

**LETCHWORTH COMMITTEE**  
**8 JUNE 2016**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM No.**

**7**

**TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS, AND COMMUNITY UPDATE**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY & 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 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 Budget and Visioning Budget for the end of the 2015/16 financial year as set out in Appendix 1(a) and the new budget for the 2016/17 financial year as set out in Appendix 1(b).
- 2.2 That the Committee considers the provision of **£1,000** grant funding to the Wednesday Drop-In Club as outlined 8.1.1.
- 2.3 That the Committee considers the provision of **£1,600** grant funding to the Hertfordshire Disabled Cricket Association towards setting up a 12 month Disabled cricket project, as outlined in 8.1.2. The maximum amount the officer is able to recommend is £1,500 under the agreed Criteria
- 2.4 That the Committee considers the provision of **£1,500** grant funding to the North Herts Road Runners towards a town centre event as outlined in 8.1.3.
- 2.5 That the Committee considers the provision of **£250** grant funding to Richard's Trampoline Club towards the cost of training for an additional volunteer coach, as outlined in 8.1.4.
- 2.6 That the Committee considers the provision of **£460** grant funding to Yvonne Savage Club for Visually Impaired People towards the cost of venue hire, as outlined in 8.1.5.

- 2.7 That the Committee considers the provision of **£500** grant funding to North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum towards the cost of a summer programme for children from disadvantaged families, as outlined in 8.1.6.
- 2.8 That the Committee considers the provision of **£1,353** grant funding to Herts Young Carers to cover the cost of 5 Letchworth young people for one year to attend young carers sessions based in Hitchin, as outlined in 8.1.7
- 2.9 The Committee considers the request for grant funding of **£3,490** from Letchworth Rugby Club towards the costs of purchasing mobile flood lights and the creation of secure storage (as outlined in 8.1.8). The maximum amount the officer is able to recommend is £1,500 under the agreed Criteria.
- 2.10 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Letchworth Garden City.

### **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 in 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 of the 'Priorities for the District'.

### **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 RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

- 5.1 Consultation with relevant 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 Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2015/16.
- 7.2 The Committee's 2015/16 Area Grant Budget is fully allocated. The new budget for the 2016/17 financial year as outlined in Appendix 1b is £19,500, this would equate if equally distributed between the 4 meetings this civic year to £4875 per meeting. The total grant funding requested at this meeting is £10,153.00 which would leave a budget of £9,347 to distribute for the 3 remaining meetings.
- 7.3 There is **£248** remaining in the carried forward amounts from within the Area Committee's 2014/15 Area Grant Budget of which £220 have been allocated towards the cost of producing a leaflet for Councillors Surgeries.

## 8. GRANT FUNDING AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

### 8.1 Grant Funding

#### 8.1.1 Wednesday Drop In Club

The Club was originally part of the Herts Partnership NHS Trust for Mental Health, but is now completely run by volunteers. The Club offers a range of social and recreational activities, with group sessions led by volunteers. Members pay a small amount for tea/coffee and for their lunch: there is no membership fee or weekly subscription as members are of limited means and not in employment.

The club receives some a reduction in hire fees from the Central Methodist Church. The organisation provides a buffer against the social isolation of those with long term mental health issues and learning disabilities. The accounts indicate that the club has reduced its level of activity in order to reduce their overspend this year to £27, as against £1275 last year.

The group estimate their annual running costs in the region of £4000. They have received £1000 from the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and receive contributions from members totalling £2,000. They are requesting a contribution of **£1000** from Area Committee Development budgets.

(As outlined in 2.2, Appendix 2)

#### 8.1.2 Hertfordshire Disabled Cricket Association

Hertfordshire Disabled Cricket Association is an independent voluntary organisation that has been in existence for just over 15 years. The association is affiliated to Hertfordshire Cricket and is responsible for planning and implementing the county strategy for disability cricket.

As part of their overall plan, the association are looking to provide a local disability cricket provision across the county, which will ultimately provide people with a disability the opportunity to take part in a format of the game that is appropriate to their physical needs.

The proposal for Letchworth, in partnership with the Letchworth Cricket Club is to host a weekly session of cricket over a 12 month period. This will be based at the club during the summer and at the Letchworth Free Church Hall in the winter months.

The association have identified a group of people within the local community who would benefit from this provision. They will learn new skills and a new game but more importantly the activity will provide benefits in terms of social interaction, health and wellbeing.

The long term outcome for this project is to create a network of sustainable disability cricket groups around the county where participants can play and compete against each other in a semi-formal way.

The group project is expected to cost £3,480 in the first year including the setting up costs. Contributions have been agreed from Herts Cricket Limited of £620 and from Herts Disabled Cricket of £400. A further £860 has been requested from Letchworth Day Services. The group are requesting the remaining **£1,600** from Letchworth Committee budgets.

(As outlined in 2.3, Appendix 3)

### 8.1.3 North Herts Road Runners

Funding is requested towards the start up, management and running costs of a new event in the town centre of Letchworth. It is a community running event. There will be three races starting and finishing in Leys Square. The races will include a 5km race and then two 1 mile races, one of which being a family fun-run. It is anticipated that 500 people will run and a further 500 people will spectate, on July 10th 2016. It is hoped to make this an annual event. Please see the expenditure outlined in the table below:

#### **Expenditure**

Leaflets	£500
Posters	£100
Banners	£500
Barriers, First Aid & Radios	£1,250
Platform & PA	£1,000
Road closures	£1,000
Street entertainment	£350
Other expenditure including contingency	£925
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£5,625</b>

The start up funding towards the event has been sought from Letchworth BID = £1500, LGCHF = £1500 and a further income of £1125 is expected from entrance fees. The group are requesting a contribution from the Letchworth Committee budgets of **£1500**.

This event is expected to become self financing in subsequent years when it becomes more established. Increased number of participants will increase the income via entry fees and enable the group to source local business sponsors, local buy-in as well as from groups and agencies

(As outlined in 2.4, Appendix 4)

### 8.1.4 Richard's Trampoline Club

Richard's Trampoline Club support participants who are new to the sport through to those who are experienced and competing regionally. They encourage everyone to be involved and included. They provide mentoring to both participants and to developing coaches.

The Trampoline Club meets at North Herts Leisure Centre, and caters for participants from 4 year-olds to adults. The club operates on a not-for-profit basis, with prices below those of other clubs in the District.

The club are requesting **£250** grant funding towards the cost of training their volunteer coach to achieve a Level 2 coaching trampoline qualification. This will enable the volunteer to independently run activities and classes and mentor prospective coaches. The additional coaching staff will benefit 25 members immediately and allow the club to increase their numbers. The volunteer will be covering the remaining cost of the training course themselves.

There is a shortage of Level 2 coaches in Letchworth, and demand for their activities outstrips supply. The club currently have a large waiting list.  
(As outlined in 2.5, Appendix 5)

#### 8.1.5 Yvonne Savage Club for the Visually Impaired

Former Memorandum of Understanding recipient requires funding towards cost of hall hire. The club caters for predominantly elderly people with sight impairment. Meets monthly at Central Methodist Church, provides social activities and hot meal and one trip out per year. The club has 21 members and 10 volunteers.

There is no other club of this type in North Herts, the nearest being Welwyn Garden City. The Club provides a much needed social activity for those who might otherwise be socially isolated.

The club are requesting **£460** towards the cost of their already subsidised venue hire costs of £914.54. The remainder will be covered by the income generated by subscription fees.

Members should be aware that the club received £430 grant funding from the Letchworth Committee in June 2015. (As outlined in 2.6, Appendix 6)

#### 8.1.6 North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum

North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum (NHMEF) is an umbrella organisation set up to provide access to a variety of services, guidance and advice aimed at the black and minority ethnic communities (BME) in North Herts.

NHMEF are planning to provide summer holiday activities for 75 children from both Hitchin and Letchworth. This grant application will be split between the two area Committees.

The two week programme will include:

- Fire fit boot camp – covering Healthy Eating, Tackling Obesity, Road Safety, Fire Safety, Handling emergency situations and dialling 999.
- Multi-sports programme
- Arts and Crafts
- Health workshops with East of England Ambulance Service.

The service will give the young people opportunity to engage with positive activities during the long summer school break when many families can't afford to go on holiday resulting in the children becoming bored and possibly becoming involved in anti-social behaviour.

Most of the families involved are disadvantaged and would be unable to fund such activities themselves.

NHMEF are requesting £1,250 from NHDC to cover the cost of the coaching fees of the boot camp. A one week programme provided by a company set up by fire service personnel called Ladder87.

This amount will be divided between Letchworth and Hitchin Committees.

There will be 30 children attending who are resident in Letchworth resulting in a request for **£500** from the Letchworth Development Budgets.

There will be 45 children attending who are resident in Hitchin and the Hitchin Committee will have been requested to consider funding of £750 from the Hitchin development budget.

Families will pay £10.00 per child for the two week program and this income will cover the cost of the Sports Coaches, Arts and Craft tutors and refreshments.

Members are reminded that the North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum currently receives annual funding of £10,500 under a Memorandum of Understanding agreement.

The NHMEF accounts show that in financial year 2014/15 they earned £80,338, of which £78,363 covers the costs of wages, rent and general running costs. They currently have balances amounting to £22,341 as of 1st May 2016, and some restricted funds (balances) relating to previous Lottery or similar funding.

(As outlined in 2.7, Appendix 7)

#### 8.1.7 Herts Young Carers

Herts Young Carers (HYC) meets fortnightly at Nightingale Day Centre, Hitchin to give 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.

Young carers are children and young people who look after someone in their family who has an illness, a disability, or is affected by mental ill-health or substance misuse. Young carers often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. The tasks undertaken can vary according to the nature of the illness or disability, the level and frequency of need for care and the structure of the family as a whole.

A young carer may do some or all of the following:

- Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping.
- Physical care, such as lifting, helping a parent on stairs or with physiotherapy.
- Personal care, such as dressing, washing, helping with toileting needs.
- Managing the family budget, collecting benefits and prescriptions.
- Administering medication.
- Looking after or “parenting” younger siblings.
- Emotional support.
- Interpreting, due to a hearing or speech impairment or because English is not the family’s first language.

Some young carers may undertake high levels of care, whereas for others it may be frequent low levels of care. Either can impact heavily on a child or young person. Carers often suffer ill-health due to their caring role, sometimes physical or psychological. All young carers need support to be able to juggle their education and caring roles.

HYC support young carers in practical and emotional ways. They provide regular respite and peer support. The children and young people are also able to genuinely ‘act their age’ at the Young Carers sessions and feel safe in a fun environment.

The Group are expecting to grow in order to support as many young carers as possible. The volunteers, who all but one is in full-time employment, many of whom were themselves young carers and can therefore fully appreciate the importance that a Group like his can bring to the children and young people.

The group was set up in May 2013 over the past 3 years the focus has been on keeping the Group going, making it fully compliant by creating a raft of Safeguarding policy documents, training the volunteers, fundraising and also on maintaining the Group as a place that the young carers want to come to.

HYC currently have 24 young carers attending the Group and a waiting list. Following a volunteer recruitment programme in November 2015 they have brought on-board a high quality management committee, in addition to 9 volunteers at each session and 9 trustees. The organisation is now in a position to 'take things to the next level' and become fully sustainable for the future. They aim to become a registered Charity this year. They are now in a strong position with stable management and a more strategic approach to funding.

The operational costs have increased significantly over the past few years as the number of Young Carers attending has increased. These will increase with the expected expansion of the group and the recruitment of additional volunteers.

Grant funding is requested towards equipment, materials, volunteer training and expenses, operational costs, promotion and marketing, transport and trips.

Training of volunteers is necessary for Compliance. Volunteers undertake training in: First Aid, Safeguarding Children, Food and Hygiene, Health and Safety. There is a significant list of advisory training for safe running the Group. New volunteers require DBS checking and Safeguarding training as a minimum.

The group are planning for a basic Wordpress website to be developed and intend to get business cards and leaflets printed in order to promote the service to the widest audience.

Being a young carer is often about physical and emotional responsibilities. This can result social isolation and being unable to access local activities. Therefore, outings and trips provide an opportunity for them to be themselves and have some fun with friends. When asked about outings, the young carers chose a trip to Bounce (Trampoline Park) in Milton Keynes. In addition, the Christmas trip to Hollywood Bowl and then Pizza Hut in Stevenage has now become a regular, much enjoyed, Festive event.

The highest cost incurred is for transport of the young carers by taxi to the sessions. Their parents are not in a position to bring them to the sessions 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 gaining funding from local organisations that have provided some funding for trips and outings. They have good relations with various community organisations in Hitchin and are hopeful that the Round Table and Rotary will provide support for another outing. The group continually fundraise via a range of activities including Waitrose Community Matters Charity Donation, fundraising bake sales and quiz nights.

The operational costs per annum are £9,820 for an expected number of 25 young carers. This equates to an annual cost of £392.80 per young carer. As 8 of the young people are based in Stevenage, the Borough Council has provided £3,650 towards the operating costs.

The group are requesting a total of £4,600 from NHDC (to be split between 3 Area Committees which currently have young carers attending). This equates to £270.58 x 17 young carers in the relevant areas. The group are requesting **£1353** to cover the cost of 5 young people who attend from Letchworth. Herts Young Carers are committed to raise the balance of approximately £3,000.

(As outlined in 2.8, Appendix 8)

#### 8.1.8 Letchworth Rugby Club

Letchworth Garden City Rugby Football Club is a family friendly club providing the local community with the opportunity to play, watch and be involved with rugby (e.g. volunteer for coaching, administration, maintenance etc.)

The club's junior playing section has around 250 members, with age groups ranging from under 7s to under 18s. There is an approximate 50/50 split between junior members living in Letchworth and those living in Baldock & surrounding area. All coaching provided for the children is voluntary, with each age group receiving coaching on Sunday mornings and many in mid-week too. The club hosts junior rugby festivals for district and county teams, with 600+ children taking part.

The senior section has around 90 playing members and regularly fields four sides each week. The 1st XV are one of the strongest sides in the Herts & Beds area and are one step away from National League status.

The club is very proud of the 'Letchworth Braveherts', a team that enables people with learning disabilities and/or autism to play and be part of the rugby family, and which is now a well established and recognised part of the club.

The club's facilities include a clubhouse with changing rooms, wash rooms, a kitchen and bar/social area, and four full size rugby pitches one of which has floodlighting. The club employs a full time Club Steward who is responsible for managing the bar, cleaning the clubhouse and maintenance/minor repairs. The club employs kitchen and bar staff during busy periods, e.g. 1st XV home games, junior rugby festivals etc.

The club is truly community based and welcomes many supporters on match days. Over the past year the club's charity balls have raised £2,000 for North Herts Hospice and Macmillan. The bar/social area of the clubhouse has recently been refurbished. Further improvements are now underway to make the club a more welcoming environment for families, visiting teams and supporters, including a refurbishment of the changing rooms, showers & kitchen and re-surfacing of the car park.

#### **Update on the club's initiatives presented at the last committee meeting:**

The after school tag rugby clubs for primary schools have been very successful, following grants received for equipment from County Councillors Terry Hone and Michael Muir. So far 11 after school tag rugby clubs have been developed, with over 200 children taking part. Three day TAG rugby events for children are also arranged for the summer holidays, each costing £60 per child.

The club has been working with the RFU to deliver coaching in secondary schools, and is very pleased that the RFU have offered their 3 year 'All Schools' programme to Fearnhill and Highfield, which will start in September 2016. With the support of Jess Young, Active Communities Officer for NHDC, the club has also secured 'Satellite Club' funding to deliver coaching to Knights Templar for 3 years, also starting in September 2016.



- The Letchworth Area Committee previously advised that the club should apply for a Letchworth Civic Trust grant to help establish a rugby scholarship scheme. As a result the club received an award of £1,000 and the club is now working with local schools to offer scholarships to children from deprived backgrounds, with costs being met by the club.
- Two significant infrastructure improvements are underway in readiness for the 2016-17 season. The Clubhouse facilities are being upgraded (changing rooms, showers, washrooms etc.) and the club is working in partnership with North Herts District Council & Letchworth Heritage Foundation to upgrade the car park. The club received a grant of £10,000 from the LGCHF in November 2014 towards improvements to the clubhouse, to increase capacity and thus future profitability.

After the feedback at both Letchworth & Baldock Area Committee Meetings the club has reflected on the type of support it possibly might seek from the Authority.

One of the club's current operational concerns is the significant mid-week training disruption caused by a lack of floodlit pitch space. The club has four pitches but only one is floodlit and all the various teams within the club (adult, junior U13s to U18s, mini U7s to U12s, girls, mixed-abilities) are competing for the same pitch space in mid-week.

The floodlit pitch is clearly being over used and of very poor quality. Therefore training is frequently cancelled to prevent further damage to the playing surface. During the winter months of the 2015-16 season, 36 junior training sessions were cancelled.

This situation is reflected in the 'North Hertfordshire Playing Pitch Strategy & Action Plan', from which the following is taken.

**Current status:** There are four poor quality pitches, one of which is floodlit and one of which is specifically used for training. The site is overplayed by 8.5 match equivalents.

**Recommended actions:** "Investigate potential for further floodlights on a second pitch."

The club would like to address this by acquiring mobile floodlights, each of which provides lighting for half a full-sized rugby pitch. The advantage of mobile floodlighting is that they don't necessarily need to use them on one pitch alone and that they could be use in any combination that would make best use of the available playing surfaces on all pitches, whilst protecting particularly poor areas.

The club would also like to install a shipping container to protect & secure the floodlights. Members may recall that in January 2016, the Club house was broken into, causing around £7,000 worth of damage and resulted in the loss of charity collection boxes, and their contents.

**Mobile floodlights.** The two second hand mobile floodlights cost £11,890.

The club has been awarded a grant of £10,000 from Sport England towards this cost, and is requesting funding to make up the shortfall.

Requested funding: **£1,890**

(£1,260 from Letchworth, £630 from Baldock & District)

**Secured storage.** A hard standing area for the shipping container will need to be created, at a cost of £1,500. A used shipping container in which to store the mobile floodlights will cost £1,845.

Requested funding: **£3,345**

(£2,230 from Letchworth, £1,115 from Baldock & District)

**Total requested funding: £5,235**

(£3,490 from Letchworth, £1,745 from Baldock & District)

(As outlined in recommendation 2.8 and Appendix 9)

The club raises income through a number of routes. Seniors Membership costs £240 pre annum. There are 21 corporate sponsors, with sponsorship deals from £350 to £3000 per annum, corporate lunch packages from £500 per table, commission on sales of rugby kits and through hire of the hall/facility for business and private events.

## 8.2 **Community Update**

### 8.2.1 Jackie's Drop In

The group were provisionally awarded up to £5000 grant funding towards the cost of fixtures and fittings for their new West View venue from the Committee in March 2016, with the condition that a business plan is produced. The Communities Team have been working with the group and a project / management team has been set up with the centre's stakeholders. It is envisaged that a management committee will evolve from this group. Jackie's Drop In has engaged a solicitor to work on their behalf on lease negotiations with the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and are in the process of recruiting a voluntary accountant to work alongside their treasurer. The group will assist the team at Jackie's Drop In to draw up a business plan and a project plan to facilitate the move to the new venue and the development of that facility in the future in order to factor in a level of sustainability for the future of the service. NHDC officers are aware that the Commissioning team from Herts County Council have recently visited the group's premises to find out more about what is offered, and will be speaking with them further in regard to future planning, formalising their management structure, funding etc.

### 8.2.2 Grange Youth Wing

Youth Connexions have been hiring the Youth Wing in order to continue the Youth Services in the area. The hire has been booked as an hourly rate for three evenings per week. This arrangement had been agreed until the end of the financial year (31<sup>st</sup> March) and was set up as a temporary arrangement following the disbanding of the Grange Youth Club committee.

The Communities Officers are presently initiating meetings between Youth Connexions senior managers and NHDC officers in Estates in order to come to a long term hire or lease agreement that is agreeable to all parties; indications are that Youth Connexions wish to have sole occupancy of the area, which would tend to indicate that a lease agreement would be the better option.

### 8.2.3 City Chorus

Following grant funding of £1000 provided towards the cost of a free Community Sing Day, City Chorus had approximately 100 people attend the event on September 12 2016. Following the event the Choir recruited 10 new members directly and a further 10 subsequently over the coming weeks.

City Chorus will be touring to Wales on the weekend of 18th June 2016 and singing with Llantrisant Male Voice Choir and are taking an almost full strength choir of 60 voices to represent Letchworth. It is the biggest choir ever to have toured there for a joint concert.

The following weekend (Saturday afternoon 25th June) the Choir are performing their annual tea concert where residents of local sheltered housing schemes are invited (free of charge), to see the Choir perform and provide them with a cream tea afterwards.

City Chorus will be using the staging (for which funding was provided in 2014) for that event. The Choir would be delighted to offer free tickets to any Councillors who would like to attend. (No funding applications for this organisation are currently being considered therefore the accepting of an invitation by Members or Officers would not constitute pre-determination)

#### 8.2.4 Grants Awarded in June 2015

The grants awarded to groups at the meeting 12 months ago were all for local events. £480 to the Letchworth Town Twinning towards the visit to Letchworth from visitors from the Twin Town of Chagny.

The Letchworth Rotary Club were awarded £1400 towards the Big Lunch event which took place in June 2015.

The Letchworth Town Centre Partnership received £2,500 towards the Food and Garden Festival.

All three events took place during either May or June 2015 and were extremely well attended.

#### 8.3 **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 grant aid/financial support but excluding grants for district-wide activities. The Committee has delegated powers, as a body, to allocate discretionary budgets and devolved budgets within the terms determined by the Council.

9.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the power to do anything that individuals generally may do. This may be for, or otherwise than for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident in its area.

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.

### 10. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Appendix 1(a) provides the detailed budget end of year for 2015/16 position for the Committee. Appendix 1(b) provides the detailed budget for 2016/17 representing a reduction of 55%.

## **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. 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 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 Communities 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 Letchworth Area Committee Budget Reports  
(a) End of year position 2015/16  
(b) Budget Report for 2016/17
- 15.2 Appendix 2 Wednesday Drop In – Grant Report
- 15.3 Appendix 3 Hertfordshire Disabled Cricket Association – Grant Report
- 15.4 Appendix 4 North Herts Road Runners – Grant Report
- 15.5 Appendix 5 Richard’s Trampoline Club – Grant Report
- 15.6 Appendix 6 Yvonne Savage Club for Visually Impaired - Grant Report
- 15.7 Appendix 7 North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum - Grant Report
- 15.8 Appendix 8 Herts Young Carers - Grant Report
- 15.9 Appendix 9 Letchworth Rugby Club - Grant Report

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## 17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 None