

**ROYSTON COMMITTEE  
12 OCTOBER 2022**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

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

**REPORT OF:** THE POLICY & COMMUNITIES MANAGER

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**COUNCIL PRIORITIES:** PEOPLE FIRST AND A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

**1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Committee Grant budgets
- 1.2 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Engagement officer has been involved in.
- 1.3 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 be recommended to consider allocating funding from their discretionary community budget towards the project below.
- 2.2 **£500** to Make Lunch to assist with costs for families who benefit from the free lunch initiative to watch a movie at Royston Cinema during October Half Term as detailed in 8.1.1
- 2.3 That the Committee be recommended to endorse 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 July 2021.
- 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 Council 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 regarding funding proposals for Committee Funds.

**6. FORWARD PLAN**

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

**7.1. 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 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 1. Royston Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for 2022/23. The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year, including balances and past expenditure.

- 7.3 Funding available for the Committee to allocate during 2022/23 is summarised below:

	<b>2021/22 Carry Forward</b>	<b>2020/21 Base Budget</b>	<b>Total Budget Remaining</b>
<b>Royston</b>	£1 ,130*	£6,000	£7,130

*\*The carry forward from 2021/22 was £3,130 but the Committee agreed to the allocation of £1500 to the Free After 3pm Parking Initiative and £500 for the maintenance of the High Street Planters. This funding was released during May/June 2022.*

## 8.0 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

### 8.1 Grant Applications

#### 8.1.1

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Make Lunch</b>
<b>Project</b>	Funding support to assist with the costs for purchasing day cinema tickets for 45 adults and 95 children at Royston Cinema during October Half Term
<b>Sum requested</b>	£500
<b>Total project cost</b>	£650
<b>Match funding</b>	£150 split equally between the HCC Locality Budgets of Councillor Fiona Hill and Councillor Steve Jarvis.
<b>Previous support</b>	Yes, £450 in 2018 to assist with First Aid training for volunteers and staff.
<b>NHDC Policy met</b>	Yes
<b>Council objective:</b>	People First

- 8.1.2 Make Lunch is a registered charity and has been operating in Royston since 2015. The group is made up of 3 Volunteer Committee Members, 1 part time paid staff and 44 volunteers.
- 8.1.3 Make Lunch Royston provides a free of charge, healthy, cooked meal to families in Royston who may struggle to provide this during school holidays. During term time, families who receive free school meals have one of their three daily meals provided. During school holidays, families have to find funds from an already tight budget to feed their children and this can be challenging for some.
- 8.1.4 Make Lunch fills the hunger gap by providing this meal, twice per week during every school holiday. They are also a safe place for families to relax, play, learn and socialise with each other.
- 8.1.5 Make Lunch primarily aims to support family's physical needs by providing a free of charge hot meal, however families also have emotional and social needs, and they wish to help here too.
- 8.1.6 Increasingly Make Lunch are seeing that families are not able to afford to have special experiences with their children. Increases in the cost of living means that activities such as going to the cinema are not possible for families who are already struggling to buy enough food for their children.

8.1.7 Make Lunch believe that every child should be able to enjoy activities such as this and want to help. Make Lunch would like to give one free cinema ticket to all of our registered parents and children so that they can treat their family to a special day out at Royston Picture Palace.

8.1.8 The application is criteria compliant.

## 8.2 Future Grants

8.2.1. The Royston Community Engagement Officer (CEO) has been working with several groups / organisations who are seeking funding support from the Royston & District Committee. The applications below were not able to be tabled at the June meeting so have been deferred until a meeting in the 2022/23 financial year. Details of the applications are included in the table below:

Group	Project	Funding Requested
Royston Choral Society	Funding support to assist with publicity, equipment and venue hire costs for concert to be held during early 2023	Not known at this stage.
Royston Community First Responders	Funding support to assist with costs for the purchase of a contract phone and uniforms.	£750 against an overall cost of £1513. Match Funding to come from Royston Town Council and Herts County Council Locality Budgets.

## 8.3 Community Engagement Updates

### 8.3.1 Royston Town Youth Football Club

8.3.2 The Royston Community Engagement Officer (CEO) was successful in securing £14,668 from S106 Community Facilities funds for the purchase of 4 sets of new goals and equipment for Royston Town Youth Football Club. This equipment is essential for the club to grow and to allow for new teams to be established.

8.3.3. Royston Town Youth Football Club have now purchased the equipment and the S106 funding was released to them during September 2022.

### 8.3.4 Royston Rockets BMX Track Resurfacing Works

8.3.5 The Royston CEO was successful in securing £12k from S106 Community Facilities funds and also £1k from Johnson Matthey's for the essential resurfacing works for Royston BMX track to ensure it meets safety standards.

- 8.3.6 The Club was hoping to carry out the resurfacing works during the first half of 2022 but due to cost and availability of materials, the works are now scheduled for the first 2 weeks in October.
- 8.3.7 Ramped access to Market Hill Carpark
- 8.3.8 Following the installation of the bike shelter on Market Hill Carpark in 2021, it has been suggested by users of the bike shelter to have a sloped section to the stairs leading from the A10 into the car park.
- 8.3.9 This potential scheme is being investigated by the Royston CEO in conjunction with County Councillors, Highways Engineers, and the Royston Town Council Market manager.
- 8.3.10 A site visit was held during June 2022 to discuss the project. Following this meeting it was determined that a feasibility study would need to be undertaken to determine if there was sufficient space to install a ramped access.
- 8.3.11 Royston Town Council agreed to fund the feasibility study, and this will be carried out later in 2022.
- 8.3.12 Signposting to Royston Bowls Club
- 8.3.13 The Royston CEO was approached by the Chair of Royston Bowls Club seeking support for signage to direct people to the bowls club.
- 8.3.14 The Royston CEO has liaised with officers at Hertfordshire Highways and County Councillors and signage has been agreed for Green Drift to signpost people to the bowls club. The project will be funded via Councillor Steve Jarvis's Herts County Council Locality Budget.
- 8.3.15 Signage for the bowls club was installed during July 2022.
- 8.3.16 Creative Royston Festival
- 8.3.17 The Royston CEO has provided support to the organisers of the Creative Royston Festival which will be held in Priory Memorial Gardens on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September. The theme for this year's event is the circle of life.
- 8.3.18 The Royston CEO has assisted with the paperwork as required by the North Herts Safety Advisory Group, organised First Aid for the event and will also provide marshal support on the day to assist with event set up.
- 8.3.19 Pathway between Green Drift and Ivy Lane
- 8.3.20 During 2020, the pathway between Green Drift and Ivy Lane was adopted by Hertfordshire County Council's Rights of Way Team.

- 8.3.21. As part of this project, it was hoped that the pathway could be tarmaced and lights installed, with funding for this coming from S106 Sustainable Transport monies.
- 8.3.22 The lighting of the area has been discussed but unfortunately due to space constraints it will not be possible to light the pathway.
- 8.3.23 The surfacing of the pathway is currently on the Highways Works Schedule but is being delayed due to the delay in the land ownership transfer from Redrow to Anglian Water for a foul pumping station.
- 8.3.24 Royston Christmas Lights Switch on Event
- 8.3.25 The Royston CEO is assisting Royston First with plans for the Christmas Lights Switch on Event which will be held by Royston Cross on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- 8.3.26 To allow for the safe running of the event, Royston First will be applying for a Town Police Clauses Act (TPCA) to close off parts of Royston High Street for spectators to enjoy the switch on.
- 8.3.27 Support for Organisations in Royston
- 8.3.28 The Royston CEO continues to sit on a number of groups within the Town including the Coombes Community Association, Royston Day Centre and Royston First Steering Group and any council related issues raised are addressed as required.
- 8.3.29 Funding support for venues in Royston
- 8.3.30 The Royston CEO is working with Royston Museum, Royston Town Council and Coombes Community Centre to find funding for upcoming projects at each venue. Royston Museum is seeking funding for a disabled access toilet and a fire door, Royston Town Council are investigating solar panels for the Town Hall and the Coombes Community Centre is seeking funding support to enhance the back stairwell area of the venue and the refurbishment of toilets and doors.
- 8.3.31 The Royston CEO is working with Planning to ascertain if S106 monies can be used for any of these projects.
- 8.3.32. Developer Contributions / s106 & other Capital Funding projects
- 8.3.33 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
- Bike Shelter at Market Square Car park
- Bus Shelter at Icknield Walk
- Bike racks at Heath Sports and Social Club
- Kitchen and accessibility improvements in the main hall of Royston Town Hall.
- Bus Shelter at Melbourn Street.

**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. (This project was on the work programme for 2020/21 but has been delayed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic)
- A505 Cycle Path project
- All weather Hockey pitch for Royston
- Barkway PC re the installation & disabled access to the Recreation Ground & Pavilion

8.3.34 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.

8.3.35 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.

8.3.36 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.

## **9 Highways Matters**

9.1 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.

9.2 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 Sections 9.8.1 (a) and 9.8.1 (b) of the Council's Constitution in respect of the Area Committees' Terms of Reference, notes the following:- To allocate discretionary budgets within the terms determined by the Council and to allocate devolved budgets and activities within the terms determined by the Council. This is outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in July 2021. Section 9.8.2 (h) of the Constitution in respect of Area Committees' Terms of Reference notes 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.
- 10.2 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything if it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.
- 10.3 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.

## **11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 As outlined in Appendix 1 Committee budget 2022/23.
- 11.2 The agreed base budget for this financial year is £6,000. The Committee has £1,130 to allocate from the 2021/22 carry forward. This gives the Committee a total of £7,130 to allocate across the 3 remaining meetings of the 2022/23 financial year.

## **12. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, 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 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.
- 13.2 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.



## **14. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

## **15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

15.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

## **16. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **17. APPENDICES**

17.1 Appendix 1 - 2022/23 financial year budget sheet.

## **18. CONTACT OFFICERS**

18.1 Author: Ashley Hawkins, Community Engagement Officer for Baldock & Royston  
Email: [ashley.hawkins@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:ashley.hawkins@north-herts.gov.uk) ext.4225

Contributors: Reuben Ayavoo, Policy & Communities Manager  
Email: [reuben.ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:reuben.ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk) ext. 4212

Anne Miller, Assistant Accountant  
Email: [Anne.Miller@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Anne.Miller@north-herts.gov.uk) ext. 4374

Yvette Roberts, Legal Officer  
Email: [Yvette.roberts@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Yvette.roberts@north-herts.gov.uk) ext. 4310

Rebecca Webb , HR Operations Manager  
Email: [rebecca.webb@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.webb@north-herts.gov.uk) ext. 4481

Tim Everitt, Performance & Risk Officer  
Email: [tim.everitt@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:tim.everitt@north-herts.gov.uk) ext. 4646

## **19. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

19.2 Review of Grant policy, Cabinet July 2021.