

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANT APPLICATIONS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE**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 consider a Grant Application of £380 to Royston Community Health to assist with the purchase of publicity and promotional materials for the group to use at workshops and events in Royston to raise their awareness.
- 2.4 The Committee is asked to consider a Grant Application of £1000 to Royston Museum & Art Gallery to assist with costs for running the Toddler Music and Dance Workshops at the centre in 2016. Funding will assist with publicity costs such as posters and flyers and also equipment costs and a proportion of the fee for hiring a dance teacher to run the sessions.
- 2.5 The Committee is asked to consider a Grant Application of £700 to Make Lunch Royston to cover hall rental costs for 2016.
- 2.6 The Committee is asked to consider a Grant Application of £1200 to Royston Volunteer Centre to assist with costs associated with running a series of workshops throughout 2016 both at the Volunteer Centre and other identified outreach locations for soon to

retire, newly retired and retired individuals to enable them to access the benefits of volunteering. Funding will be used for publicity materials to promote the workshops, website development and travel expenses.

- 2.7 The Committee is asked to consider a Grant Application of £1500 to Home Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire to assist with room hire costs at the Methodist Church Hall in Royston and also for material costs for play activities.
- 2.8 The Committee is asked to consider a Grant Award of £1000 to Reed Cricket Club to assist with the purchase of nets matting and a Water Hog to aid water removal from the cricket table.
- 2.9 The Committee is asked to consider a Grant Award of £1200 to Royston may Fayre Committee to assist with equipment hire charges for the event namely bungee trampolines.
- 2.10 The Committee is asked to consider a Grant Award of £305 to Burns Road Hangout Youth Club via Royston Community Association to assist with costs for running 3 activity days for young people.
- 2.11 The Committee is asked to consider a Grant Award of £1500 to the Barley Playground Refurbishment Committee to assist in the overall redevelopment of the village's main play area.
- 2.12 The Committee is asked to consider a Grant Award of £500 to Royston Rugby Club – Women's Team to assist with equipment and coaching costs.
- 2.13 The Committee is asked to endorse the release of £1500 from the Royston & District Area Committee 2015/16 Base Budget to the Free after 3pm Royston Parking Initiative Scheme.
- 2.14 The Committee is asked to comment on point 8.11 below with reference to those groups formerly in receipt of formal grant funding in the past via Area Committee based MoU agreements.
- 2.15 The Committee is asked to comment on point 8.12 below with reference to the allocation of underspent budget from the 2015/16 financial year.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure that the Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community 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.

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. ISSUES

- 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 2015/16.
- 7.2 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year 2014/15 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 **£13,103**. The Committee also has **£2,499** funding available in the pre-allocated funds brought forward from the 2014/15 financial year.
- 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 Community Health

Grant funding of £380 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £570 to assist with costs of publicity and promotional materials for the group to use at workshops and events in Royston to raise their awareness.

8.2 Royston Museum & Art Gallery

Grant funding of £1000 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £2000 to assist with costs for running the Toddler Music and Dance Workshops at the centre during 2016. Funding will assist with publicity costs such as posters and flyers and also equipment costs and a proportion of the fee for hiring a dance teacher to run the sessions.

8.3 Make Lunch Royston

Grant funding of £700 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £4000 for the Make Lunch Royston project in 2016. Funding requested will be used to cover the hall rental costs.

8.4 Royston Volunteer Centre

Grant funding of £1200 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £2400 to assist with costs associated with running a series of workshops throughout 2016 both at the Volunteer Centre and other venues in Royston for soon to retire, newly retired and retired individuals to enable them to access the benefits of volunteering. Funding will be used for publicity materials to promote the workshops, website development, venue hire costs and travel expenses. The Royston Volunteer Centre already benefits from low cost accommodation in an NHDC owned building.

8.5 Home Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire

Grant funding of £1500 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £9800 for running the weekly Family support group at Royston Methodist Church during term times. Funding will be used to cover room hire costs at the Church and also for material costs for play activities.

8.6 Reed Cricket Club

Grant funding of £1000 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £3070 to assist Reed Cricket Club with the purchase of nets matting and a Water Hog to aid water removal from the cricket table. This will enable the group to play more matches over the summer months which would otherwise be abandoned.

8.7 Royston May Fayre Committee

Grant funding of £1200 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £4125 to assist with equipment costs at the Royston May Fayre event. The funding will pay for the hire of bungee trampolines and also free usage for all that attends the event.

8.8 Royston Community Association

Grant funding of £305 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £1500 to assist with costs for running activity days for those that attend the Burns Road Hangout Youth Club at Coombes Community Centre. Funding will be used to assist with transport costs, room hire costs, publicity costs and equipment costs.

8.9 Barley Playground Refurbishment Committee

Following views & comments from local families Barley Parish Council recognised that the village playground located on The Plaistow (playing field) was not fulfilling its potential as an enjoyable and well-used outdoor space for children of all ages. As a result, the Barley Playground Refurbishment Committee (BPRC) was formed as a subcommittee of the Barley Parish Council, consisting of a nominated Councillor and a group of local parents.

The group's main aim is to provide a modern, safe and imaginatively designed play facility, where children of all ages are encouraged to play outdoors all year round. The group has also carried out a tender process seeking value for money and the most appropriate range of equipment. The preferred contractor / scheme has advised that early Spring would be the most opportune time to install the new playground and that the facility would then be ready for use by local families over the summer.

The group is looking to raise in the region of £35K for the main phase of the refurbishment. This includes groundworks, equipment, installation & safety checks etc.

BPRC has locally raised over £11K (children's disco, wine tasting, quiz night, gin tasting, auction of promises, private donations). The Barley Parish Council has contributed £5,763 and was also successful in securing a scaled back Playground Fund award of £1,981.

The group has also recently been awarded £9,795 via a funding application made to Awards for All and is now looking to try and close the funding gap required to undertake the overall scheme. The group is seeking any routes possible to try and achieve this and is asking the Royston & District Area Committee to consider a grant award in the region of £3k.

The Area Committee may wish to note that the Parish Council is a precepting body which has the power to raise funds for such projects in its own right.

8.10 Royston Rugby Club – Women's Team

Grant funding of £500 is requested to contribute towards the total cost of £1000 to assist with the set up of a new women's rugby team in Royston. Funding will be used to purchase equipment including ladies size rugby balls, cones, water bottles, bibs and first aid kits. Funding will also be used to cover coaching costs for the newly formed club.

8.11 Former Memorandum of Understanding Funded Groups

Members will note that for the 2015/16 financial year all those groups in Royston which had formerly received a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) award covering the 3 year period of 2012 – 2015, were granted a one year extension to cover the current financial year (2015/16).

Those groups in receipt of the extended MoU grant agreements) were Royston Volunteer Centre (£2750), Royston Community Transport (£2200), Royston Cave (£750) and Royston Town Twinning (£170).

The funds covering these one year extensions were ultimately drawn from the Area Committee's main budget and Members may wish to consider the most appropriate way of supporting such groups / organisations in the future.

Members may note that other Area Committees have taken the view that former MoU funded groups can simply apply for an area grant award via their respective Area Committees if and when they require such support / assistance and that applications like any other request for financial support will be assessed on its own merits at that particular time.

8.12 Royston & District Area Committee – Remaining Budget

Members are asked to note that any funds remaining in the base budget or preallocated budget needs to be allocated to a project for the 2016/17 financial year.

If members were to grant all funding requests at the March meeting, £1,800 would be left in the budget for allocating to projects in the 2016/17 financial year. Members could allocate funding specific to projects detailed in 8.11 below and also to ongoing projects in Royston such as the Royston Big Tidy Up scheme.

8.13 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.

Project
Funding Support to assist with costs for putting on a Royston Hill Climb Cycle Event in 2016.
Funding Support to assist with costs for putting on the Barkway 10k in 2016.
Funding support to Barkway Village Hall to assist with extension and kitchen refurbishment works.
Funding support to Royston Town Youth FC to assist with equipment costs and publicity costs for a new youth team for 4-6 year olds.
Funding support to Royston Country Markets to assist with the purchase of equipment and publicity costs.
Funding support to Rotary Club of Royston to assist with costs associated with their 4 main events of the year including the Technology Tournament and the Royston Kite Festival.
Funding support to Corvus Cornix Basketball Club to assist with equipment and training costs.
Funding support to Therfield Pre-School re a joint venture with Therfield Sports Club in the provision of a new facility / pavilion on the recreation ground on Police Row, Therfield..
Funding Support to Nuthampstead Shooting Ground to assist with a project to establish training & coaching classroom facility at the venue.

9. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS

9.1 Royston Town Centre Working Party

The Royston CO continues to work with County, District and Town Councillors and partner organisations on the Royston Town Centre Working Party. To date this group has co-ordinated a number of deep cleans in the High Street, painting and maintenance works to the High Street furniture and re-positioning works to finger posts. As well as further deep cleans in the High Street in 2016, the group is working on a number of initiatives, the first of which will be the clean for the queen event on 5th March. The Royston CO will assist in promoting this event and will also be assisting on the day.

9.2 Land at the end of Green Drift

The Royston CO continues to liaise with colleagues at Hertfordshire Highways regarding the unadopted land at the end of Green Drift. The Royston CO will be carrying out a consultation exercise with the residents of Green Drift and Ivy Lane during the first quarter of 2016 to gauge opinion on a formalised pathway at the location. This activity is required prior to the formal adoption of the land by Hertfordshire Highways,

9.3 Royston Festival

The Royston CO continues to liaise with and provide advice to the Royston Festival Committee and attends meetings as appropriate. The 2016 Royston Festival will see a change in format compared with previous years with the festival being held over a single weekend rather than 2 weeks.

9.4 **Royston Means Business Christmas Event**

The Royston Means Business Christmas event was held on Saturday 12th December and despite the poor weather was well supported with many stall holders selling out on the day. The Royston CO was in attendance throughout the day to ensure the event ran smoothly. Road Signage purchased using funding received from the Royston & District Area Committee was used for the event and ensured the traffic management arrangements in respect of the road closure and diversion worked effectively on the day.

9.5 **Barkway Parish Council**

The Royston CO is supporting the Barkway Parish Council with their planning for extension and kitchen works at Barkway Village Hall. The project is projected to cost in the region of £50k and the Royston CO is investigating possible funding routes to generate in the region of £20k for the building works. Barkway Parish Council are awaiting Planning permission for the project and have made enquiries with local builders regarding the proposed works but with proposed builders currently busy on projects, the Parish Council have decided to delay the project until 2017.

9.6 **Royston Road Cycling Criterium Event**

The Royston CO and CM were working with Councillor Ben Lewis on a Road Cycling Race for Royston Town Centre. Officers had met with representatives from County Council but unfortunately the route was considered to small to be included, as envisaged in the Hertfordshire Cycle Grand Prix Series.

As an alternative the group is now looking to set up a Royston Cycle Hill Climb event which will be held on Studlands rise during September 2016.

The Royston CO will provide updates on this project in future Community Updates during 2016.

9.7 **Therfield Pre-School**

The Royston CO and CM have met with representatives from Therfield Pre-School who are looking for support in finding a more suitable venue for the group within the village.

Therfield Pre-school is currently run from the Village Hall but the facility has limitations in terms of spacing both for the children and with parking.

The Royston CO and CM will work with representatives from Therfield Pre-School, Therfield Sports & Cricket Club and Royston Cricket Club to try and develop a community hub type facility for all parties within the village, possibly on the Police Row recreation ground potentially utilising the existing land & services currently supplying the existing pavilion.

9.8 **Nuthampstead Shooting Club**

The Royston CO and CM have met with representatives from Nuthampstead Shooting Club Facility and the national co-ordinator for the sport from Sport England, who are seeking support for the development of training & coaching classroom facility at the venue. Nuthampstead Shooting Club is a key regional training facility for the sport and is used by the Great Britain Shooting Team.

As well as being used by the Olympic Team, the venue is also a base for a number of local shooting clubs in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

The Club is looking for a stand alone classroom facility adjacent to the main Club House which can be used for training and coaching sessions.

The Royston CO is making enquiries with Hertfordshire County Council to ascertain if a redundant mobile classroom is available that the group could utilise.

There may also be a possibility of potentially seeking funding via the Eastern Plateau funding programme that looks to support diversification and the development of employment opportunities in the designated rural areas within North & East Hertfordshire.

9.9 **Royston Rockets BMX**

Royston Rockets are looking to add an 80m sprint training strip to the venue which would be used for sprint training and bike skills training especially for new / young riders before they go onto the BMX Track itself. The estimated cost of this new venture is in the region of £10k.

The Royston CO is liaising with colleagues in Planning to ascertain if planning permission is required and will also assist the group in finding funding for the project.

9.10 **Echo Hill Community Salt Bin**

Following a request raised at the recent Joint County, District & Town Royston Councillor Surgery and subsequent agreement from Royston & District Area Committee, the Royston CO organised the purchase and installation of a Community Salt Bin for Echo Hill Estate in Royston.

9.11 **Highways Matters**

This section is included within the community update report for each committee cycle to facilitate debate and enable appropriate feedback on any of the proposed or listed Highways related schemes.

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 include discretionary grant aid/financial support but excluding grants for district-wide activities. The Committee has delegated powers, as a body, to allocate discretionary budgets and devolved budgets within the terms determined by the Council.

10.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the power to do anything that individuals generally may do. This may be for, or otherwise than for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident in its area.

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 **as a body** has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described. Whilst individual ward members may comment on and support (or not) any

grant application put before the committee, the decision to award is afforded only to the Southern Rural Area Committee itself under the Council's Constitution and provided such committee is quorate at the time of such decision.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In the past few years there has been no inflationary allowance to the main Area Committee Budget and the 2015/16 baseline budget has stayed the same as the previous year.
- 11.2 Appendix 1 provides details of the 2015/16 budget position for the Area Committee.

12. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no relevant 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 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 2015/16.
- 16.2 Appendix 2 – Area Committee Grant Form – Royston Community Health
- 16.3 Appendix 3 – Area Committee Grant Form – Royston Museum & Art Gallery
- 16.4 Appendix 4 – Area Committee Grant Form – Make Lunch Royston
- 16.5 Appendix 5 – Area Committee Grant Form – Royston Volunteer Centre
- 16.6 Appendix 6 – Area Committee Grant Form – Home Start Royston & South Cambs
- 16.7 Appendix 7 – Area Committee Grant Form – Reed Cricket Club
- 16.8 Appendix 8 – Area Committee Grant Form – Royston May Fayre Committee
- 16.9 Appendix 9 – Area Committee Grant Form – Royston Community Association
- 16.10 Appendix 10 – Area Committee Grant Form – Barley Playground Committee
- 16.11 Appendix 11 – Area Committee Grant Form – Royston Rugby Club – Women’s Team

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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