage all marginalised sections of the community to connect with their community, empower them to take control of their lives and to promote participation and inclusion.

The Centre has an established partnership network that includes local GP's surgeries and other healthcare providers (including the Lister Hospital), HCC Health & Community Services, social housing providers, older people's groups, carer's organisations, BME groups, faith groups and other community organisations. They also promote our activities through professional networks including the North Herts Health & Wellbeing Partnership, The Older People's Networking Forum, etc.

The grant report for this project is presented at Appendix F.

8.6 Walsworth Community Centre

Walsworth Ward Councillors wish to provide £400 from their discretionary ward budget to Walsworth Community Centre towards the cost of decoration to the front exterior of the building.

The grant report for this project is presented at Appendix G.

8.7 Drinking Water Fountains for Bancroft, King George's and Ransom's Recreation Grounds

Bearton Ward members wish to reallocate £1,083 funding currently allocated to 'Community Projects' from the Bearton Ward budget. The funds would be used to

cover the cost of purchasing and installing one drinking water fountain in each park. However, ongoing maintenance costs would need to be taken into consideration. Also, provision of mains water and metering which may also incur additional costs.

8.8 Westmill Community Centre

North Hertfordshire District Council Officers are currently in discussions with Officers from North Herts Homes regarding the commencement of the building of the new Centre on site.

8.9 Highways Matters

It was agreed that a section entitled 'Highways Matters' is included within the Area Grant applications and community update 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 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, as a body, 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 per cent reduction each year through to financial year 2015/16.

10.3 Appendix A provides the detailed budget position for the Committee.

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.

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 Paragraph 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
- 15.2 Appendix B Hitchin Park Run – Grant Report
- 15.3 Appendix C Child UK – Grant Report
- 15.4 Appendix D Hitchin BID – Grant Report
- 15.5 Appendix E Herts Young Carers – Grant Report

- 15.6 Appendix F Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living – Grant Report
- 15.7 Appendix G Walsworth Community Centre – Grant Report
- 15.8 Appendix H Area Committee Summary Update 2014 - 2015

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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