

**ROYSTON COMMITTEE
30 NOVEMBER 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 **£1,221** to Home-start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire to assist with costs for providing support service to one family in Royston as detailed in 8.1.1
- 2.3 **£740** to Royston Community First Responders to assist with costs for new uniforms and a mobile phone with contract as detailed in 8.1.9
- 2.4 **£750** to Royston Choral Society to assist with costs for putting on a performance of Haydn's Creation, including publicity costs and venue hire costs as detailed in 8.2.4
- 2.5 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:

| | 2021/22 Carry Forward | 2020/21 Base Budget | Total Budget Remaining |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Royston | £630 | £6,000 | £6,630 |

8.0 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Applications

8.1.1

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Applicant | Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire |
| Project | Funding support to provide critical home-visiting support for one vulnerable Royston family for 9 months (the average time a family needs our support). |
| Sum requested | £1,221 |
| Total project cost | £1,371 |
| Match funding | £150 from Councillor Fiona Hill's HCC Locality Budget |
| Previous support | Yes, £1,221 in 2021 and £1,050 in 2019 to provide counselling services to a vulnerable family. |
| NHDC Policy met | Yes |
| Council objective: | People First |

8.1.2 Home-start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire is a registered charity and has been operating in Royston since 1983. The group is made up of 7 Volunteer Committee Members, 6 part time paid staff and 51 volunteers.

8.1.3 The funding would enable Home-start to provide critical **home-visiting support** for one vulnerable Royston family for 9 months (the average time a family needs our support).

8.1.4 This support will aim to prevent the family from reaching crisis point, leading to family breakdown and children being taken into care, amongst other serious consequences.

8.1.5 Supported families struggle with diverse and often complex issues, which include: Post-natal depression ▪ depression ▪ social isolation ▪ bereavement ▪ domestic abuse ▪ drug abuse and many other issues. These issues have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

8.1.6 A highly-trained volunteer, with parenting experience, will meet with the family once a week for 2 to 3 hours – providing compassionate, practical and emotional support,

which is non-judgemental, confidential, free and tailored to each family's individual needs.

8.1.7 At the end of the support period, the family will be able to manage their family lives again without our support and access mainstream support and local community networks.

8.1.8 The application is criteria compliant.

8.1.9

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Applicant | Royston Community First Responders |
| Project | Funding support to assist with costs for the purchase of uniforms and a new mobile phone with contract which will be used by the team purely for medical emergencies. |
| Sum requested | £740 |
| Total project cost | £1,240 |
| Match funding | £260 split between Councillor Fiona Hill and Councillor Steve Jarvis's HCC Locality Budgets. Also £240 from personal contributions. |
| Previous support | No |
| NHDC Policy met | Yes |
| Council objective: | People First |

8.2.0 Royston Community First Responders is a Registered Charity and has been operating in Royston since 1994. The group is made up of 6 people who work from their own homes, but under the umbrella of the East of England Ambulance Service.

8.2.1 Royston Community First Responders are usually the first people on site to deal with a medical emergency, ahead of the Ambulance Service. The group has treated 350 between January and September this year, so is likely to assist around 500 casualties in 2022.

8.2.2 The group works in shifts which cater for 24/7 across 365 days of the year.

8.2.3 The group has secured match funding and the application is criteria compliant.

8.2.4

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Applicant | Royston Choral Society |
| Project | Funding support to assist with costs for putting on a performance of Haydn's Creation, including publicity costs, equipment costs and venue hire costs. |
| Sum requested | £750 |
| Total project cost | £6,500 |
| Match funding | £2,250 ticket sales, £1,000 Membership fees, £750 from HCC Locality Budgets and £1,500 from the Brian Racher Trust (Pending) |
| Previous support | Yes, £750 in 2018 and £500 in 2016 for publicity and venue hire costs for concerts. |
| NHDC Policy met | Yes |
| Council objective: | People First |

8.2.5 Royston Choral Society is a registered charity.

8.2.6 The Group is made up of 10 Volunteer Committee Members and 60 volunteers.

8.2.7 The Royston Choral Society has been putting on concerts for the people of Royston since 1974. The aim of the group is to promote public education in and appreciation of choral music by the presentation of public choral concerts.

8.2.8 The funding requested is to assist with publicity costs including posters, flyers, tickets and programmes and venue hire fees. The application is criteria compliant. Under the grants policy, members may award up to 70% of the total project cost. The applicant is requesting £750.

8.2.9 The concert will be held on Saturday 25th March 2023 and will see the event return to Royston Parish Church for the first time since fire damage several years ago.

8.3.0. The Royston Community Engagement Officer (CEO) has been working with the group below who are seeking funding support from the Royston & District Committee. The application below was not able to be tabled at the November meeting so has 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 Community Radio | Funding support for the purchase of equipment including a gazebo and banners to promote Royston Community Radio. | £500 |

8.3.1 Community Engagement Updates

8.3.2 Ramped access to Market Hill Carpark

8.3.3 Royston Town Council have agreed to fund the feasibility study, and this will be carried out early in 2023.

8.3.4 Royston Town Council did request that the feasibility study included both the proposed location for the ramped access, as discussed at the site visit in June and a location further down the carpark next to the roadside. This location was not deemed suitable and so the feasibility study will focus purely on the site by the steps leading to the Market Car Park.

8.3.5 Creative Royston Festival

8.3.6 The Royston Community Engagement Officer (CEO) provided marshal support to the Creative Royston Festival event which was held on Saturday 24th September at Priory Memorial Gardens.

8.3.7 The event was well attended by the public and passed without incident.

8.3.8 Sustainability event

8.3.9 The Royston CEO provided marshal support for the first ever Sustainability event for Royston which was held in Priory Memorial Gardens on Sunday 2nd October.

8.4.0 Royston Christmas Lights Switch on Event

8.4.1 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 25th November 2022.

8.4.2 Royston First have submitted a Town Police Clauses Act (TPCA) Road closure application for the event and the Royston CEO has secured the signage for the closure.

8.4.3 Royston Christmas Event

8.4.4 The Royston CEO is working with Royston First and the Royston Events Group with planning for their Christmas event which will be held on Saturday 10th December. The event will include the Elf Trial, funfair rides in Fish Hill Square, activities in Royston Parish Church and also, but yet to be confirmed, Santa's Grotto and music from the Royston Town Band.

8.4.5 This event was held for the first time in 2021 and proved extremely popular. As well as being a great community event, it also brought people into the town, to help drive footfall for the local businesses.

8.4.6 The Royston CEO will be suspending parking in Fish Hill Square for the event and will also be providing support with event set up and marshal support on the day.

8.4.7 Support for Organisations in Royston

8.4.8 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.

8.4.9 Funding support for venues in Royston

8.5.1 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.

8.5.2 Community Salt Bins

8.5.3 During December, the Royston CEO will visit all of the community salt bins in Royston and replenish these accordingly.

8.5.4 The Royston CEO is working with Planning to ascertain if S106 monies can be used for any of these projects and will advise venues during the early part of 2023.

8.5.5 Developer Contributions / s106 & other Capital Funding projects

8.5.6 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
- 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

8.5.7 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.

8.5.8 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.

8.5.9 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.

9.0 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 £630 to allocate from the 2021/22 carry forward. This gives the Committee a total of £6,630 to allocate across the 2 remaining meetings of the 2022/23 financial year.
- 11.3 If the Committee agreed the funding as detailed in this report, the Committee would have £3,919 to allocate at the final meeting of the financial year in March 2023.
- 11.4 Members should note that they also support the Free After 3pm Parking Scheme annually with a contribution of £1,500. This would leave £2,419 for the Committee to allocate at the March 2023 meeting.

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

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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.