

TITLE OF REPORT : CHAMPION NEWS & FINANCE REPORT**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES****1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee delegated budgets.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved.
- 2.2 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards within the Area Committee Development Budget Spreadsheet attached as Appendix A.
- 2.3 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being.
- 2.4 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £1,000 to The Royston Food Bank for setting up a Food Bank in Royston (2).
- 2.5 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £1,200 to Reed Village Hall for repairs to the village hall roof.
- 2.6 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £1,500 to Royston First for Free After Three Thirty.
- 2.7 That the Committee considers making an award to the Therfield Sports & Social Club towards replacement of their cricket table mower.

- 2.8 That the Committee considers making an award of £800 for the installation of two dog-waste bins.
- 2.9 That the Committee considers making an award of budgetary support for repairs to the lighting in Royston Parish Churchyard.
- 2.10 That the Committee considers awarding support funding in relation to any potential Highways schemes as proposed and discussed under section 8.7 of this report.
- 2.11 That the Committee consider the information provided at this meeting with regard to the request for funding the new Royston Cemetery (land clearance) deferred from the last Area Committee and confirm to officers how they wish to proceed.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure that the Committee are 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 Priorities of the Council.
- 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 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 the funding proposals for Area Committee Discretionary 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 A Area Committee Budget Spreadsheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2013/14.
- 7.2 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year 2013/14 including balances and past expenditure relating to the allocated and un-allocated budgets available to the Committee.
- 7.3 The current level of unallocated funds within the Committee's Development Budget is **£12,922**, of which **£9,214** is earmarked for Environmental, Waste & Highways projects.
- 7.4 The current level of unallocated funds within the Committee's MoU Budget is **£0**.
- 7.5 The Capital Visioning budget stands at **£5,800**, representing funds recovered from an underspend on the Angel Pavement works.
- 7.6 This report has been produced to keep Members informed of the work of the Community Development Officer for Royston.

8. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS

- 8.1 The CDO has met with the Community Development Agency after their request for assistance towards establishing a database and associated website of village halls in the county.
- 8.2 The CDO attended the recent meeting of the Royston First Advisory Group, and provided minuting services.
- 8.3 The CDO is currently working on a database upgrade to enable print-out of a list of Members interests relevant to each Area Committee meeting. Further work rests with NHDC Legal before completion of the task.
- 8.4 Following discussion with young people on site, the Police, and NHDC Parks & Open Spaces staff, the CDO has negotiated provision of a youth shelter for installation close to the skatepark on the Newmarket Road Recreation Ground. This will be provided from external funding. Funding for a further shelter is also available, but this will be the subject of a local consultation exercise before this is installed.
- 8.5 The CDO has assisted the Community Development Manager (CDM) in processing this year's round of the Rural Grants Awards. 29 rural community projects throughout the district will part share in the overall budget of approximately £40k. Full details are to be announced prior to Christmas.
- 8.6 CDO & CDM assisting Therfield Sports & Social Club in proposals to rebuild pavilion.
- 8.7 CDO attended Barley Parish Council to advise on Parish & Neighbourhood Plans.
- 8.8 CDO met with Barley Parish Councillor to advise on ways forward with possible re-generation of play area on the Plaistow.

9. GRANT 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 Members should note that this indicates both the Committee's base budget (£18,660) and any monies allocated in previous years which will not be spent, as well as the carry-forwards from the 2012-13 financial year. Funds available to the Committee currently total **£12,922**.
- 9.3.1 A spreadsheet showing the detailed spend to date of the Area Committee budgets is enclosed as Appendix A.
- 9.3.2 A grant application has been received from The Royston Food Bank for setting up a Food Bank in Royston (2) , and is attached as Appendix B.
- 9.3.3 A grant application has been received from Reed Village Hall for repairs to the village hall roof , and is attached as Appendix C.
- 9.3.4 A grant application has been received from Royston First for Free After Three Thirty , and is attached as Appendix D.
- 9.3.5 A grant application has been received for funding to support the installation of two dog-waste bins, and is attached as Appendix E
- 9.3.6 A grant application has been received from Therfield Sports & Social Club for financial support in the purchase of a new cylinder mower, and is attached as Appendix F.
- 9.3.7 A request for budgetary support for the repair of lighting in St.John's Parish Church churchyard is attached as Appendix H.
- 9.3.8 A grant application made by the Royston Town Council toward clearance of land to provide a new town cemetery was deferred at the last Area Committee pending further information; a verbal update will be made at this meeting to enable members to determine their preference with regard to this grant request.

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 1 of the report, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2013/14.
- 11.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2012/13 to the current financial year 2013/14.

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 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.

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 – Finance spreadsheet.
 - 16.2 Appendix B - Grant Form, Royston Food Bank
 - 16.3 Appendix C - Grant Form, Reed Village Hall
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- 16.4 Appendix D - Grant Form, Royston First
- 16.5 Appendix E - Grant Form, Dog Waste Bins
- 16.6 Appendix F - Grant Form, Therfield Sports & Social Grant Form
- 16.7 Appendix G – 106 projects, Royston Area Cttee.
- 16.8 Appendix H – Budgetary support request, churchyard lighting.

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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