

REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY AREA FORUM)

HITCHIN AREA FORUM
DATE 5 September 2023

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: LEGAL & COMMUNITY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Area Forum on the current expenditure and balances of the Community Grant budget.
- 1.2 To bring to the Forum's attention details of recent requests received for Community grant funding, made by community groups and local organisations.
- 1.3 To enable Forum Members to make recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on grant applications.
- 1.4 To advise the Forum of the activities and schemes with which Community & Partnerships officers have been involved in and some important community-based activities that will take place during the next few months.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT THE AREA FORUM:

- 2.1. Considers and notes the information within this report.
- 2.2. Makes recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on the grant applications detailed below.
- 2.3. North Hertfordshire Minority Ethnic Forum - £2,000 towards funding a multicultural event to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the North Hertfordshire Minority Ethnic Forum and the Black History Month'.
- 2.4. Sadie Centre - £850 towards the cost of a defibrillator and a cabinet, to be fitted on the external wall of their classroom building.
- 2.5. Strathmore Fun Club - £1,100 to help cover the cost of purchasing additional toys, equipment, and materials to cover the cost of a programme of events and activities they have designed to keep the children engaged, fit, healthy and happy whilst attending Strathmore Fun Club.

3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The community grant base budget for Hitchin Area Forum 2023/24 is £11,000.
- 3.2 The grant budget carried over from 2022/23 is £1,705.
- 3.3 The budget available for community grants for the Hitchin area stands at **£12,705**.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Following the decision of Full Council on 18 April 2023, an Area Forum shall consider applications for community grants in its area and make recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on them. The Executive Member has delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.8(b)((ii)A 5 of the constitution, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal & Community. That decision will be subject to a 5 clear working day call-in period, following publication in the Members Information Service (MIS) and on the Council's website.

4.2 Other issues raised in this report are for information and noting and therefore no direct legal implications arise.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As outlined in Appendix 1 and under item 3.3 the Community Grant budget available is **£12,705**.

5.2 If the applications outlined in Appendixes 2, 3, and 4 are recommended, there would be **£8,755** available for Community Grants for the remainder of the 23-24 financial year.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Ideagen Risk Management, 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.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 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.

7.2 Community Grant funds are 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 and supports childcare and a multicultural event.

8. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to the matters contained within this report, as there are no recommendations on procurement.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10. The activities details of the Community & Partnerships team are covered by existing budgets.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Terms of Reference for Area Forums, Section 9 of Council Constitution updated May 2023.

11.2 Community grants Criteria Policy May 2023.

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1. Hitchin Community Grant Budget 23-24

12.2 Appendix 2. North Hertfordshire Minority Ethnic Forum

12.3 Appendix 3. Sadie Centre

12.4 Appendix 4. Strathmore Fun Club

12.5 Appendix 5. Community Updates

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