

**SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE  
2 MARCH 2017**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM No.**

**7**

**TITLE OF REPORT: COMMUNITY UPDATE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS**

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 on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee delegated budgets.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Area Committee Grant Funding made by community groups and local organisations.
- 1.3 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Officer has been involved.
- 1.4 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will take place during the next few months.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards within the Area Committee Development Budget Spreadsheet attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 That the Committee considers a grant award of £1,000 to Graveley Village Hall to assist with the installation of safety railings to the hall's entrance steps, as detailed in Appendix 2 and 8.1 of this report.
- 2.3 That the Committee considers a grant award to Codicote Football Club to assist with operational & maintenance costs, as detailed in Appendix 3 and 8.2 of this report.
- 2.4 That the Committee considers a grant award of £800 to Breachwood Green Cricket Club to assist with the provision of a mobile practice cage, as detailed in Appendix 4 and 8.3 of this report.
- 2.5. That the Committee considers a grant award of £1,500 to Within the Walls Garden Project to assist with the provision of an outside shelter, as detailed in Appendix 5 and 8.4 of this report.
- 2.6 That the Committee considers a grant award of £1,500 to Kimpton Folk Festival to assist with associated costs in running this year's event, as detailed in Appendix 6 and 8.5 of this report.

- 2.7 That the Committee considers a grant award of £1,000 to Ickleford Village Hall to assist with installation of a new external door directly opening onto the preschool play area, as detailed in Appendix 7 and 8.6 of this report.
- 2.8 That the Committee considers a grant award of £500 to Codicote Neighbourhood Planning Forum to assist with costs relating to the consultation stages in developing a neighbourhood plan for the village / area, as detailed in Appendix 8 and 8.7 of this report.
- 2.9 That the Committee considers a grant award of £400 to Preston Neighbourhood Plan Group to assist with costs relating to the consultation stages in developing a neighbourhood plan for the village / area, as detailed in Appendix 9 and 8.8 of this report.
- 2.10 That the Committee considers a grant award of £600 to St Ippolyts Village Hall to assist with costs in replacing the hall's commercial grade dishwasher, as detailed in Appendix 10 and 8.9 of this report.
- 2.11 That the Committee considers a grant award of £800 to Knebworth Community Chorus to assist with the provision of new musical equipment / instruments, as detailed in Appendix 11 and 8.10 of this report.
- 2.12 That the Committee considers a Ward grant award of £500 to Offley Tennis Club to assist with start up costs of the new club, as detailed in Appendix 12 and 8.11 of this report.
- 2.13 That the Committee considers a Ward grant award of £500 to Kimpton Rugby Football Club to assist with costs relating to the refurbishment of the on site external equipment storage unit, as detailed in Appendix 13 and 8.12 of this report.
- 2.14 That the Committee considers a Ward grant award to Strawberry Fields Children's Centre to assist with costs, as detailed in Appendix 14 and 8.13 of this report.
- 2.15 That the Committee considers a Ward grant award of £250 to St Paul's Walden Litter Picking Scheme to assist with costs of purchasing litters pickers for use by the voluntary group, as detailed in Appendix 15 and 8.14 of this report.
- 2.16 That the Committee considers a Ward grant award of £300 to Knebworth Twinning Association to assist with annual insurance premiums relating to the association's programme of events & activities, as detailed in Appendix 16 and 8.15 of this report.
- 2.17 That the Committee considers a Ward grant award to Hexton community petanque project, as detailed in Appendix 17 and 8.16 of this report.
- 2.18 The Committee is asked to note the activities and schemes with which the Community Officer has been involved.

### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 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.

3.2 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.

3.3 To ensure that the Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Officer.

#### **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 within this report.

#### **5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

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 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 for 2016/17 is **£6,756**

7.4 The current level of unallocated within the Committee's Ward Members 2016/17 Budget is **£5,000**

#### **8. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS**

##### **8.1 Graveley Village Hall**

The Hall's management committee is seeking financial assistance in the region of £1,000 from the Area Committee to help towards the costs of installing safety railings alongside the main flight of steps into the village hall. The total estimated cost for the works is £2,367 and the group is seeking further funding from the Parish Council (£500tbc) and where possible grants from other sources.

The current railings are simply a rail with no side post and there is a long drop from the top of the steps down on to concrete on one side.

Like other village halls within the Southern Rural Area, the Hall's programme of activities provided by various user groups is quite extensive. The building is used daily by the Graveley Playgroup catering for the under fives, and in the evening and at weekends it's used by a wide range of users, young and old, all gaining access to the Hall via the main steps.

The Management Committee would like to install safety railings in order to ensure the safety of all users accessing activities & services at the Hall.

## 8.2 **Codicote Football Club**

The Codicote Football Club is committed to enhancing facilities and raising the level of Football and coaching delivered at the Recreation Ground at Bury Lane, Codicote. In doing so it has a series of potential projects on the go at any one time.

Current projects the club would like to address / improve at the site include:-

- The provision of a shelter for wheelchair spectators. The Club currently has a walkway around the pitch but no sheltered accommodation. Unfortunately the seated stand does not cater for wheel chair access
- Pitch maintenance – The Parish Council doesn't have a full pitch maintenance program to the level which supports the current use / activity of the grassed areas at the site. Therefore each of the resident clubs takes on the additional drilling, rolling and special treatments required re their respective playing areas. Such works are becoming extremely costly as they need to engage specialist contractors each time and drainage at the site very poor. The club is therefore looking to purchase its own sit on mower & roller and would get volunteers within the club to undertake the works.
- Training - As a Charter Standard Club, it needs to achieve a level of coaching and first aid for the club to keep its kite mark. This unfortunately means training needs to be completed of a regular basis and coaches and management within the club inevitably move on in time. Therefore, there is a need to continually train and assist volunteers in taking on roles within the Club, which require the attendance to various training seminars / sessions and the club looks to help each volunteer with any associated cost.
- A longer term project is to extend the new walkway from its current position to the disabled parking spot in the near future.

The Club is looking for any financial assistance the Area Committee might be minded to award re undertaking elements of the above list of current needs / initiatives.

## 8.3 **Breachwood Green Cricket Club**

Breachwood Green Cricket Club is planning to install a new artificial cricket pitch on the area they currently use at the recreation ground, plus the possibility of a mobile batting net that can be wheeled out to the square for practicing.

Other areas that the club will be fundraising for include:

- New ground equipment (line marker, boundary markers, site screens etc)
- New playing equipment (stumps, balls, bats etc)
- Refurbishment of changing rooms

The Club is making a conscious effort this year to put an emphasis on recruitment of playing members and they feel funding to improve the areas listed above will make the club more attractive to potential new members.

The Club is therefore seeking funding support from the Area Committee for a mobile cage style practice batting net costing £1,153.94

#### 8.4 **Within the Walls Garden Project – Down The Wood Forest School**

Within the Walls Garden Project is part of Down The Woods Forest School which focuses on improving the physical and mental health of children and adults by getting them outdoors.

The group enable people to participate in activities and games designed to build self-esteem, communication skills, independence and self-confidence through an appreciation of the natural environment.

Their aim is to encourage physical and emotional development through outdoor play and activities, children and young people have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others.

At the garden project the group intends to offer opportunities for older people to participate in growing, gardening, building and learning new skills. For example young people Not in Employment Education or Training, older unemployed people, people living on their own possibly suffering from mental health issues and / or dementia.

The Forest School meets in various woodland and outdoor locations and the Within the Walls project is situated in St Pauls Walden.

The group is seeking funding for an outdoor classroom in the form of a yurt to be used at the project's site which is on part of an estate with crops and animals. The walled garden was used originally to grow veg for the main house, and for the last five years was an allotment tended by two local men who ran a community veg box scheme.

It is therefore important that the group maintain the natural outlook of the land and do not erect structures that are so permanent as to harm the land. The yurt is a very natural structure, which would be sourced in this country to would provide shade in the summer and shelter in the winter.

The group plan to add a wood burning stove for the colder months and equally in summer the sides can be rolled up for ventilation. Their whole ethos is about being as environmentally aware as possible, plus offering opportunities to people both local and further afield. Ultimately the yurt could be removed without leaving a footprint.

Currently there is a small shed and a greenhouse on site, but the yurt would provide a base for staff and volunteers (briefings/training/meetings).

The Garden Gang toddler group use the Within the Walls facility weekly and are out in all weathers. However there have been circumstances where the weather caused the sessions to be postponed as it was just too wet. Whilst the group would encourage people to be outside, an indoor facility would enable them to come every week, but still give the feeling of being outside rather than in a more solid conventional building.

The 11th Hitchin (Holy Saviour) Guide Group have done volunteering for the project and could come more often and stay for longer, if there was an alternative indoor / shelter facility for activities and breaks.

The group could also offer more activities if it was certain that they would not run the risk of cancelling anything because of bad weather, eg felt-making, woodland craft, floral wreath making. Other activities which need to be outside such as hedge-laying, pole-lathe wood turning and willow weaving would also benefit from being able to offer its participants somewhere dry to go.

At the moment the project is used by around five toddler group families who could continue on a more frequent basis; plus a home school group currently of 10 people who intend to come weekly.

Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts following a presentation to their District Commissioners last month also intend to participate termly. Groundwork Herts are looking to situate some of their Green Team/Green Skills courses there for their volunteers.

Horticultural therapist Su Harvey from Growing People also who wants to bring groups of around 10 people with dementia for weekly sessions to the project. The group has spoken with North Herts College about taking student placements and one such group will be attending in March.

They would also like to run training courses/sessions in hedge-laying, willow weaving, archery, floral displays, container gardening, as well as maintaining the sites own vegetables and wild flowers.

The project is still very much in its infancy and they recently secured funding from the Tesco Bags For Help scheme, which will pay for some landscaping at the site. The group still needs to find funds for compost toilets and storage shed which they hope to build from reclaimed materials.

## 8.5 **Kimpton Folk Festival**

This year's festival is planned to take place on Saturday July 1st 2017 from 12 noon to 11pm, delivered from the village's Memorial Hall, Kimpton Parish Church, the Village Green, The Boot Public House and the Dacre Rooms.

The organising group is now registered by the Charity Commission as a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation and has a voluntary management committee of 10 people with a further 60 or so volunteers who help with the event.

The festival will comprise of:-

- A wide range of local folk musicians with performances by a number of well-known folk musicians including some up-and-coming young local folk musicians.
- Performances by groups of schoolchildren from local schools and other local choirs. Music Workshops aimed at introducing all ages to folk music and to help existing musicians improve their understanding and skills.
- Folk music sessions (all afternoon), hosted by experienced folk musicians, at which anyone can play and sing.
- Morris and Appalachian Dancing, Story-telling in a Tepee, a range of stalls including locally-made crafts, food and beverage focusing on sustainable/organic products (incl. locally-produced foods, soft drinks, real ales)
- Other family-friendly activities incl. face painting

The festival's aims are to:-

- Provide a stage for local musicians to showcase their talents
- Generate increased awareness in folk music, local crafts and community.
- Generate an awareness of Kimpton as a local centre of folk music
- Stimulate links between Kimpton Folk Club and neighbouring folk clubs
- Encourage young people to develop an interest in folk music
- Secure the participation of several local schools, including groups of schoolchildren being taught folk songs with the assistance of Kimpton Folk Events members for performing at the Folk Festival
- Secure the participation of other local choirs
- Provide a family day-out and to further develop a sense of local community among families and local residents
- Provide a forum for local organisations and small businesses to promote their existence and activities

Main concerts will be held in Kimpton Memorial Hall and in Kimpton Parish Church. The Village Green will act as a central location for the Festival, where food, drinks and a range of craft stalls will be located and where a variety of musical performances will take place, including by local choirs.

A series of Workshops (different instruments, singing, song writing) will take place in the Dacre Rooms, close to the Village Green. Folk music sessions will also take place at the Boot Public House, where Morris and Appalachian Dancing will also be performed. Professional assistance with stage set-up / sound system / PA will be secured and provided

## **Expenditure**

### Staging of the Event

Memorial Hall Hire	310
Marquee Hire – Green	150
Church Hire	200
PA System – Hall & Green	700
PA System – Church	300
Stage & Set-up – Green	100
Dacre Rooms Hire	50
Hay Bales	115
Field Hire – Car Parking	200
Portaloos Hire	500

Total Staging Expenditure (£2625)

### Professional Artists

Fees Memorial Hall	3640
Fees Church	1200
Fees The Green	800
Artists' Accommodation	400
Artists' Sustenance	250
Storyteller	250
Face painter	200

Total Professional Artists (£6740)

<u>Marketing and Publicity</u>	
Street Banners	250
Promotion at May Festival	100
Development & Maintenance of Website	450
Printing of Flyers	100
Pop-up Banner	100
A3 and A4 Posters	50
Foamex Boards	200
Programme Printing	350
Newspaper & Folk Magazine Advertising	250
Local Radio Promotion	100
 Total Marketing and Publicity	 (£1950)

<u>Festival Branding/Signage/Decoration</u>	
Festival Flags	100
Festival Bunting	50
Hall Decoration – bunting	20
Paper/spray mount	65
Posters – Instantprint	200
Laserprints A3 & A4	250
Ply board Posters	100
Flag Samples	
 Total Festival Branding/Signage/Decoration	 (£785)

<u>Other</u>	
Red Cross	170
Public Liability Insurance	440
Accountants Fees	250
AFO Membership	100
Rubbish Clearance	240
T-shirts	400
Ticketing	120
Wristbands	100
Lanyards	50
Sundries, Stationery, Cashbox	350
 Total Other	 (£2220)

**TOTAL Estimated Expenditure (£14,320)**

**Income**

KFE Fund-raising events:	
French Music Evening 11/2/17	ca. £600
Comedy Music Night March 2017	ca. £400
Barn Dance 20/5/17	ca. £700



Ticket Sales:

Children (below age 14) will be Free for all events.

Individual (adult) Ticket Prices will be set at a level depending on success with other fund-raising.

Tickets will be sold for the 3 planned concerts in the Memorial Hall and 2 planned concerts in The Church.

An entry fee will also be charged for the Workshops in the Dacre Rooms.

All events on The Village Green will be free of charge.

Estimated Income from Tickets: ca. £4000

Estimated Income from Stalls ca. £400

Estimated Income from Bev Supplier Profits ca. £400

**Total KFE- Generated Income: £6500**

Other Sources of Funding:

North Herts District Council – subject to this application £1,500

Other Funds Required £5,820

(Further funding submissions are planned to the National Lottery 'Awards for All' scheme and to the Luton Airport 'Community Fund' scheme)

**Total Grant Funding (anticipated) £7,320**

**Total Projected Income to cover Total Costs £14,320**

#### 8.6 Ickleford Village Hall

Ickleford Village Hall had new set of Emergency Exit doors fitted last spring at a cost of over £3,000. Unfortunately the Pre-school uses these doors for every day for coming and going from a security & safeguarding point of view. As the exit doors not designed for such everyday use they are beginning to fail.

A solution would be to install a new door which opens directly onto the Pre-school's existing play area, which would also further enhance security & safety.

An estimate quote for a new door and point of access / egress is £1,120 + VAT and a new small threshold step would also need to be added outside.

The Hall's management committee is seeking a grant from the Area Committee in the region of £1,000.

#### 8.7 Codicote Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Codicote Parish Council has set up a Steering group to look undertake the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. This group reports to the Parish Council on progress made.

The Parish believes that it is vital to raise awareness of the Neighbourhood Plan enabling local residents to voice their opinions so that these can be taken into account when the Plan is formally written.

Within the next year, it will be necessary to send out publicity fliers and produce posters to advertise village meetings, drop in sessions and raise awareness of questionnaires as part of the consultation process.

The group is looking for financial support from the Area Committee in the region of £500 to cover the publicity requirements related to the consultation element of developing a neighbourhood plan.

#### **8.8 Preston Neighbourhood Plan Group**

Preston Parish Council has also set up a Steering group to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. This group reports to the Parish Council at each of its meetings.

The Parish believes that it is vital to raise awareness of the Neighbourhood Plan enabling local residents to voice their opinions so that these can be taken into account when the Plan is formally written.

Within the next year, it will be necessary to send out publicity fliers and produce posters to advertise village meetings, drop in sessions and raise awareness of questionnaires being circulated an estimated four times.

One A5 flier has recently cost £75 to produce so the group is looking for financial support from the Area Committee in the region of £400 to cover the publicity requirements related to the consultation element of developing a neighbourhood plan.

#### **8.9 St Ippolyts Village Hall**

The Management Committee at St Ippolyts Village Hall needs to replace the existing commercial dishwasher in its kitchen as it has recently broken down and deemed to be beyond economical repair.

Like at other Village Hall's, functioning and good working kitchen appliances are vital in supporting many of the groups regularly hiring / using the hall to run their activities.

The Hall's management committee are looking for a contribution from the Area Committee in the region of £600 which is half the estimated replacement cost of £1,200.

#### **8.10 Knebworth Community Chorus**

Knebworth Community Chorus works with the local community by bringing people from many differing backgrounds to experience singing together, thus helping to break down barriers, help improve social inclusion and promote intergenerational learning.

The group is looking to purchase a new keyboard & amp, with a carrying case, cable & mic package. They have been awarded £1,000 from the Knebworth Village Trust towards the total cost of £1,806 and are seeking a grant award from the Area Committee of £806.

#### **8.11 Offley Tennis Club**

Following recent enhancements to the Tennis Courts at the Offley Recreation Centre / Ground, local effort is being channelled to reinvigorate a Tennis Club within the village.

Volunteers are seeking financial support from the Area Committee Ward Member Budgets to help and assist with initial set up costs in relation to getting the club off on the right foot and primarily to cover the first year's liability insurance cover, lease related matters, advertising & publicity.

#### **8.12 Kimpton Rugby Football Club**

The Kimpton Rugby Club is seeking financial support from the Area Committee Ward Member Budget to help and assist with refurbishment costs relating to the main storage facility at the site which also provides a home to the May Festival's equipment, as well as equipment belonging to other village based groups.

**8.13 Strawberry Fields Children's Centre**

Stevenage & North Herts Children's Centres are in the process of organising a road safety project for all children in each of their related areas.

They have previously worked with early years settings (schools, pre-schools, day nurseries, child minders and toddler groups) on initiatives such as healthy eating promotions and safety projects to great effect and would like to repeat some "roadshow" events which involve some learning about road safety.

As part of the training they will be giving each child a hi-vis arm band to keep, providing a means of making them much more visible in the dusk or dark.

They have approximately 3,200 under fives in their related area and a quote for 3,500 arm bands is £2,000. They have secured funding from the relevant SBC Ward Councillors (between £150 & £400) and can commit £1,000 of their own funds towards the scheme.

There are 2 early years settings in the Great Ashby area - Busy Bees Day Nursery and Bunnies Pre-school who they would like to include in the initiative. The group is therefore seeking financial support from the Area Committee Ward Member Budgets to assist the resources required to deliver this initiative in the Chesfield area

**8.14 St Paul's Walden – Litter Picking Scheme**

Volunteers from St Paul's Walden are looking to undertake a number of village clean up days and are seeking financial support from the Area Committee Ward Member Budgets to help with the cost in purchasing some litter pickers to be used each time they organise a clean up day.

**8.15 Knebworth Twinning Association**

Knebworth Twinning Association is seeking financial support from the Area Committee Ward Member Budget to assist with costs relating to their annual insurance premium which provides cover for their programme of twinning activities and events.

**8.16 Hexton Community Petanque Project**

Volunteers from Hexton village are seeking financial support from the Area Committee Ward Member Budgets to develop a Community Petanque playing area at the village recreation ground. It is hoped that most of the works might be achieved by in kind support, but there are some costs related to various materials required in constructing the playing surface, edging and drainage.

**8.17 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.

## 8.18 **UU's / s106 Contributions & Funding Advice**

The CM is liaising with a number of Parishes and rural groups re the potential unlocking of collected UU (Unilateral Undertakings) contributions held by the Authority and in cases assisting to compile evidence of need within each community re any current and future developments. These are subject to meeting relevant criteria set under regulation and by which the Authority must abide.

Current Parishes / groups seeking advice / support:

- **Offley & Cockernhoe PC** – Major enhancements to facilities at the Recreation Centre utilising £214k s106 developer contributions and improvements to the kitchen facilities at the village hall.
- **Holwell Parish Council** – Advice & support re capital funding to renew the Cricket Pavilion and potential application to the Authority's new Community Facilities Capital Projects Improvement Funding Scheme.
- **Pirton Parish Council** – Advice & support re UUs & s106 funding.
- **Pirton Village Hall** – Advice & support re capital funding to provide an additional room for rental, improvements to the kitchen facilities and better storage.
- **Gt Ashby Community Centre** – Rural Grant of £2.5k re enhancements to children's play area at the rear of the main building.

## 9. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything:-
- An individual may generally do
  - Anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
  - For a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
  - Without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or person's resident or present in its area.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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.

## 10. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Appendix 1 provides details of the 2016/17 budget position for the Area Committee.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 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.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 12.2 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.
- 12.3 All projects that are assigned area committee funding are assessed to ensure that they do not negatively impact on any part of the local community. The only deviation to this is where a group exhibiting a protected characteristic may specifically receive funding or allocation of resources to address a particular area of need or 'gap' in provision. In this instance funding for the 'Strawberry Fields Children centre on road safety for the under fives.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 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.

## **14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

## **15. APPENDICES**

- 15.1 Appendix 1 – Area Committee Development Budget Spreadsheet 2016/17
- 15.2 Appendix 2 – Grant Form – Graveley Village Hall
- 15.3 Appendix 3 – Grant Form – Codicote Football Club
- 15.4 Appendix 4 – Grant Form – Breachwood Green Cricket Club
- 15.5 Appendix 5 – Grant Form – Within the Walls Garden Project

- 15.6 Appendix 6 – Grant Form – Kimpton Folk Festival
- 15.7 Appendix 7 – Grant Form – Ickleford Village Hall
- 15.8 Appendix 8 – Grant Form – Codicote Neighbourhood Planning Forum
- 15.9 Appendix 9 – Grant Form – Preston Neighbourhood Plan Group
- 15.10 Appendix 10 – Grant Form – St Ippolyts Village Hall
- 15.11 Appendix 11 – Grant Form – Knebworth Community Chorus
- 15.12 Appendix 12 – Ward Grant Form – Offley Tennis Club
- 15.13 Appendix 13 – Ward Grant Form – Kimpton Rugby Football Club
- 15.14 Appendix 14 – Ward Grant Form – Strawberry Fields Children’s Centre
- 15.15 Appendix 15 – Ward Grant Form – St Paul’s Walden – Litter Picking Scheme
- 15.16 Appendix 16 – Ward Grant Form – Knebworth Twinning Association
- 15.17 Appendix 17 – Ward Grant Form – Hexton Community Petanque Project

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**17. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

17.2 Review of Grants Policy Report to Cabinet June 2016.