

ROYSTON & DISTRICT COMMITTEE
12 September 2018

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 Royston & District Committee budgets.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for the Committee Grant Funding, made by community groups and local organisations, which conform to the Authority's Grants Policy approved by Cabinet on June 14th 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 considers a Grant Application of £1,500 to Royston Cricket Club to help towards the purchase of a set of cricket sight screens as detailed in 8.1.1.
- 2.2 That the Committee considers a Grant Application of £740 to the North Herts MS Society to help towards the purchase of an exercise bicycle as detailed in 8.1.2.
- 2.3 That the Committee considers a Grant Application of £385 to Make Lunch to help towards the cost of first aid training for the 2 leaders and 10 volunteers as detailed in 8.1.3.

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 2.4 | That the Committee considers a Grant Application of £240 to McSplash Swimming Centre in Melbourn to help towards the costs for running a swimming gala in November as detailed in 8.1.4. |
| 2.5 | That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community 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 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 Royston Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget for 2018/19.
- 7.2 There was no carry forward from the 2017/18 financial year.
- 7.3 Members should note that £1,000 has been added to the 2018/19 base budget. This funding was transferred from the Members Allowances Budget.
- 7.3 Following the grant release of £400 to the Singing Kettle awarded at the Royston & District Area Committee Meeting in June, the Committee has **£8,100** in total to allocate in the remaining 3 meetings of the 2018/19 financial year.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Requests

8.1.1	Applicant	Royston Cricket Club
	Project	Assist with the purchase of a set of sight screens
	Sum requested	£1,500
	Total project cost	£2,820
	Match funding	£1,320 Own Funds
	Annual expenditure	£8,864.82
	Funds held	£2,064.18
	Previous support	None
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Prosper & Protect

Royston Cricket Club is seeking funding support from the Royston & District Area Committee to help purchase a set of cricket sight screens which will help to improve the playing and practice experience for all involved.

Royston Cricket Club was founded in 1790 and is made up of 9 Committee members and 10 volunteers. The application is criteria compliant and the group is putting in a significant amount of joint funding.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC.

This organisation has not received an NHDC grant in the last five years.

8.1.2	Applicant	North Herts Multiple Sclerosis Society
	Project	Purchase of a specialist exercise bicycle
	Sum requested	£740
	Total project cost	£12,720
	Match funding	£8,000
	Annual expenditure	£26,964.44
	Funds held	£26,568.13
	Previous support	None
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Attractive & Thriving and Prosper & Protect

North Herts MS Society is requesting £740 towards the total of £4,480 cost of a specialist exercise bicycle.

The group are trying to raise £12,720 towards a range of physiotherapy methods for the group who meet weekly at Hadleigh a sheltered housing scheme in Letchworth.

Their members are drawn from across North Herts District to attend and undertake activities such as Neuro Physiotherapy, Pilates and Occupational Therapy. The addition of the specialist exercise bicycle will be a huge help to their members' health and wellbeing enabling them to stay stronger for as long as possible when living with a condition such as MS.

The group have fundraised £8,000 towards these activities but are requesting that NHDC provide the necessary funding to purchase the exercise bicycle.

As their members attend from all areas of North Herts officers have split this grant by a per capita percentage and the sums being requested from each Area Committee are:

Hitchin	£1,500
Letchworth	£1,500
Baldock & District	£740
Royston & District	£740

A contribution from the Southern Rural Area Committee is not being requested as very few people attend from that area.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC.

This organisation has never received an NHDC grant in the past.

8.1.3	Applicant	Make Lunch Royston
	Project	First Aid Training for Leaders & Volunteers
	Sum requested	£385
	Total project cost	£550
	Match funding	£165 from own funds.
	Annual expenditure	£3,323
	Funds held	£3.988
	Previous support	£960 room hire March 2015 £700 room hire March 2016
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Attractive & Thriving and Prosper & Protect

Make Lunch Royston are seeking funding support from the Committee to assist with the costs for First Aid training for the 2 leaders (£150 each) and 10 volunteers (£50 each).

Make Lunch Royston was established in 2015 and has received funding for room hire fees previously from the Royston & District Area Committee.

Make Lunch Royston enables children who are from disadvantaged families in Royston to receive a free hot meal during the school holidays when they are not getting them at their school during normal term time.

The service is aimed at children between the ages of 4 and 13 years. The funding requested will ensure that the leaders and volunteers at Make Lunch receive the necessary First Aid training so that they can deal effectively with any first aid incidents at Make Lunch events.

The application is criteria compliant and the group is putting in a significant amount of joint funding. The officer recommendation is an award of £385.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC.

8.1.4	Applicant	McSplash Swimming Centre
	Project	Assist with Swimming Gala costs
	Sum requested	£338.25
	Total project cost	£338.25
	Match funding	£0
	Annual expenditure	£9,191
	Funds held	£2,871.07
	Previous support	None
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Attractive & Thriving and Prosper & Protect

McSplash Swimming Centre is seeking support from the Committee to assist with costs for running a swimming gala in November. Funding requested will be used to pay for the hire of additional life guards, facility hire during the gala and for publicity costs.

Whilst McSplash Swimming Centre is outside of the North Herts District, two thirds of the swimmers taking part are from the North Herts area and live in Royston and the neighbouring villages.

It should be noted however that the group is seeking the full funding for the event. In line with the grants criteria, officers are only allowed to fund up to 70% of the total project cost.

In light of this, the officer recommendation is for an award of £240.

This is the first occasion that the group has applied for funding from the Committee.

8.1.5 Royston Choral Society

The required funding paperwork was not produced in time for the September Committee Cycle but members are asked to note that an application will be tabled at the November meeting.

Funding of £500 is requested to help with costs for putting on a concert of Bach's St John Passion in April 2019.

8.2 **Update on Community Engagement Initiatives**

8.2.1 Pathway at end of Green Drift

The Royston CO continues to liaise with Moody Homes, Redrow Homes and Herts. Right of Way Team on the pathway at the end of Green Drift.

Redrow Homes have now successfully transferred the land to Meadfleet Management Company.

The Herts Right of Way Team is now liaising with Meadfleet and is preparing the creation order for the path.

The works are currently on hold whilst the Herts Right of Way Team negotiate the payment of the required legal fees to progress the order with Moody Homes and Redrow.

The original plan was to enhance the pathway but this will now not be undertaken as part of the initial works. It is envisaged that once the pathway is adopted by the Herts Right of Way Team, the possibility of lighting the pathway will be investigated. With this in mind it is deemed inappropriate to carry out any enhancements to the pathway for the time being.

8.2.2 Royston BMX

The Royston CO and Communities Manager continue to assist Royston BMX with their plans for a new practice strip at the venue.

The group has gained planning permission for the proposed 80m x 2.3m tarmac strip which will be used for training new riders and for sprint coaching sessions.

The group's funding application to Sport England for financial assistance towards the scheme was unfortunately declined. However, thorough consultation with officers within the Planning Section permission has been gained to utilise some funding from collated Developer Contributions related to help meet any funding shortfall, estimated around £15k for the whole scheme.

The Club is also looking into the possible any synergies / economies if the track works were to be carried out in conjunction with the car parking enhancements works planned at the Community later in the summer.

8.2.3 Coombes Community Association and Royston Town Centre Working Group

The Royston CO continues to sit on the above groups on a quarterly basis and provide advice and support accordingly.

The Coombes Community Association were successful in their application for funding from the Community Facilities Capital Projects Pot, securing £50k to cover costs for a disabled lift and enhancements to the toilets at the facility.

Enhancement works to the Car Park are also being scheduled in at the end of the summer.

8.2.4 Royston Pageant

The Royston CO will work with the Town Council, District Council and local groups in the setting up of a new event for the Royston calendar in 2019. The event currently named as the Royston Pageant, will be held for the first time on Sunday 23rd June next year.

The event will start with a parade commencing at Royston Cross and finishing on Fish Hill Square.

From Fish Hill Square, the event will move to Priory Memorial Gardens for falconry, archery, kids jousting, and school presentations of medieval drama and songs.

The Royston CO will sit on the planning group and will assist with licensing issues and road closure requirements for the Pageant.

8.2.5 Royston Food Festival

The Royston CO provided advice and licensing support to Councillor Sarah Dingley and the organisers of Street Food Heroes. The event was held in Priory Memorial Gardens on Friday 20th July and was well supported by the people of Royston.

8.2.6 Therfield School

Support and funding advice has been given to the Head of the school at Therfield re an Awards for All, small Big Lottery Funding Application re further enhancements to the outside communal play and educational areas.

Officers have recently been informed that Awards for All funding of £10k has been approved for the second phase of the project to create an external area which can be used by a number of local groups & organisations, including the Village's Pre-School Group which has limited external area at the village hall.

8.2.7 Developer Contributions / s106 & other Capital Funding projects

The Royston Community Officer & Communities Manager have worked with external groups and colleagues in the Planning Department in the potential utilisation developer contributions and other sources of capital funding available.

Barkway Parish Council

- £6,819.93 of Sustrans contributions have been assigned for the provision of a new Bus Stop shelter serving the village.
- £8,076.45 of Play Space & Informal Open Space contributions have been assigned for the installation of a Zip Wire and associated land works at the recreation ground.
- Further contributions held under the Community Centres / Village Hall category are to be consider for further enhancements to the Community Room end of the pavilion at the Recreation Ground. Officers are waiting plans and costings associated to this initiative before formal submission to the Development & Conservation Manager to consider.

Other Projects

- 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.

If members have any projects in mind which may potentially benefit from utilising capital funds derived via the Planning process please contact the Communities Officer to investigate further possibilities.

The Communities 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.

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 Communities Officer.

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 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything provided that it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.
- 9.3 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.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Royston & District Area Committee has £8,100 left to allocate in the 3 remaining meetings to be held in the 2018/19 financial year. The Committee has no carry forward from the 2017/18 financial year.

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 1 - 2017/18 financial year budget sheet

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 16.1 Author: Ashley Hawkins Community Officer
Email: ashley.hawkins@north-herts.gov.uk

16.2 Contributors: Anne Miller, Assistant Accountant
Email: anne.miller@north-herts.gov.uk

Kerry Shorrocks, Corporate Human Resources Manager
Email: Kerry.shorrocks@north-herts.gov.uk

Tim Everitt, Performance & Risk Officer
Email: tim.everitt@north-herts.gov.uk

Reuben Ayavoo, Senior Policy Officer
Email: reuben.ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk

Yvette Roberts, Legal Officer
Email: yvette.roberts@north-herts.gov.uk

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.