

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Royston and District Committee held in the Hardwicke Hall, Royston Town Hall,
Melbourn Road, Royston
on Wednesday, 20th October, 2021 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carol Stanier and Ruth Brown.

2 MINUTES - 9 JUNE 2021

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 June 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (3) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (4) The Chair advised that the Boundary Review consultation was ongoing from 4 October 2021 to 8 November 2021. The Chair encouraged all, Members and public, to get involved and contribute to the review.

5 S106 OBLIGATIONS ANNUAL UPDATE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Members note the content of this report.
- (2) That Members agree that a report shall continue to be presented on an annual basis to the Area Committee, which sets out full records of all Section 106 activity for the preceding financial year and which reflects changes in legislation and practice.
- (3) That, other than where a contribution has been negotiated for a specific purpose or project, Ward Members of the area where the Section 106 Obligation or Unilateral Undertaking funding is generated and the Area Committee be consulted prior to funding being allocated away from that area. Members must note that the discretionary funds are rapidly diminishing and will not be replaced under current legislation and practice, for reasons that are set out in this report.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure that there is a robust system for negotiating and managing Section 106 Obligations and Unilateral Undertakings, that records activity for each financial year and is placed in the public domain.
- (2) To ensure that the process is kept under constant review and Member scrutiny and that the risk associated with this activity is managed in an appropriate manner.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

7 GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That grant funding of £1,221 be awarded to Home Start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire to assist with costs for providing counselling support to one vulnerable family from Royston for a period of 9 months as outlined in 8.1.1 of the Grants and Community Update.
- (2) That the Committee endorse the actions taken by the Community Engagement Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Royston.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Officer.
- (2) This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget. This ensures that all actions are performed in line with the Authority's Financial Regulations, the Council's Constitution, and the guidance of the existing Grants policy as agreed by Cabinet in January 2020.
- (3) The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Council Plan.

8 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

A verbal update was given by Herts County Councillor Fiona Hill regarding Highway Issues.

9 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Councillor Tony Hunter advised that he had attended the recent Home-Start AGM and Citizens Advice Bureau meeting.