

**LETCHWORTH COMMITTEE
8 MARCH 2017**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

7

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS, AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, POLICY & GOVERNANCE

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS:
COUNCILLOR TONY HUNTER

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee 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, which conform to the Authority's Grants Policy
- 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 Area Committee Budget for the 2016/17 financial year as set out in Appendix 1 Letchworth Area Committee.
- 2.2 That the Committee considers the request from Impact Youth Club for grant funding of **£950** as outlined in 8.1.1. Appendix 2
- 2.3 That the Committee considers the request from The Living Room for grant funding of **£3,135** as outlined in 8.1.2. Appendix 3
- 2.4 That the Committee considers the request from The Alpha Programme (Men's Health Project) for grant funding of **£850** as outlined in 8.1.3 Appendix 4
- 2.5 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 agreed by Cabinet in June 2016.
- 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 Corporate Plan.

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 Spreadsheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2016/17.
- 7.2 The budget for the 2016/17 financial year as outlined in in Appendix 1 was £19,500. So far in the current financial year £12,223 grant funding has been released, leaving a remainder of **£7277** to be allocated by the Committee for this meeting.

The total amount of grant funding requested equates to £4,935. If all grants are awarded as requested at this meeting this will result in a requested carry over amount of £2,342 to the 2017/18 Area Committee Budget.

- 7.3 There is **£185** remaining in the carried forward amounts from within the Area Committee's 2014/15 Area Grant Budget of which £35 has been utilised (with the agreement of the Chair and Vice Chair) towards the cost of a new banner for Councillors Surgeries.

8. GRANT FUNDING AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

8.1 Grant Funding

8.1.1 Impact Youth Club

A group of parents based around the Wilbury Area of Letchworth have identified that there is a lack of organised activities for Children and Young People in the Town. They have set up a committee of volunteers and are currently in the process of surveying parents and children at local schools to find out exactly what the community would like see provided.

They envisage using the Scout Headquarters in Ickneild Way initially for 2 sessions per week to provide a drop in project for children aged 7 and upwards.

They are requesting start up funds to initiate the project and cover the costs of purchasing equipment and paying for hire of the hall for the first year.

They have calculated the net amount needed to cover this to be £3,630. The group estimate that by charging minimal entrance fee and providing light refreshments they can gain an income per annum of £1,350 and they will be making an application to the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation of £2,700 to cover the cost of hiring the venue.

The group are therefore requesting £950 grant funding from Area Committee grant budgets to pay towards equipment, materials and publicity materials.

The Impact Youth Club is a new project just starting up. The Committee are in the process of setting up their constitution and bank account. If the Area Committee Members are minded to allocate funding to this project it will not be released until officers receive the necessary evidence that the constitution has been adopted and the organisation has their own bank account.

(As outlined in 2.2, Appendix 2)

8.1.2 The Living Room

The Living Room provides support to adults (18+) and their families across Hertfordshire to break free from the cycle of addiction. They achieve this aim via the provision of the following core activities:

- Unlimited abstinence-based treatment to approximately 280 adults per year suffering from substance (e.g. drugs and alcohol) addictions and/or behavioural addictions (e.g. eating disorders, obsessive-compulsive behaviours, self-harm, gambling, etc.).
- Unlimited group therapy and support for approximately 80 family and friends per year, enabling them to identify and take care of their own needs and stop behaviours that enable another's addiction.
- An Ofsted registered Happy Days crèche (at their Stevenage centre), which enables parents to access treatment and safeguard the needs and development milestones of each child
- Parenting programmes and workshops that support parents to become healthy parents and role-models
- Community awareness-raising about addiction and its impact on families

The total cost of the project is calculated at £8,959 and the Living Room are requesting £6,270 grant funding towards the cost they are funding the balance from their own budgets via fundraising events and donations.

As the project is covering both Hitchin and Letchworth the amount is being split 50/50 which equates to £3,135 from each Committee budget.

The funding will enable the operation of an 'Addiction Recovery for Ethnic Minorities Project', in partnership with North Herts Ethnic Minority Forum.

Project aims to provide adults from ethnic minority groups with the signposting, support and treatment they need to overcome substance (e.g. drugs and alcohol) and/or behavioural addictions (e.g. eating disorders, obsessive compulsive behaviours, self-harm, gambling, etc.).

Project will last for 12 months (1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018) and the objectives of the project are as follows:

1. Project Planning Group: will establish a project planning group constituting staff from The Living Room and staff from Herts Ethnic Minority Forum. This group will meet quarterly to oversee all project planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
2. To monitor and evaluate progress using NHS recognised outcome measures, utilising statistical data from a bespoke client management database, project feedback forms, testimonies, and individual care plans.
3. They will produce an end of project evaluation report which will highlight lessons learned, including best practice recommendations for treating individuals from ethnic minority groups for addiction. This will be an entirely new piece of work for the county and we will share the report with commissioners and other addiction treatment services.

In order to promote the project culturally sensitive promotional materials (flyers and posters) will be designed and printed in order to promote the project and its launch event.

The publicity will be developed with the expertise of North Herts Ethnic Minority Forum and distributed to the following community services in Hitchin and Letchworth:

GP surgeries, community centres, children centres, places of worship, health/social care community teams (e.g. social workers, health visitors, Families First teams, and community psychiatric nurses), and voluntary sector providers (e.g. Mind, Turning Point, Carers in Hertfordshire, Home Start, North Herts Sanctuary, CGL Spectrum). Electronic versions will be distributed via their own and North Herts Ethnic Minority Forum's, email networks, e-newsletters and websites. Ongoing awareness of the project and its launch event will include: weekly social media activity and regular newspaper articles and radio interviews.

The project launch event will take place (on a weekday afternoon) at North Herts Ethnic Minority Forum for service representatives and members of the public. This event will include talks from individuals in recovery from addiction, information displays and leaflets about addiction and the opportunity to talk to counsellors in long term recovery from addiction and experienced in treating addictions.

The core project activity will constitute weekly 1:1 addiction recovery treatment (not time-limited) for adults from ethnic minority groups suffering from addiction. This treatment will be delivered by a qualified counsellor in long-term recovery from addiction either at North Herts Ethnic Minority Forum's premises, or a more discrete location (such as the client's own home), as required. Individuals will be able to refer themselves for treatment and counselling, or could be referred by their GP/support service. Use will be made of the pool of volunteer counsellors in long-term recovery from addiction to manage times of high demand.

The project will be based at North Herts Ethnic Minority Forum, and include community outreach within Hitchin, and Letchworth.
(As outlined in 2.3, Appendix 3)

8.1.3 Alpha Programme – Men's Health & Fitness

The Alpha Men's Health Programme is requesting £850 grant funding in order to enable the expansion of their football exercise and nutrition programme based at Lordship Farm School.

Over the last two years they have helped 40 men between the ages of 35 and 64 years of age both lose and maintain weight.

This will be a new initiative any funding received will not be used for existing services. 16 men are currently enrolled on the programme, additional funding will help with the recruitment of 20-25 more men.

Being a 'hard to reach' group men require different methods of enticement in order to help them engage in sport and exercise. The programme will be promoted via doctor's surgeries, local pubs, local newspapers and clubs etc. The programme has a strong social network, which in addition to participation in football also encourages discussion around food and sport.

The results and techniques from the Letchworth project will be used to roll the programme out regionally, increasing the benefits to more groups of hard-to-reach men, year-on-year, expanding the amount of men playing the sport.

Due to the nature of the nutritional support membership is required for the following reasons:

- Participant safety - as all men are monitored for health risk upon commencement and personal details are required.
- Research – weight, height and waist measurements are taken kept confidential conforming to the Data protection act.

The Alpha Programme was initially a research led initiative from which the data has been used in the director's (Mark Cortnage) Nutritional PhD. This demonstrated that through a supportive environment men can both lose and maintain a healthy weight for more than two years.

25 men will be recruited onto the programme, introducing them back into exercise through football by providing football skills training and matches. Alongside this men will receive scientifically proven nutritional support to help them make healthier lifestyle choices.

All men within the age range (35 -64) are welcome. The programme costs participants £25 per month for 4 hours of football and intensive nutritional support. For football alone, individuals usually pay around £7.50 per session. The additional £25 covers equipment, marketing and coaching support.

8.2 Community Engagement Update

- Jackie's Drop-In Centre – Now open and fully operational at their new venue on the Broadway.
- Advice to Letchworth Islamic Society in finding a suitable venue for an Islamic Community hub, possible use of Grange Youth Wing, They are currently revising a business plan and may work with the Grange Community Centre re potential future use of the facility.
- Taking over coordination of the Letchworth Youth Action Group service providers networking group.
- Coordinating the organisation of a 'micro' conference for all three north Herts Youth Action groups to encourage networking, sharing best practice and ideas.

8.3 Highways Matters

This section is included within the community update report for each committee cycle to facilitate debate and enable appropriate feedback on any of the proposed or listed Highways related schemes.

Any new proposals or revised schemes 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 and outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in June 2016.
- 9.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything:-
- An individual may generally do
 - Anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
 - For a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
 - Without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or person's resident or present 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 provides the detailed development budget for 2016/17

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Covalent, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues and should ensure that appropriate liability insurance cover is in place. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. 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 their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.3 All projects that are assigned area committee funding are assessed to ensure that they do not negatively impact on any part of the local community. The only deviation to this is where a minority or marginalised group may specifically receive funding or allocation of resources to address a particular area of need or 'gap' in provision. In this instance this applies to the grant funding requests for The Living Room, Alpha Programme (Men's Health project) and Impact Youth project.

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 Report for 2016/17
- 15.2 Appendix 2 Impact Youth Club – Grant Report
- 15.3 Appendix 3 The Alpha Programme Men’s Health – Grant Report
- 15.4 Appendix 4 The Living Room - Grant Report

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

16.1 Author: Claire Morgan Community Development Officer – Letchworth
Telephone: 01462 474226
Email: claire.morgan@north-herts.gov.uk

16.2 Contributors: Anne Miller, Assistant Accountant
Telephone: 01462 474374
Email: anne.miller@north-herts.gov.uk

Kerry Shorrocks, Corporate Human Resources Manager
Telephone: 01462 474224
Email: Kerry.shorrocks@north-herts.gov.uk

Tim Everitt, Performance Improvement Officer
Telephone: 01462 474646
Email: tim.everitt@north-herts.gov.uk

Reuben Ayavoo, Policy Officer
Telephone: 01462 474212
Email: reuben.ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk

Anthony Roche, Corporate Legal Manager and Monitoring Officer
Telephone: 01462 474588
Email: Anthony.roche@north-herts.gov.uk

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.
- 17.2 Review of Grants Policy Cabinet Report June 2016.