

**ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE
5 MARCH 2014**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

8

TITLE OF REPORT : CHAMPION NEWS & FINANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PORTFOLIO HOLDER – COUNCILLOR TONY HUNTER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS

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 £250 to Home Start Royston & S. Cambs. for updating and replacing family support play equipment.
- 2.5 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £536 to Royston's Open Secrets for support for annual exhibition.
- 2.6 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £750 to Royston & Villages Children's Centre for Royston & Villages Funday.

- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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 on no less than 4 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 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 and the Community Facilities Manager met with representatives of The Town House, Barley, to discuss options for its inclusion under the Rural Community Halls Funding Scheme.

8.2 The following items were raised by clients at the recent surgery held in Angel Pavement on February 1st. These are shown sorted approximately by topic.

8.2.1 Parking up Studlands Rise hazardous as it obstructs drivers' sightline
Verge parking twixt Studlands Rise & Stile Plantation causing verge damage
Poor quality of restitution works in Fish Hill after Highways rectification
State of road surface in High Street, client fell opposite Wisdom carpets.
State of road surface in High Street

Footpath to King James Way blocked with ivy, etc. Obstructs wheelchair access
Hazardous footpath in front of Health Centre, Melbourn Street
Foliage on pavement obstructing London Road, verges damaged
Damaged handrail at junction of Stakepiece and Briary Lane

Two gullies fill rapidly and overflow on London Road; cleaned 2 months ago; blocked?
Gullies down Queens Road not cleaned, so are ponding

Fly posting in Angel Pavement (these are large banners at each end)
Fix finger sign at W end of Angel Pavement (High Street)

Damaged rendering on pillar of Priory Memorial Gates on Fish Hill

- 8.3 Grit bins ordered and delivered for Therfield Parish Council.
- 8.4 CDO assisted with resolution of an issue of damage to public trees.
- 8.5 The annual round of Citizenship classes is about to commence, with three scheduled to take place before this meeting.
- 8.6 CDO conducting routine update of contacts and organisations in the grants database, to ensure conformity with Data Protection legislation.
- 8.7 CDO notes that the annual Town Meeting will take place on March 13th, 2014.

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 £9,214 carry-forward from the 2012-13 financial year. Unallocated funds available to the Committee currently amount to £1,301 in the Development Budget and a further £4,334 there, currently allocated to Highways, Environmental and Waste projects.
- 9.3 A grant application has been received from Home Start Royston & S. Cambs. for updating and replacing family support play equipment , and is attached as Appendix B.
- 9.4 A grant application has been received from Royston's Open Secrets for support for annual exhibition , and is attached as Appendix C.
- 9.5 A grant application has been received from Royston & Villages Children's Centre for Royston & Villages Funday , and is attached as Appendix D.

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, Home Start Royston & S. Cambs.
- 16.3 Appendix C - Grant Form, Royston's Open Secrets
- 16.4 Appendix D - Grant Form, Royston & Villages Children's 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.