

TITLE OF REPORT: COMMUNITY UPDATE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS**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 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 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 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 1.
- 2.3 The Committee is asked to allocate underspent funds from the 2014/15 financial year to projects for the 2015/16 financial year. Members are reminded that projects over 2 years old must be reallocated to a new project code.
- 2.4 The Committee is asked to discuss and confirm continued support for the release of Memorandum of Understanding Grants to the four Royston based groups that currently benefit namely; Royston Town Twinning (£170), Royston Cave (£750), Royston Volunteer Bureau (£2,750) and Royston Community Transport (£2,200). On confirmation from Members, the Royston CO will arrange for the release of funds during April 2015. Alternatively, if Members were to request an update from any or all of the groups, prior to the release of funds, the Royston CO will invite groups to present at the June Royston & District Area Committee Meeting.
- 2.5 The Committee considers a funding award of £1,000 to Royston Means Business to assist with costs associated with putting on their summer event, including insurance costs, road closure costs and entertainment costs.

- 2.6 The Committee considers a funding award of £1,000 to Home Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire to assist with equipment costs and group outings including trips to Standalone Farm and picnics in the park.
- 2.7 The Committee considers a funding award of £960 to Make Lunch Royston to assist with room hire costs for running the lunch club at Royston Town Hall during school holidays.
- 2.8 The Committee considers a funding award of £700 to Kelshall Village Hall to assist with the costs for resurfacing the car park area.
- 2.9 The Committee considers a funding award of £1,000 to Reed Cricket Club to assist with the costs for mobile pitch covers that can be used to cover pitches from inclement weather and improve the likelihood of play taking place and matches being completed.
- 2.10 The Committee considers a funding award of £500 to Team Ignite Youth Group to assist with the costs for..... Awaiting further details.
- 2.11 The Committee agrees to the release of £1,500 from Royston & District funds in support of the Free After 3pm Parking initiative scheme in Royston. This funding is required annually and is combined with £3,000 from the HCC Locality Pot (Cllr Tony Hunter & Cllr Fiona Hill) and £6,000 from Royston First.
- 2.12 The Committee agrees to the release of £2,000 from the Royston & District's Development Pot for Environmental, Highways & Waste Issues to assist with a deep clean of Royston High Street.
- 2.13 The Committee releases the additional funding (current estimate £300) from the Royston & District's Development Pot for Environmental, Highways & Waste Issues to cover cost of the additional salt bins, requested by residents at the November Royston Councillor Surgery. The three new salt bins are located at Shaftesbury Way, Hunters Way and The Shires.
- 2.14 The Committee acknowledges the recent funding award of £500 to Royston & District Museum & Art Gallery to assist with costs associated with running a fortnightly mothers and toddlers dance class at the museum.
- 2.15 The Committee acknowledges the recent funding award of £1,200 to Royston Volunteer Centre.
- 2.16 The Committee acknowledges the recent Start Up Grant award of £150 to Royston & Area Integrated Care CIC.
- 2.17 The Committee acknowledges the recent release of £800 from the Royston & District's Development Pot for Environmental, Highways & Waste Issues for two new dog waste bins.

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 policy.

- 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 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 1 Area Committee Budget Spreadsheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2014/15
- 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 **£14,932**
- 7.4 This report has been produced to keep Members informed of the work of the Community Officer for the Royston & District Area.

8. GRANT REQUESTS

8.1 Royston Means Business

Grant funding of £1,000 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £2,300 to associated with putting on their summer event in Royston High Street, including insurance, road closure and entertainment costs.

8.2 Home start Royston & South Cambridgeshire

Grant funding of £1,000 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £9,800 for delivering the Home Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire Programme. Funding would be used to assist with equipment costs and group outings including trips to Standalone Farm and picnics in the park.

8.3 Make Lunch Royston

Grant funding of £960 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £4,056 for Make Lunch Royston'S school holiday free lunch project. Funding would be used to cover room hire charges at Royston Town Hall. This is base on 30 sessions throughout the year.

8.4 Kelshall Village Hall

Grant funding of £700 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £1,400 for the resurfacing of the Kelshall Village car park.

8.5 Reed Cricket Club

Grant funding of £1,000 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £6,000 for mobile pitch covers that can be used to cover pitches from inclement weather and improve the likelihood of play taking place and matches being completed.

8.6 Team Ignite

(Awaiting paperwork so unsure of details yet)

8.7 Members are asked to note the funding applications currently in the pipeline but not yet ready for funding consideration as detailed in the table below. Members may wish to allocate funding to these projects for the 2015/16 financial year.

Project
Funding support to Royston Town Council to assist with a Community Art Project at Coombes Hole.
Funding support to Royston Tennis Club to assist with the purchase of a storage unit for the club.
Funding Support re Rural Schools – Ceramics & Pottery Project – Possible sessions with Reed, Barley & Therfield Shoals.

9. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS

9.1 Royston BMX Track

The Community Officer (CO) continues to work with Royston BMX group to secure funding for a new pavilion at the BMX track. The pavilion will be used for the storage of equipment as well as a providing an office for use on event days.

Since the December meeting, the group has received planning permission for the pavilion and have secured the bulk of the funding required. Funding has been received from Royston First (£10k), Royston BMX Funds (£10k) and Herts Cycling 2015 (£7.2k).

9.2 **Road Naming in Royston**

The Royston Town submitted a formal application for the naming of a new road in Royston. The road linking Market Hill and Fish Hill is to be named Market Link.

The formal application has now been agreed by Highways and the name plates should be installed during early April 2015 by the Street Naming & Numbering Officer.

9.3 **Salt Bins in Royston**

As detailed in 2.13 above, Royston & District Committee have purchased and installed 3 salt bins for the town, all of which were in place and operational in time for the cold weather spell during late January / early February. The salt bins, which were requested by residents at Councillor Surgeries, have been placed at Shaftesbury Way, Hunters Way and The Shires.

9.4 **Dog Waste Bins in Royston**

The Royston CO, at the request of Royston & District Committee Members has been liaising with colleagues in Grounds Maintenance on the installation of two new dog waste bins in Royston. The bins have now been installed and are located at York Way Park and Elliot Road.

9.5 **Finger Post Maintenance in Royston**

The Royston CO has identified funding within the North Herts District Council's Town Centre Maintenance budget pot for addressing the 'finger post', directing public to local places of interest, project.

The contractors Marshals have been contracted for the works and these will be carried out during June 2015. These works will also coincide with maintenance works to the benches, bins and other street furniture in Royston which will all be repainted. This work is also likely to be undertaken by Marshals, who carried out the previous maintenance works during 2010.

Royston First, will be paying for additional finger posts ahead of these required works, signposting people to the new Information Point at Royston Library.

9.6 **Barkway 10k**

The Royston CO is assisting the Barkway Parish Council with their plans for a Barkway 10k run which will be held for the first time on Sunday 10th May, starting at 930am.

9.7 **Royston 3k Summer Fun Run**

The Royston CO is working with colleagues in Active Communities on the first ever Royston 3k Summer Fun Run. This will be held for the first time on Sunday 17th May. The run will start and finish at Royston Leisure Centre and will take runners along footpaths and public rights of way around the Twigden Estate. The event organisers are seeking volunteers to be marshals on the day and would be grateful of any support from Royston & District Committee Members.

9.8 **Highways Matters**

It is proposed that a section entitled 'Highways Matters' is included within the Area Champion's Grant applications and community update Report for each committee cycle to facilitate debate and enable appropriate feedback on any of the proposed or listed schemes. This is to ensure that communication remains effective following the demise of the previous Joint Member Panel for each district.

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.

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 support. However, this does not include grants for district wide activities.
- 10.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 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 2014/15.
- 11.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2013/14 to the current financial year 2014/15.
- 11.3 Members are asked to allocate any underspent funds from the 2014/15 financial year to projects for the 2015/16 period.
- 11.4 In the past few years there has been no inflationary allowance to the Area Committee Budgets and the 2014/15 baseline budget has stayed the same as the previous year.

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.

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 1 – Area Committee Development Budget Spreadsheet 2014/15.
- 16.2 Appendix 2 – Area Committee Grant Form – Royston Means Business
- 16.3 Appendix 3 – Area Committee Grant Form – Home Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire
- 16.4 Appendix 4 – Area Committee Grant Form – Make Lunch Royston
- 16.5 Appendix 5 – Area Committee Grant Form – Kelshall Village Hall
- 16.6 Appendix 6 – Area Committee Grant Form – Reed Cricket Club
- 16.7 Appendix 7 – Area Committee Grant Form – Team Ignite Youth Group

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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