

**BALDOCK AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
**3 JULY 2017**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM No.**

**8**

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

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF FINANCE POLICY & GOVERNANCE

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS:  
COUNCILLOR TONY HUNTER

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 Christchurch Baldock - £200 as outlined below in 8.1.1
  - 2.1.2 Hinxworth Allotment Group - £200 as outlined below 8.1.2.
  - 2.1.3 Weston Village Hall - £1,000 as outlined below in 8.1.3
  - 2.1.4 Sandon Sports & Social Club - £750 as outlined below in 8.1.4
  - 2.1.5 Balstock Music Festival - £500 as outlined below in 8.1.5
- 2.2 That all grants be allocated from the respective wards 2016/17 carry over funds until they are depleted.

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| 2.3 | That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Baldock. |
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### **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 A Baldock Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the end of year Area Committee budget balances for 2016/17 and the 2017/18 financial year Committee budget.
- 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.

## **8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

### **8.1 Grant Applications for Consideration**

#### **8.1.1 Christchurch Baldock**

Christchurch Baldock is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with costs for running a free holiday club at Knights Templar School for children Reception age to Year 6.

The holiday club will run from 10am to 2.30pm every day between 24th and 28th July. Christchurch has been running the holiday club since 2005. It is a registered charity consisting of 2 committee members, 1 full time paid staff and 25 volunteers. 100+ children and their families will benefit from the project. Funding will assist with hall hire costs, publicity costs and stationary cost.

Christchurch Baldock are requesting £200 towards an overall cost of £, 1470 from the Area Committee Budget.

#### **8.1.2 Hinxworth Allotments Group**

Hinxworth Allotment Group are seeking funding support from the Arbury Ward Budget to assist with the purchase of a heavy duty lawn mower which they can use to keep the walk ways and surrounding area in good order.

Hinxworth Allotments Group is requesting £200 towards an overall cost of £480 from the Arbury Ward Budget.

#### **8.1.3 Weston Village Hall**

Weston Village Hall has been operating since 1927. It is a registered charity and is made up of 9 committee members and 3 volunteers. The hall is well used by a variety of clubs and groups including strength and balance class, Pilates, yoga, ballet, luncheon clubs, badminton, bridge, model aircraft flying, pre-school nursery and needlecraft. It also has a cinema club and is used for Parish Council Meetings, Village Hall Meetings, parties and local fundraisers.

The management group is seeking funding support to improve the Hall's insulation which will benefit all those using the facilities as well as making the building more environmentally friendly and sustainable for the future.

Weston Village Hall is requesting £1,000 towards an overall cost of £16,087 from the Weston and Sandon Ward Member's Budget.

#### **8.1.4 Sandon Sports & Social Club**

Sandon Sports & Social Club management committee is seeking funding support from the Weston & Sandon Ward Budget to help undertake some repairs and minor enhancements to the pavilion, situated on Roe Green.

The pavilion is home to the Village's Cricket Club and resident Football Club.

The pavilion requires new lockable windows for the rear of the building and repairs to the external fascias, soffits and gable ends.

The estimated total cost of the repairs is £1,500 and the Club is seeking support funding in the region of 50%.

Communities Officers will seek additional sources of funding with the management committee and liaise with the Parish Council to look at the possibility of unlocking any Planning Contributions / UUs already collected for the Sandon area under the category of Pitch Sports & Leisure.

#### 8.1.5 **Balstock Music Festival**

Balstock Community Event will be returning for a seventh year between the 9th and 10th September 2017. The event is growing annually and is an important event for the pubs and other businesses within the town, which positively benefit from the increased footfall and customer, spend over the event weekend.

Balstock is a free music event held within 16 venues around the town with a main Community Event held in Baldock High Street combining live music and fun activities for all the family, including inflatables and a number of food vendors. The coordinators of the event are seeking funding in the region of £500 from the Area Committee to assist with publicity costs, first aid provision, security provision and equipment hire.

The organisers estimate the overall costs for staging this year's event to be approximately £9,000.

### 8.2 **Update on Community Engagement**

#### 8.2.1 **Baldock Festival**

The Baldock CO provided support to the Baldock Festival Committee both during the planning stage and with a number of events during the 2 week festival period. As well as assisting with licensing applications the Baldock CO also provided practical support during the set up and take down of the Street Festival

#### 8.2.2 **Baldock Events Forum**

The Baldock CO continues to provide support and assistance to the Baldock Events Forum with the planning of their events for the remainder of 2017 including The Big Lunch, Baldock Cycle Challenge and the Baldock Christmas Weekend. The Baldock CO currently meets on a bi-weekly basis with Richard Sell who is the Baldock Events Forum co-ordinator.

#### 8.2.3 **Armed Forces Day**

The Baldock CO is supporting the Royal British Legion in their planning for Armed Forces Day which will be held in Baldock High Street on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

### 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 Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees confirm that they may establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations which include discretionary grant aid/financial support but excluding grants for district-wide activities. The Committee has delegated powers, as a body, 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.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Covalent, 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 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011. There is a General duty, described in 12.2, that public bodies must meet, underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.
- 12.2 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, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.3 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 A – Baldock & District Area Committee Budget Sheet
- 15.2 Appendix B - Grant Form for Christchurch Baldock
- 15.3 Appendix C – Grant Form for Hinxworth Allotments Group
- 15.4 Appendix D – Grant Form for Weston Village Hall
- 15.5 Appendix E – Grant Form for Sandon Sports & Social Club
- 15.6 Appendix F – Grant Form for Balstock Music Festival

## **16. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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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 Grants Policy Report to Cabinet June 2016.