

ROYSTON & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE
28 November 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 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 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 £4,000 to Royston Bowls Club to help towards the purchase of a machine to de-thatch the green, to help with disease and improve the playing surface as detailed in 8.1.1.
- 2.2 That the Committee considers a Grant Application of £500 to Royston Historical Pageant to help towards the costs for organising a large historical event for the town as detailed in 8.1.2.

- 2.3 That the Committee considers a Grant Application of £750 to Royston Choral Society to assist with publicity, event and equipment hire costs for their Performance of Bach's St John Passion as detailed in 8.1.3.
- 2.4 The Committee agrees the release of £1,500 in support of the Free After 3pm Parking initiative scheme for the town. This funding is required annually and is combined with funding from Hertfordshire County Councillors' Locality Budgets and Royston First. If agreed, funding will be carried forward for the Free After 3pm Parking Initiative into the 2019/20 financial year as payment is not required until April 2019.
- 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 within the 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 grants awarded at the Royston & District Area Committee meeting in September, the Committee has **£5,170** in total to allocate in the remaining 2 meetings of the 2018/19 financial year.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Requests

8.1.1	Applicant	Royston Bowls Club
	Project	Purchase of a machine to de-thatch the green
	Sum requested	£4,000
	Total project cost	£9,000
	Match funding	£4,000 own funds and £1,000 Tesco Bags of Help (tbc)
	Annual expenditure	£48,150.00
	Funds held	£156,274.00
	Previous support	None
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Prosper & Protect

Royston Bowls Club wishes to purchase a machine to de-thatch the green, to help reduce disease and improve the playing surface.

Royston Bowling Club is a registered charity. The club was set up in 1927 and consists of 16 volunteer committee members and 130 volunteers. Over 1000 people use the facility each year. The club serves the residents of Royston and the surrounding area, with members aged from 10 to 90, providing exercise and social activities.

The group is seeking £4k. The Committee has just over £5k left to commit over the 2 remaining meetings. The group does have £156,274 in reserve which is the equivalent

of 3 years running costs. Members may wish to consider this when making a decision on funding the group.

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	Royston Historical Pageant
	Project	Organising a large historical event for the town
	Sum requested	£500
	Total project cost	£2,650
	Match funding	£1,000 HCC Locality Budget
	Annual expenditure	Not known as this is a new group
	Funds held	£500
	Previous support	None
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Working with Local Communities

Royston Historical Pageant Committee is seeking funding support to assist with costs for putting on a large historical event for the town in 2019. Funding will be used to assist with publicity and advertising costs for the event and also to pay for re-enactment groups to attend.

The Royston Historical Pageant committee was set up in April 2018 and is made up of 7 committee members who are all volunteers. The event which is planned for July 2019 on Royston Heath will involve and be attended by schools, families and visitors to the area who have an interest in History. The application is criteria compliant and the officer recommendation is for an award of £500.

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	Royston Choral Society
	Project	Performance of Bach's St John Passion in Royston
	Sum requested	£750
	Total project cost	£5,540
	Match funding	£2,200 Ticket Sales
	Annual expenditure	£17,587
	Funds held	£18,714
	Previous support	£500 publicity and equipment costs November 2016
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Working with Local Communities

Royston Choral Society is seeking funding support to assist with publicity, event and equipment hire costs for their Performance of Bach's St John Passion at Royston Parish Church on 6th April 2019. This event is a part of the Society's commitment to provide 4 concerts annually.

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. The group is a registered charity which consists of 10 committee members, 1 part time paid employee and 50 volunteers. The funding requested is to assist with publicity costs including posters, flyers, tickets and programmes. The application is criteria compliant. Under the new grants policy, members may award up to 70% of the total project cost. The applicant is requesting £750.

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

In the last five years, this organisation has received the following awards:

14/09/2016 - Funding support to assist with costs for putting on a community concert, £500

Total awards: £500.

8.2 Update on Community Engagement Initiatives

8.2.1 Pathway at 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 Legal fees to progress the order have now been paid.

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 the recent installation of a practice strip running to the side of the existing track. The strip is now in use to help train new riders as well as allow the club to provide 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 to help meet any funding shortfall which was just over £12k.

8.2.3 Coombes Community Association

The Royston CO continues to sit on the above group which meets on a quarterly basis and provides advice and support accordingly.

Over recent months there has been a significant increase in vandalism and anti-social behaviour targeted at the centre and the BMX track. The Royston CO is working with the Coombes Community Association, the Police and the Community Safety Team at the Council to address the issue.

8.2.4 Royston Pageant

The Royston CO continues to work with the Royston Historical Pageant Committee 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 7th July next year.

The event was originally planned for Fish Hill Square and Priory Memorial Gardens but will now be held at Royston Heath where there is more space for the activities planned which include falconry and historical re-enactments.

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

8.2.5 Royston Christmas Market

The Royston CO is providing advice and licensing support to Councillor Sarah Dingley and the organisers of the Royston Christmas Market. The event will be held in Fish Hill Square on Saturday 1st December.

8.2.6 Royston Day Centre

The Barn, Upper Kings Street. Officers are providing support & advice re seeking funding to address internal enhancements at the centre which will result in an application to the CFCPFS hopefully in January 2019.

8.2.7 Royston First BID

The renewal BID process is to form a separate report to Cabinet at its meeting on 18th December 2018, seeking the authority for officers to progress the process to a formal Ballot stage with the view to renew the BID term for another 5 years.

If approval is gained the proposed timetable for the Royston First BID renewal is likely to be:-

- Publication of Notice of Ballot by 4th January 2019
- Ballot packs issued by 24th January 2019
- Day of ballot 6th March 2019
- Declaration & Results Announced 8th March 2019

Start of new BID (if approved in ballot) 1st Apr 2019

8.2.8 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.

Projects include:

- 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.
- Fencing to the rear of Coombes Community Centre to improve safety and to reduce risk of anti-social behaviour.
- Barkway PC re the installation & disabled access to the Recreation Ground & Pavilion

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 £5,170 left to allocate in the 2 remaining meetings to be held in the 2018/19 financial year. The Committee has no carry forward from the 2017/18 financial year. Members should note that there is insufficient funds within the 2018/19 base budget to award the full amounts requested by the Grant applicants.

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

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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 Cabinet June 2016.