

TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS & FINANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved during the past month.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS**3.1 Free Parking**

The CDO distributed 2,000 fliers advertising the scheme to retailers in the town centre on the Friday and the Tuesday immediately preceding December 18th. In the event, heavy snowfall the previous night effectively rendered all NHDC car parks unusable. Given that situation, officers are investigating actual usage of car parks on that day (if any) and will consider adjusting the Committee's subsidy *pro rata* on that usage.

3.2 Angel Pavement

The CDO and the Town Centre Manager have continued liaison with the Highways Officer for the area, seeking to establish the most appropriate surface for the project. Also, an Expression of Interest for HCC PRG Vibrant Towns funding for the Refurbishment of Angel Pavement has been short-listed for further consideration, and officers have been working this project up for the second round.

3.3 Youth Council

The Royston Youth Council has continued to meet, and membership of the Royston group has risen to 8, the highest in the District. A bowling trip to Stevenage was cancelled in early December as a result of lack of clarity over attendance, but it is hoped to replace this with a group activity involving all four Youth Councils next month.

3.4 Meetings

The CDO attended a meeting of the Royston Youth Network on December 10th. This group, which comprises Extended Schools Coordinator, the Town Centre Manager, NHDC Children's and Young Persons' Development Manager, Police, and a Town Councillor, continues to meet to co-ordinate youth provision in the town and to assess the effectiveness of individual events.

3.5 Courses

The CDO attended a course on the identification of those liable to be recruited by terrorist organisations (PREVENT) on December 10th. The output of the course was an identification of local organisations with the capacity to identify such people and, form a group to take supportive and preventative measures forward as a formal plan.

4. FINANCE REPORT

4.1 The budget sheets are attached as Appendix A, and several issues arise from this.

4.2.1 Under Revenue Visioning, the third and fourth items are suggested as carry forwards under Environmental Projects.

4.2.2 Under Small Area Grants, Members are asked to approve the carry-forwards under Environmental Projects (the first two and the last lines of the section), all of which represent unspent monies returned by organisations.

4.2.3 Under Discretionary Budgets, Members are asked to re-allocate £2,180 shown as a Traffic Regulation Order, which may have related to Briary Lane/Sun Hill Waiting Restrictions. Members are also asked to re-allocate £200 shown as Ticket Issuing Machine Adjustments, which were carried out under an existing budget heading. Lastly, Members are asked to re-allocate £151 shown under Hanging Baskets, which represents un-spent monies.

4.3.1 Three grant applications have been received from Royston Town Council in respect of Museum operating costs for summer Sunday opening, Royston May Fayre and Royston in Bloom: these applications are (attached as Appendices B, C, & D.)

4.3.2 The CDO has fast-tracked a grant of £250 to The House Drop-In Centre, and this application is put before the Committee for ratification as Appendix E.

4.3.3 The CDO has put forward an application for additional funding for a Youth Shelter in Priory Memorial Gardens, which is attached as Appendix F.

4.3.5 The CDO has fast-tracked a payment of £114.20 to Royston Community Centre for the hire of rooms for public meetings to discuss flooding issues, and this is put before the Committee for ratification as Appendix G.

4.4 The Work Programme approved at the last meeting is attached as Appendix H.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Committee has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described.

5.2 There are no other legal implications pertinent to this report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix A of the report, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2009/10.

6.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2008/09 to the current financial year 2009/10.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no human resource and equalities implications pertinent to this report.

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 8.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects.
- 8.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external agencies / groups has taken place with regard to the funding proposals for Area Committee Discretionary Development Funds.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Committee approve the carry-forwards described in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 above, and indicate where they wish to consolidate any remaining funds;
- 9.2 That the Committee approve the grant applications from Royston Town Council;
- 9.2 That the Committee ratify the award made to The House Drop-In Centre;
- 9.3 That the Committee consider the award of additional funds from the Environmental Projects allocation to the installation of a Youth Shelter in Priory Memorial Gardens.
- 9.4 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being.

10. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 To ensure that the Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer.

11. CONTACT OFFICER

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