

ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE

March 6th 2013

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

TITLE OF REPORT : CHAMPION NEWS AND FINANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNCILLOR TRICIA COWLEY

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 Development Discretionary 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 Budgets and Visioning Budgets as set out in Appendix A.

Summary of funds currently available to the Committee

Unallocated 2012/13 Funds - £12, 272

- 2.2 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Royston.
- 2.3 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £1,500 to NHDC Internal Budgetary Support for "Free After Three-Thirty" parking subsidy.
- 2.4 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £1,000 to the Royston Heath Archery Club for purchase of additional bows and gazebos.

- 2.5 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £1,200 to 10th Royston Scouts to assist with DDA compliant access to a scout hut.
- 2.6 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £1,200 to Royston Volunteer Centre for replacement of their elderly PC.
- 2.7 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £300 to YOPEY for financial support.
- 2.8 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £500 to Royston's Open Secrets for support for 2013 event.
- 2.9 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £1,000 to the Friends of Meridian School for support for a new minibus.
- 2.10 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £304 to Home Start Royston & S. Cambs. for support for Healthy Eating programme.
- 2.11 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £2,300 to Budgetary Support, Royston Area Cttee. for the Underpass Mural.
- 2.12 That the Committee considers allocating £1,500 as a three-year Memorandum of Understanding to The House Drop-In Centre as already discussed at a previous meeting but not formally endorsed or minuted.
- 2.13 That the Committee considers allocating remaining funds to graffiti projects, the HangOut club at the Coombes Community Centre in Burns Road, and Highways projects.

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 in the Grants procedure.
- 3.3 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and Strategic Priorities of the Council.
- 3.4 Production of this report is a requirement of the Corporate Plan in which the Community Development Officer is required to produce a formal report to the Area Committee 6 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 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 A Area Committee Budget Spreadsheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2012/13.
- 7.2 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year 2011/12 available to the Committee.
- 7.3 The current level of unallocated funds within the Committee's Central Area Grant Budget is £12,272.

8. PROJECT/ ACTIVITY/ SCHEME DETAILS

8.1 Bus Route No.26

The CDO has received a response to his letter regarding the suggested alterations to the route of the No.26 bus on its arrival in Cambridge, following a suggestion from a member of the public. Stagecoach responded:

“This is something that we do not wish to do at this time as we feel that it will have a negative affect (sic) on the passenger (sic) wishing to travel into Cambridge if we divert the bus into the Park&Ride.”

In response to the suggestion that they consider adjusting the timetable such that a No.26 passenger could use a No.7 bus to Addenbrookes without a 59 minute wait, Stagecoach responded:

“Due to reliability issues on service Citi7, it does not operate as exactly the same minutes past each hour from this stop throughout the day. This does make it difficult to make a change to the timetable so that every 26 journey links up with a Citi7 journey. Changing this service also has an affect (sic) on our Citi8 service as the two services interwork to form a 10 minute service between Cambridge City Centre and Addenbrooke's Hospital. We will however consider this when we make the next change to this service.”

- 8.2 **Surgery 1st December 2012**
Local unavailability of affordable housing (repeat complaint)
Poor accessibility for mobility scooter users.
Anarchic parking at top of Studlands Rise, top of hill to bus stop
Incorrect signage in Mill Road
Roundabout in Orchard Road not in middle of road (repeat complaint)
Loading bays not required (repeat complaint)
Taxis not using rank
Pigeons, nothing being done.
Tree branch obscuring 30mph sign in London Road
Barriers in street at "Ad Hoc".

Surgery 2nd February 2013

Graffiti in Angel Pavement adjacent NHerts Homes shop front, opposite the Gents' Barber shop
Request for litter bins on edge of Twigdens, now it's been adopted.
Closed A1M slip-road creating huge delays for Royston residents using A1M.
Requests grit bin.
Poor condition of pavements general.
Traffic congestion Old North Road likely increase from Northstowe new town & Cranbourne, suggests link road from bypass.

The CDO will provide a verbal update on these issues at the meeting.

The next Surgery will take place in Angel Pavement on March 23rd and will be attended by Town, District and County Members as well as the Police Commissioner for Hertfordshire, David Lloyd.

8.3 **Highway salting**

The CDO found a supplier of reasonably priced plastic saltbins, and liaised with Chairman and residents to ensure appropriate locations and supply of HCC salt, for residents where the topography makes life difficult in harsh weather and their road is not on the gritting schedule.

Two bins were delivered to residents in advance of the recent snowfall, with 5 bags of salt each and situated in accordance with HCC requirements, not on Highways land.

8.4 **BMX Track**

The CD Manager and CDO met with the applicant on site in Friday December 14th to confirm their mutual understanding of the progress of the project and ensure all were aware of the next steps. The applicant has been in touch with the water supplier and has proposed a route for the new supply, starting at the Burns Road/Betjeman Road roundabout.

The applicant addressed the Local Strategic Partnership at their recent meeting and granted funds, those funds subject to the amount which will be awarded from S106: he has also been successful in his bid for substantial funding for the project from SportEngland. An application has also been passed to NHDC Planning for 106 funding towards the project; this discussed at a meeting between the HoS and planning on 18th February, following which a verbal update can be given to this meeting.

8.5 **Priory Memorial Gardens MUGA**

Members will be aware that the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) was recently granted Planning Consent to install floodlighting. An application has been placed to NHDC Planning to cover the cost of this equipment from 106 monies and thereby reduce NHDC borrowing requirements.

8.6 Underpass

The CDO has been in discussion with local teachers regarding an art project to decorate the underpass with artwork by the community at large. The teachers do not have the resources to commit to such a project, but the CDO has identified an artist who has done such work in North Herts. before (the Southfields Underpass in Letchworth) and he has submitted a quotation to undertake such a work. A request for support funding appears later in this report.

8.6 Other work

8.6.1 The NHDC Parish Challenge Panel met on January 22nd: the meeting was minuted by the CDO, who had also prepared some of the documentation.

8.6.2 CDO has also prepared evidence for the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Grants which took place recently; the outcomes and recommendations will be reported to overview and scrutiny, and the Council's Cabinet in due course..

8.6.3 The grants database has been enhanced to assist with recent changes to the administration of Mandatory Rate Relief.

8.7 GRANT FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE / CONSIDERED

8.7.1 A spreadsheet showing the detailed spend to date of the Area Committee Development budget is enclosed as Appendix A.

8.7.2 Given the support expressed by Members in the past, and following discussion in a previous meeting, the CDO has drawn up a Memorandum of Agreement between NHDC and The House Drop-In Centre in Market Hill, after discussion with Andy Williams there. The terms of the agreement are drawn at a level agreed between the two parties.

9. FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE / CONSIDERED

9.1 A spreadsheet showing the detailed spend to date of the Area Committee budgets is enclosed as Appendix A.

9.2 A grant application has been received from NHDC Internal Budgetary Support for the "Free After Three-Thirty" car-parking subsidy, and is attached as Appendix B.

9.3 A grant application has been received from Royston Heath Archery Club for purchase of additional bows and gazebos, and is attached as Appendix C.

9.4 A grant application has been received from 10th Royston Scouts for DDA compliant access to scout hut , and is attached as Appendix D.

9.5 A grant application has been received from Royston Volunteer Centre for replacement of an elderly PC, and is attached as Appendix E.

9.6 A grant application has been received from YOPEY for financial support, and is attached as Appendix F.

9.7 A grant application has been received from Royston's Open Secrets for support for their 2013 event, and is attached as Appendix G.

9.8 A grant application has been received from Friends of Meridian School for support for new minibus, and is attached as Appendix H.

- 9.9 A grant application has been received from Home Start Royston & S. Cambs. for support for Healthy Eating programme , and is attached as Appendix J.
- 9.10 A grant application has been received from Budgetary Support, Royston Area Cttee. for the Underpass Mural project, and is attached as Appendix K.
- 9.11 Members will recall that NHDC Children's Development staff operate the HangOut club for young people, based at thre Coombes Community Centre. Those staff applied to SportED for a grant of £2,000 towards the costs of operating the HangOut until September 2013, and were awarded a grant of £600. Members are asked to consider carrying forward remaining funds into the 2013-14 financial year, earmarked as support funds for the HangOut.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees confirm that they may establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations which includes discretionary grant aid/financial support. However, this does not include grants for district wide activities.
- 10.2 Section 2 Local Government Act 2000 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.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 The Committee has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 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 2012/13.
- 11.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2011/12 to the current financial year 2012/13.

12. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no risk entries that have been recorded on Covalent, the Council's Performance & Risk system. Individual events should have there 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.

13. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 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.

- 13.2 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.
- 13.3 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.

14. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 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.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report

16. APPENDICES

- 16.1 Appendix A Area Committee Budget Report 2012 – 13
- 16.2 Appendix B - Grant Form, NHDC Internal Budgetary Support
- 16.3 Appendix C - Grant Form, Royston Heath Archery Club
- 16.4 Appendix D - Grant Form, 10th Royston Scouts
- 16.5 Appendix E - Grant Form, Royston Volunteer Centre
- 16.6 Appendix F - Grant Form, YOPEY
- 16.7 Appendix G - Grant Form, Royston's Open Secrets
- 16.8 Appendix H - Grant Form, Friends of Meridian School
- 16.9 Appendix J - Grant Form, Home Start Royston & S. Cambs.
- 16.10 Appendix K - Grant Form, Budgetary Support, Royston Area Cttee.
- 16.11 Appendix L – Grant Form, MoU to The House Drop-In Centre.

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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