

**SOUTHERN RURAL AREA COMMITTEE**  
**14 JUNE 2018**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS & 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 be recommended to consider the provision of grant funding to the organisations outlined below:
  - 2.1.1 Codicote Village Day- £1500 to replace the small and large marquee as outlined below in 8.1.1
  - 2.1.2 Ickleford Cricket Club - £1786 to purchase a defibrillator as outlined in 8.1.2
- 2.2 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the Southern Rural Area.

**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 Southern Rural Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for 2018/19.
- 7.2 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial years, including balances and past expenditure.
- 7.3 The current level of unallocated funds within the Committee's Development Budget for 2018/19 is **£7,400**.
- 7.4 The current level of unallocated within the Committee's Ward Members 2018/19 Budget is **£5,000**.

#### **8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 **Grant Applications for Consideration**

### 8.1.1 Ickleford Cricket Club

Ickleford Cricket Club is an unregistered charity who provides cricket facilities for the local community.

They want to purchase a defibrillator to be located near to the Cricket Pitch in Holwell. They are requesting £1786 grant funding toward the total quote of £2586. The quote includes the cost of Defib Kit plus two pads, a stainless steel cabinet lock box, Signage, training for volunteers and 4 year support costs.

The shortfall of £800 is being provided by the Cricket Club.

All players and supporters will benefit from having a defibrillator on sight, those trained will be able to use the defibrillator in the case of an emergency.

The equipment would also be available to the Holwell Bowls Club, Hitchin Youth Football Club who use the facilities in the winter months and the general public.

If the equipment is public access then the organisation maybe able apply to the British Heart Foundation who will provide PAD (Public Access Defibrillators) at a donation of £600. The community officer has emailed details to the Club secretary.

### 8.1.2 Codicote Village Day

Codicote Village day is an unregistered charity that provides a free event for the local community to bring the community together, providing free and accessible entertainment where individuals, clubs, charities and local businesses can be introduced.

They are looking to replace the small and large marquee as these have wear and tear over the recent years. They are requesting a total of £1500 to cover the cost of these. Buying these quality items will be good value for money as they will not need replacing for many years.

The Codicote Village day is an inclusive and engaging event which encourages wide attendance creating a sense of togetherness building intergenerational relationships. The event will provide the community with opportunities to socialise, to meet new people and join new clubs.

## 8.2 **Update on Community Engagement**

### 8.2.1 John Clements Centre

Requested £500 from Codicote Ward Budget 2017/18 supported by the ward councillor at the time. Unfortunately, the grant application is not compliant with current grant criteria as the organisation has been awarded £50,000 via the NHDC Community Facilities Capital Fund and it is not possible to provide additional funding within a two year period.

The following venues in the Southern Rural area are currently going through the application process for the Community Facilities Capital Grant programme:-

8.2.2 Knebworth Scout and Guide Group - It was agreed after discussion to recommend an award of £32,000. – Funding has been released, awaiting update from the group.

8.2.3 Pirton Village Hall - After discussion it was agreed to recommend the award of £45,000. Funding has been released. Work is underway.

8.2.4 Dacre Rooms, Kimpton awarded £50,000. To refurbish & update the ground floor rooms to make building a community hub for the whole parish. Refit unisex toilets, refurbish kitchen/bar area; utility area, porch & lobby: replace boiler, renew joinery, new ceiling wall & floor finishes.  
1st stage of funding has been released and work is well underway, undertook site visit to inspect work on 25th January  
Work completed and officers have visited to view the finished centre.

8.2.5 John Clements Sports & Community Centre awarded £50,000 for the provision of a stand alone Health & Wellbeing Facility adjacent to the existing facility.  
The project was revised and scaled down with a proposal to locate the Discovery Centre within the existing Sports & Community Centre. The group still hope to be able to build a stand alone annex building at some point to house the health equipment and fundraising is on going with support and advice from the Communities officers.

### 8.3 **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 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. 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 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (S1-8) provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything provided that it is not specifically prohibited in legislation:-

- 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 There are carry over amounts from 2017/18 development budgets of £2,124. The ward member budgets carried over £1,700 presently unallocated.

In total the amount of funding available for allocation is £16,224

## **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 Area committee funding is awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate a positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between all members of the community.

## **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 – Southern Rural Area Committee Budget Sheet 2017/18

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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