

**ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
**1 APRIL 2020**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT:** GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF THE POLICY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CURRENT COUNCIL PRIORITY: ATTRACTIVE AND THRIVING / PROSPER AND PROTECT / RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT

NEW COUNCIL PRIORITY: BUILD THRIVING AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee 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 Engagement 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 agrees the release of £1,000 to Reed Cricket Club to assist with the costs for purchasing new nets for the club which will be used by all users and visitors of the club at practice sessions.
- 2.2 The Committee considers allocating funding from the Royston & District Base Budget to cover room hire costs for holding the Town Talk at suitable venues in Royston, as detailed in point 8.2.6.
- 2.3 That the Committee agrees that any unspent funds from the 2019/20 financial year be allocated to Community & Environmental Projects for the 2020/21 period
- 2.4 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Engagement Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Royston.

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

- 3.1 To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement 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 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 June 2016.
- 3.3 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of 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 included 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 bodies/groups has taken place with regard to funding proposals for Area Committee 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 With reference to the Council's Constitution, Section 9.3 Area Committees will include budgets for the purpose of providing grants and discretionary budgets that may be used within the area of the Committee for economic, social and environmental well-being. Under the current grant criteria there is no upper limit outlined for the amount of grant funding to be allocated which can be decided at the Committee's discretion.
- 7.2 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix A. Royston & District Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for 2019/20. The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the 2018/19 financial years, including balances and past expenditure.

7.3 Funding available for the Committee to allocate for the remainder of 2019/20 is summarised below:

	2018/19 Carry Forward	2019/20 Base Budget	Total Budget
Royston	£0	£1,404	£1,404

## 8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

### 8.1 Grant Applications

#### 8.1.1

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Reed Cricket Club</b>
<b>Project</b>	Funding support to assist with costs for new training nets
<b>Sum requested</b>	£1,000
<b>Total project cost</b>	£1,737
<b>Match funding</b>	£737 Own Funds
<b>Annual expenditure</b>	£53,157
<b>Funds held</b>	£6,968
<b>Previous support</b>	£1k in 2016 for the purchase of a Water Hog and also some Floor Matting for use on the Surface of the Practice Nets Base Area
<b>NHDC Policy met</b>	Yes
<b>Strategic objective met</b>	Attractive & Thriving

Reed Cricket Club is seeking funding support from the Royston & District Committee to assist with the purchase of new practice nets for use by the cricket teams and young people from the village.

Reed Cricket Club has been in operation since 1956. It is made up of 23 Volunteer Committee Members and 53 volunteers. The club caters for people aged 5 and above. It has 109 Adult members and 83 Colt Members who are aged between 5 and 15. The netting was last replaced over 10 years ago. Current netting is full of holes making it dangerous to use. The application is criteria compliant and the officer recommendation is an award of £1000. The group last received funding in 2016 for the purchase of a water hog and matting for use on the surface of the practice nets base area.

## **8.2 Community Engagement Updates**

### **8.2.1 Pathway at end of Green Drift**

Ringway Infrastructure Services have now replied to Hertfordshire County Council in relation to the lighting design scheme. Unfortunately, due to there being insufficient space for a column it will not be possible to install lighting to the pathway on the Green Drift side of the pathway between the houses. It is therefore envisaged that only the path section on the Ivy Farm section will be illuminated.

As well as the lighting and the resurfacing works, a TRO will also be put in to prohibit cycling on the path. Cyclists may still walk their bikes through the pathway. To supplement the TRO staggered barriers will be installed at both ends of the pathway.

Highways are still hopeful of carrying out the works during the 2020/21 financial year.

### **8.2.2 Coombes Community Association**

The Royston Community Engagement Officer (CEO) continues to sit on the above group which meets on a quarterly basis and provides advice and support accordingly.

The Royston CEO is assisting the Association with Phase 3 of the centre's enhancements project. As part of its full repairing lease arrangements, the centre was given funding for 3 projects. Year 1 was the resurfacing of the car park, year 2 was for the replacement of the windows and this year the sports hall flooring will be replaced. As part of this project a lean /to structure will also be build by the ramped area of the building. As well as increasing the security of the building, the lean/ to will also stop young people congregating on the ramped area and littering. The Coombes Community Association have submitted a Planning Application to the Council and if this is approved the lean/ to structure will be built in the next couple of months.

The Royston CEO will be monitoring the works and will release the funding for the project over the coming months. It is envisaged that the project will be completed by August 2020.

### **8.2.3 Bus Shelters**

The Royston CEO is working with colleagues at Hertfordshire County Council and its contractors to install two new bus shelters in the town. These will be located on Icknield Walk and Melbourn Road. Funding for these has been allocated from S106 Sustainable Transport monies.

Royston Town Council placed an order for the works in February and there is a 16 week lead in time. It is envisaged that the shelters will be in place by the summer months.

Maintenance of the shelters will be the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council.

#### 8.2.4 Bicycle racks

The Royston CEO is working with Royston Town Council Councillors to bring additional bicycle racks into the town. The bicycle racks will be installed in the Market Hill car park area which is owned by the Royston Town Council. Funding for this project has been secured from S106 Sustainable Transport monies. If sufficient funding is available, it may also be possible to install bicycle racks at the Heath Sports & Social Club.

The Bicycle racks will be maintained by Royston Town Council. Royston Town Council have agreed on the type of bicycle racks they would like to install and these will be ordered once they have clarification on whether or not Planning Permission is required.

There is a 4 -6 week lead in time for the works, so it is envisaged that the job will be completed by July 2020.

#### 8.2.5 Street Food Heroes

After a successful first year in Royston, Street Food Heroes will be returning to Priory Memorial Gardens again in 2020 and will be operating on the third Friday in June, July and August between 4pm and 9pm. Street Food Heroes consists of up to 8 Food vendors, a mobile bar and music by a DJ. The Royston CEO has been advising the event organisers on licencing requirements (TEN & Land Licence) and waste arrangements. The Royston CEO will also help to promote Street Food Heroes for the organisers on social media, so as to ensure another successful year for the event in 2020.

#### 8.2.6 Town Talk

Town Talk was introduced at Royston in January 2020. The first Town Talk was well attended but unfortunately due to the venues capacity limits some people were unable to attend.. As the room used for the Committee meeting and the Town Talk is owned by NHDC there is no charge for its usage.

To ensure that everyone can attend future Town Talk meetings, it will be necessary to hold future Town Talk's at venues where there would be a cost to the Royston & District Committee. The Upper Hall where the cinema is located would be an option and could cater for the numbers likely to attend the Town Talk. The fee for hire of the facility is £34.50 for 1 and ½ hours.

The Royston CEO has spoken with Royston Town Council to see if the room hire fee can be waived as Town Talk is also attended by Town Councillors who also use it as an engagement tool with the public. This issue will be discussed at the Town Council's Finance Committee meeting at the end of March.

If members are in agreement, funding for this could be allocated from the Royston & District Committee base budget for 2020/21. The annual commitment for the 4 meetings would be £138. (based on current hire charges.)

### 8.2.7 Developer Contributions / s106 & other Capital Funding projects

- The Royston CEO has worked with external groups and colleagues in the Planning Department in the potential utilisation developer contributions and other sources of capital funding available. Under s106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, contributions/obligations can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, the need for which has arisen as a result of a new development taking place. This funding is commonly known as 'Section 106'.

#### **Projects Completed:**

- Fencing project at side of Coombes Community Centre to address anti-social behaviour
- Fencing project at Royston BMX to address anti-social behaviour

#### **Projects in process:**

- Enhancement of sporting facilities at Royston Heath with the Conservators.
- The possibility of seeking a new venue for Royston Scouts currently based at Roysia School.
- Enhanced provision of Bus Shelters at potential sites within the town
- Provision of cycle racks around Royston Town Centre.
- Youth / Spectator Shelter to address anti-social behaviour around Coombes Area
- Resurfacing and lighting project on Public Right of Way Land linking Ivy Farm with Green Drift.
- A505 Cycle Path project
- Access and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) improvements to Royston Town Hall
- All weather Hockey pitch for Royston
- Barkway PC re the installation & disabled access to the Recreation Ground & Pavilion
- Royston British Legion, internal refurbishments & enhancements which will be discussed by the Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme (CFCPFS) Panel on 25th March 2020.

If members have any projects in mind which may potentially benefit from utilising capital funds derived via the Planning process please contact the Community Engagement Officer to investigate further possibilities.

The Community Engagement Team is also collating a database of future requirements in terms of community need across the District in preparation & response to potential developments arising from the Local Plan.

Such perceived need will be communicated to planning officers to assist when negotiating any new planning obligation with prospective developers. Similarly, if Members have any suggestions of suitable projects or possible future requirements within their wards please inform the Community Engagement Officer.

### 8.3 Highways Matters

- 8.3.1 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.

## 9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Area Committees have delegated power under section 9.8.1 (a) & (b) 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. Section 9.8.2 (g) of the Constitution in respect of Area Committees' Terms of Reference provides that they may: "establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations operating specifically with the area including, where appropriate, the provision of discretionary grant aid/financial support etc. but excluding grants for district-wide activities".
- 9.2 Chapter 1 s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything provided that it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.
- 9.3 Section 137 of the 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. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 As outlined in Appendix A Committee budget 2019/20 and bullet point 7.3 above.

Total funds therefore available to the Committee are **£1,404**.

- 10.2 The Committee will need to allocate any unspent funds to Community & Environmental Projects for the 2020/21 financial year.

## 11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 "Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on Council Facilities" is a Corporate Risk recorded on Pentana Risk, the Council's performance and risk system. This refers to the ongoing issues at the Coombes Community Centre and the surrounding area. Regarding grant funding, 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.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their 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.
- 12.2 Area committee funding is awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

## **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 A - 2019/20 financial year budget sheet

## **16. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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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 Grant Policy Cabinet June 2016.