

**BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE
3 DECEMBER 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 Grant Award of £600 to 2nd Baldock Scout Group to help towards the costs of equipment as detailed in 8.1.1.
- 2.2 That the Committee considers Grant Award of £800 to Letchworth Rugby Club to help towards equipment and coaching costs as detailed in 8.1.2.
- 2.3 That the Committee considers Grant Award of £1,500 to Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association to help towards the costs for purchasing new notice boards for the North Road and Clothall Common Allotment sites as detailed in 8.1.3
- 2.3 That the Committee allocates funding in the first instance from underspent budgets from the 2017/18 financial year.
- 2.4 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Baldock.

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 Baldock 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 relating to the allocated and unallocated Budgets available to the Committee.
- 7.3 Funding remaining for the Committee to allocate in the 2018/19 is summarised below:

	2017/18 Carry Forward	2018/19 Base Budget	Total
Baldock Town	0	£2,964	£2,964
Baldock East	£812	£1,400	£2,212
Arbury	£514	£1,200	£1,714
Weston & Sandon	£0	£320	£320

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Requests

8.1.1	Applicant	2 nd Baldock Scout Group
	Project	Assist with purchase of key equipment
	Sum requested	£600
	Total project cost	£1,800
	Match funding	£1,200 from fundraising and other grants
	Annual expenditure	£8,889
	Funds held	£6,252
	Previous support	07/03/2016 - replacement of equipment trailer - £1,000
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Prosper & Protect

2nd Baldock Scout group would like funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with the purchase of key equipment to support their growing numbers. This would include Sleeping Tents, Patrol Cooking Tents and Dining Shelters, Stoves and Cooking Equipment.

The 2nd Baldock Scout Section has doubled in size over the last 12 months from 14 Scouts to 28 Scouts and is providing more opportunities for Young People to camp and do outdoor activities. Prior to last year the unit had equipment to support 2 patrols, but with the increased numbers they need to purchase more equipment so that they can offer activities for all the Scouts within the section.

2nd Baldock Scouts is growing which is excellent for the youth of Baldock & surrounding villages. This equipment will allow more opportunity for outdoor activities which is a key element of Scouting. As well as being used by 2nd Baldock Scouts, the equipment can also be shared with both Beavers and Cub groups linked to the unit. The group is also willing to loan the equipment out to other scout groups locally.

The application is criteria compliant and the officer recommendation is an award of £600. The group is putting in substantial match funding.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC. In the last five years, this organisation has received the following awards:

Total previous awards: £1,000 replacement of equipment trailer 07/03/16.

8.1.2	Applicant	Letchworth Garden City Rugby Club
	Project	Extra Curricular Rugby Coaching in Baldock schools
	Sum requested	£800
	Total project cost	£1,880
	Match funding:	£1,080
	Annual expenditure	£tbc
	Funds held	£tbc
	Previous support	£450 assist with purchase of floodlighting equipment
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Attractive & Striving

Letchworth Rugby Club outreach and development coordinators would like to build on the success of its school program and continue to grow the delivery of rugby coaching in Baldock schools.

Over the past 3 years, with support from Sport England's 'Satellite Club' scheme, the team have delivered approximately 100 coaching sessions at Knights Templar School for both boys & girls.

They would also like to deliver additional coaching sessions in Baldock's primary schools. To date they have delivered pre-school, lunch time and after school rugby clubs averaging 12 children per session.

If possible, they would also welcome the opportunity to deliver coaching sessions within curriculum time, i.e. P.E lessons, as this has the advantage of a) providing all children with the opportunity to play rugby and b) it helps develop the rugby coaching skills of the schools' P.E. staff.

This organisation received £450 from the Area Committee in June 2016 for assistance in purchasing mobile floodlights.

8.1.3	Applicant	Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association
	Project	Assist with the costs for purchasing new notice boards
	Sum requested	£2,000
	Total project cost	£2,250
	Match funding	£250 Club's own funds
	Annual expenditure	£tbc
	Funds held	£tbc
	Previous support	£4k – see below.
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Prosper & Protect

Baldock Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with the purchase of new notice boards for both the North Road and Clothall Common sites and to also assist the resigning of the 2 existing NHDC signs.

The Baldock Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association has over 220 members with ages of plot holders ranging from 18 to 80. The funding is required to help the group to better promote allotments to the people of Baldock and surrounding villages.

The group is seeking £2,000 of a total project cost of £2250. Under the revised Grants Criteria, a maximum of 70% of the overall project cost can be awarded to projects. In light of this the officer recommendation would be for £1,500.

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

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

- 04/03/2013 - £1,000 towards Legal costs in moving to self management status.
- 03/06/2013 - £650 for new fencing at North Road Allotments site.
- 07/03/2016 - £2,350 soakaways & drainage works to car park at North Road.

Total awards: £4000.

8.2 Update on Community Engagement Initiatives

8.2.1 Sports Therapy 4 U Charity 5km Run

The Baldock 5km Rat Run was held for the first time on Sunday 9th September 2018 and was supported by around 250 runners. The event was a real success and will be repeated annually.

The event was supporting the Garden House Hospice and raised in the region of £1k for the charity.

8.2.2 Baldock Fair

The Baldock Fair returned to Baldock High Street and Whitehorse Street in October, operating on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th October. The Baldock CO and Community Manager were in attendance to oversee the set up of the fair and also made regular site visits during the three day event. The fair was well supported by the people of Baldock and passed without incident.

8.2.3 Baldock Community Fireworks

The Baldock Community Fireworks event was held for a sixth time on Saturday 20th October. The event was attended by over 1,400 spectators and made £1,345 profit which was shared equally amongst the 3 state run nursery schools in Baldock. Last year the profit was shared equally amongst the primary schools of the town.

8.2.4 Baldock Christmas Market Event

The Baldock CO has been providing event support to the Baldock Events Forum for the Baldock Christmas Market Event which will be held in Baldock High Street and Whitehorse Street on Saturday 1st December 2108.

8.2.5 Developer Contributions / s106 & other Capital Funding projects

The Baldock 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.

Sandon School Friends of Group

- As well as assisting the friends of group to find external funding to enhance the outside sporting & play provision at the school, officers have also received confirmation from the Parish Council that it fully supports the utilisation of developer contributions funds collated under Pitch Sports & Play Space to go towards the scheme of works to enhance the schools external games / play area & surfaces. Officers will formally seek authority from colleagues in the Planning Team to potentially assign such funds over to the scheme.

Baldock Arts & Heritage Centre

- Works to replace all the first floor windows and refurbish & reconfigure the majority of the ground floor have commenced. These schemes are utilising funding via a number of sources including a Capital Projects Grant from the Authority, Phase 2 improvement works capital funds and some developer contributions assigned to DDA works which are encompassed within the overall enhancements.

Baldock Community Centre

- As with the Arts & Heritage, the Management Committee at the Community Centre is seeking to refurbish the foyer and toilet area possibly next summer. Community Officers will assist & advise the project team in securing appropriate funding for the scheme as well as procuring project plans & specification costings in order for the works to be tendered out.

Ashwell Parish Council

- Officers have met with the Parish Clerk & Vice Chair to run through possible schemes likely to be able to make a call on collated developer contributions collated for the Ashwell area.

The main project the PC is considering relates to significant enhancements of the toilet facilities on the recreation ground. At present approximately £40k of developer contributions have been assigned to such works and officers have suggested that the PC submits a grant application to the next round of the Community Facilities Capital Projects Fund schedule for early next year.

Graveley Parish Council

- Officers are assisting the Parish Council re the potential utilisation of collated developer funds re enhancements to the Cricket Pavilion and provision of a new Scoreboard.

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.

8.2.6 Chairman's Volunteer Achievement Awards

Nominations are now open for NHDC's Annual Chairman's Volunteer Achievement Awards which launched on Thursday 15 November 2018. The awards celebrate the achievements of outstanding, praiseworthy individuals who volunteer their time to make a real difference in their local community.

Wilmott Dixon has kindly agreed to sponsor the awards and the Comet have agreed to be the media sponsor.

The five categories are:

- **Caring Award** – for someone's act or acts of kindness
- **Dedication Award** – for long service in voluntary or community work
- **Sporting Achievement Award** – to recognise a major contribution to sporting life
- **Green Award** – for helping to keep North Herts clean, safe and green
- **Young Star Award** – for a young person or young people who make a difference in their local community

Last year the Judges Special Recognition Award was introduced. This provides the opportunity for the judges to reward someone from the nominations who has made an especially outstanding difference to their local community.

The deadline for nominating volunteers is midnight Friday 21st December 2018. The judging panel will meet on Thursday 10th January 2019 to choose award winners. The panel consists of the Chairman of the Council John Bishop, Nick Gill from the Comet, Anne Taylor, NHCVS and Steven Roberts from Willmott Dixon.

Presentation of the awards will take place at a formal NHDC event on an evening in February next year, where each winner will receive a trophy.

For further information or to submit a nomination please follow the link to the North Hertfordshire District Council's website:

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/community/chairmans-volunteer-achievement-awards>

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 Members are asked to consider utilising any carry forward funds prior to allocating awards from the 2018/19 base budget.

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 Grant Policy Cabinet June 2016.