

**ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE
1 MARCH 2017**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

8

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANT APPLICATIONS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FINANCE, POLICY & GOVERNANCE

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS:
COUNCILLOR TONY HUNTER

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 any likely budget underspend from 2016/17 to potential projects to be carried forward to the Committee's 2017/18 budget.
- 2.3 The Committee is asked to consider a grant award of £1,000 to Royston Rockets BMX racing club to assist with costs for installing a hard standing area round the club cabin.
- 2.4 The Committee is asked to consider a grant award of £250 to Parkinson's UK to assist with costs for setting up a support group in Royston.
- 2.5 The Committee is asked to consider a grant award of £250 to Royston Town Youth Football Club to assist with costs for setting up a Futsal club for children in Royston.

- 2.6 The Committee agrees the release of £1,500 in support of the Free After 3pm Parking initiative scheme for the town. This funding is required annually and is combined with £3,000 from the HCC Ward Member Locality Budget (HCCllr Tony Hunter & HCCllr Fiona Hill) and £6,500 from Royston First.

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 expressed in the Corporate Plan.

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 2016/17.
- 7.2 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year 2015/16 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: - **£3,395**. This figure includes £200 which was originally allocated to dog bins but was reallocated to the 2016/17 base budget at the request of Members at the November 2016 Royston & District Area Committee meeting.
- 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 Rockets BMX Club

The Committee is asked to consider a Grant Award of £1000 to contribute towards the total cost of £2000 for Royston Rockets BMX Club to install a hard standing area round their club office. This is needed to keep the area free from water / mud damage especially around the door and kitchen / office windows where people queue for race /coaching registration and food.

8.2 Parkinson's UK

The Committee is asked to consider a Start Up Grant Award of £250, to contribute towards the total cost of £4,100 for Parkinson's UK to set up a support group for residents of Royston and surrounding villages. The £250 funding added to the £2000 committed by Parkinson's UK would fund the project for a month. Any additional funding the Committee was minded to approve would add to the longevity of the project.

8.3 Royston Youth FC Futsal Project

The Committee is asked to consider a Start Up Grant Award of £250 to contribute towards the total cost of £330 for Royston Youth FC to set up a Futsal Club in Royston for children of all ages. Funding would be used to purchase futsal goals, mini-futsal goals, footballs, cones and bibs.

8.4 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 advice & support to Barkway Parish Council to assist with extension and kitchen refurbishment works at Barkway Village Hall. Planning deferred until 2017. Such works could form a future application to the Authority's Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme.
Initial funding advice and support to Barkway & Barley 1 st Schools re proposals to develop and enhance external playground areas at both sites.
Initial funding advice & support to assist Reed 1 st School in the development of a village library / community learning hub facility.
Advice & support to the Coombes Community Centre Manager re possible future enhancements / refurbishment projects to the facility. £43k s106 / UU contributions have been assigned to the works proposed to the former bar / clubroom area on the first floor. Others proposed works will possibly form a future application to the Authority's Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme.
Funding advice and support to Reed Cricket Club to assist with purchase of new equipment including training nets.

9. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS

9.1 Land at the end of Green Drift

The Royston CO continues to liaise with colleagues at Hertfordshire Highways and Moody Homes regarding the unadopted land at the end of Green Drift.

Work was due to commence on the pathway during January 2017 but this has been delayed whilst building works are carried out at a property backing onto the pathway. Once these works are complete, the pathway project can commence. It is envisaged that the project will be carried out during the 2nd quarter of 2017.

Once the pathway is brought up to specification, the gates have been removed and signage erected, the pathway will be adopted as a Hertfordshire Right of Way.

9.2 Therfield Pre-School

The Royston CO & CM continue to work with Therfield Pre-school and other interested parties on a new pavilion project for Therfield. The project is being driven by Therfield Pre-School and Therfield Cricket Club.

The group have been given consent by Royston Conservators to develop a new pavilion on the land of the current pavilion site.

The group is to hold a series of public meetings to gauge views on the proposed new pavilion design. The first has been scheduled for Saturday 25th February 2017 at the Village Hall from 11.00am to 2.30pm. Following these meetings, the Royston CO and CM will work with the group on identifying suitable funding streams for the project and provide support with any applications.

9.3 Royston Youth Network Group

The Royston CO continues to chair and support the Royston Youth Network Group. The group currently meets quarterly and is a good sounding board for youth issues in Royston, sharing of good practice and co-ordinating of activities. A key aim of the group in 2017 is to develop a calendar of events/activities for Young People within Royston and to ensure this is well publicised locally.

9.4 Coombes Community Association

The Royston CO continues to sit on the Coombes Community Association as the North Herts District Council's representative. During 2017, the Royston CO and CM will be assisting the group with identifying funding streams to assist with the refurbishment of the former bar & club room area and signposting potential users to the venue. This area of the building will hopefully be a vital income generator for the association.

9.5 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 and outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in June 2016.
- 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 Royston & District 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 Appendix 1 provides details of the 2016/17 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 and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. 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 2016/17.
- 16.2 Appendix 2 – Area Committee Grant Form – Royston Rockets BMX Club
- 16.3 Appendix 3 – Area Committee Grant Form – Parkinson's UK
- 16.4 Appendix 4 – Area Committee Grant Form – Royston Youth FC Futsal Scheme

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 18.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.
- 18.2 Review of Grants Policy Report to Cabinet June 2016.