

BALDOCK & DISTRICT COMMITTEE 4 DECEMBER 2017

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
----------------------------------	--

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS

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

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, which conform to the Authority's Grants Policy approved by Cabinet on June 14th 2016.
- 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 That the Committee considers grant award of £500 to Baldock Bowls Club to help towards the costs of equipment as detailed in 8.1.1.
- 2.2 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Baldock.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure the Committee is 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 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 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix 1 Baldock Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for 2017/18.
- 7.2 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial years, including balances and past expenditure relating to the allocated and unallocated Area Capital Visioning Budgets available to the Committee.
- 7.3 Funding remaining for the Committee to allocate in the 2017/18 is summarised below:

	2016/17 Carry Forward	2017/18 Base Budget	Total
Baldock Town	£1,647	£4,300	£5,947
Baldock East	£1,194	£1,600	£2,794
Arbury	£0	1,477	£1,477
Weston & Sandon	£888	1,200	£2,088

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Update on Community Engagement & Grant Request

8.1.1 Baldock Bowls Club

Baldock Bowls Club is seeking £500 funding from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with costs for running a bowling programme with students from Knights Templar School over a 3 year period commencing in Spring/Summer 2018. Between 12 and 36 young people will benefit from the programme annually. The funding will be used to purchase bowls, bowls bags, bowling shirts and shoes and other accessories. The overall cost for the project is £1,700.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC.

In the last five years, this organisation has received the following awards:

14/11/2011 Purchase of a Green House for the Bowls Club, £192

14/11/2011 Purchase of a Green House for the Bowls Club, £608

Total awards: £800.

8.1.2 Balstock

The Balstock Family Run Weekend was held for the 6th time in Baldock High Street on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September. As well as the activities on the High Street there was live music performed in all of the Baldock Public Houses throughout the weekend.

As well as being a key income generator for the Public Houses, the event also helped to drive footfall for the local businesses and eateries of the town.

The Baldock Communities Officer (CO) provided pre- event support to the Balstock organisers and also provided support with set up on the day and event marshalling.

The event proved as popular as ever and passed without incident.

This year the event raised funds for the following charities and good causes:

- Addenbrookes Breast Cancer Appeal – £6,100
- North Herts Sanctuary – £1,220
- Baldock Art & Heritage Centre – £1,220
- North Herts Women's Centre – £1,220
- Magic Moments Pre-school – £1,220
- Baldock Girl Guides - £1,220

8.1.3 Baldock Fair

The Baldock Fair returned to Baldock in October and traded on Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th October. The Baldock CO and CM were in attendance to oversee the arrival of the fair and monitored the event throughout. At the close of the event all street furniture was re-installed by the Baldock CO & CM.

The Fair, which is a key community event in the Baldock Calendar, proved as popular as ever with high attendance throughout the three days of operation.

There were no problems during the Fair and the area was left clean and tidy with no damage reported.

8.1.4 Baldock Community Fireworks

The Baldock Community Fireworks was held for a fifth time on Sunday 5th November. The event was originally planned for Saturday 21st October but was deferred due to adverse weather conditions.

The Baldock CO provided support to the organisers throughout the planning process and also provided marshal support at the event.

The event was again well supported by the people of Baldock and surrounding villages with just under 2000 people attending the show.

As well as being a good fundraiser for Hartsfield PTA, Knights Templar School and Baldock Brownies, the event also generated £3,000 profit, which is being shared amongst 6 schools in Baldock.

8.1.5 Baldock Christmas Event

The Baldock Event Forum will be holding its Baldock Christmas Event on Saturday 2nd December. The event is being held across the town with Baldock Churches, Baldock Community Centre, Baldock Arts & Heritage Centre and the Baldock Event Forum all having activities planned throughout the day.

There will be the Christmas Tree Festival, Father Christmas's Grotto and Tower visits at the Church and craft stall and activities at the Town Hall and Baldock Community Centre.

In the High Street there will be 20+ market stalls, live music, a food court, funfair rides / inflatables, reindeer petting corner and an outside bar.

The Baldock CO is meeting with the group regularly to ensure a co-ordinated approach on the day. The Baldock CO is assisting with event publicity, event paperwork support and will also provide event and marshal support on the day.

8.2 **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.

9. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Section 9.8.2 (g) of 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". The Area Committees also 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.

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.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 All Area Committees saw a 55% decrease in funding in the 2016/17 financial year. There are 4 meetings in the 2017/18 Committee cycle and members must ensure that sufficient funding is available for all meetings.
- 10.2 In 2017/18 the Baldock & District Area Committee has an overall budget of £8,600, which is split as follows – Baldock Town £4,300, Baldock East £1,600, Arbury £1,500 and Weston & Sandon £1,200.
- 10.3 As detailed in 7.3 above, members have carry forward from the 2016/17 financial year. Members are asked to spend from their carry forward prior to allocating from the 2017/18 base budgets.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Performance, 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 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 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 minority or marginalised group may specifically receive funding or allocation of resources to address a particular area of need or 'gap' in provision.

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 1 - 2017/18 financial year budget sheet.

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 16.1 Author: Ashley Hawkins Community Officer
Email: ashley.hawkins@north-herts.gov.uk
- 16.2 Contributors: Anne Miller, Assistant Accountant
Email: anne.miller@north-herts.gov.uk

Kerry Shorrocks, Corporate Human Resources Manager
Email: kerry.shorrocks@north-herts.gov.uk

Tim Everitt, Performance & Risk Officer
Email: tim.everitt@north-herts.gov.uk

Reuben Ayavoo, Senior Policy Officer
Email: reuben.ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk

Marie Searle, Property Solicitor
Email: marie.searle@north-herts.gov.uk

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.