

**BALDOCK & DISTRICT COMMITTEE
4 MARCH 2019**

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 Award of £920 to Home-Start Hertfordshire to help towards the costs of providing emotional and practical support to two families in Baldock for 3 months as detailed in 8.1.1.
- 2.2 That the Committee considers a Grant Award of £1,440 to Ashwell Music Festival to help towards publicity costs for the 2019 and 2020 festival as detailed in 8.1.2.
- 2.3 That the Committee considers Grant Award of £250 to Magic Moments Preschool to help towards the costs for purchasing new resources and equipment for the outside classroom to support the children's learning and imaginative play as detailed in 8.1.3.

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| 2.4 | That the Committee considers Grant Award of £1,850 to Baldock Town Twinning to assist with costs associated with the visits from the Twinned Towns in 2019 and 2020 as detailed on 8.1.4. |
| 2.5 | That the Committee allocates funding in the first instance from underspent budgets from the 2017/18 financial year. |
| 2.6 | 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 With reference to the Council's Constitution, Section 9.3 Area Committees will include budgets for the purpose of providing grants and discretionary budgets that may be used within the area of the Committee for economic, social and environmental well-being. Under the current grant criteria there is no upper limit outlined for the amount of grant funding to be allocated which can be decided at the Committee's discretion.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 Funding remaining for the Committee to allocate in the 2018/19 is summarised below:

	2017/18 Carry Forward	2018/19 Base Budget	Remaining
Baldock Town	0	£1,838	£1,838
Baldock East	0	£1,004	£1,004
Arbury	£350	£1,200	£1,550
Weston & Sandon	£0	£168	£168

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Requests

8.1.1	Applicant	Home-Start Hertfordshire
	Project	Providing emotional and practical support to two families
	Sum requested	£920
	Total project cost	£13,800
	Match funding	£5,980 from North Herts Area Committee funds and £6,900 from Home-Start Hertfordshire
	Annual expenditure	£447,410.00
	Funds held	£113,038.00
	Previous support	None
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Responsive & Efficient

Home-Start Hertfordshire will be providing emotional and practical help for 2 families who need support in Baldock from a team of trained volunteer family mentors who visit families in their own home, building trusted relationships and providing focused support that is tailored to the family's individual needs. Associated costs for such services are £460 per family for 3 month's service intervention.

Home Start will be providing the additional funding to allow for 3 further months service support for each family. The project will support 15 families in total residing across North Herts.

The application is criteria compliant and the officer recommendation is an award of £920. The group will be committing substantial 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	Ashwell Music Festival
	Project	Funding support to assist with publicity costs for festival
	Sum requested	£1,440
	Total project cost	£19,000
	Match funding:	£17,500 - Sponsorship / ticket sales / donations
	Annual expenditure	£ £135,259.00
	Funds held	£ £55,000.00
	Previous support	Yes
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Attractive & Thriving

Ashwell Music Festival is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with publicity costs associated with the festival including leaflet design and printing and ticket printing.

The group is seeking funding support to cover publicity costs for the 2019 and 2020 festivals, as the coordinating team is aware of the Authority's grants policy which stipulates that groups can only apply once every two years.

In the last five years, this organisation has received 2 grants, totalling £1,300.

The Ashwell Music Festival has been a key feature of the Ashwell calendar of events since 1953. The festival is held for a week in a May and showcases local musical talent from local villages as well as Baldock.

Ashwell Music Festival is a registered charity that is made up of 6 Volunteer Committee Members and 20+ volunteers. Profit from the event goes towards the restoration of St Marys Church, with a percentage being held back for staging future Music Festivals.

The application is criteria compliant and the officer recommendation is an award of £1,440 which will assist with publicity costs for 2019 and 2020.

8.1.3	Applicant	Magic Moments
	Project	Purchase and replacement of resources for outside area
	Sum requested	£250
	Total project cost	£350
	Match funding	£100 Club's own funds
	Annual expenditure	£127,817.00
	Funds held	£41,644.00
	Previous support	Yes, £250 for a new printer and software in 2011
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Prosper & Protect

Magic Moments Pre-school is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with costs for developing the outside classroom for the benefit of the 2 year old pre-schoolers.

Magic Moments provides early years care and education for pre school age children. The group is a registered charity and has been operating from the 1st Baldock Scout Hut since September 2002.

The group currently caters for 60 children. The enhancements to the outdoor area will support the children's learning and imaginative play. The application is criteria compliant. The group has only received funding on one previous occasion back in 2011.

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.

8.1.4	Applicant	Baldock Town Twinning
	Project	Support to assist with the costs for Twinned Town visits in 2019 & 2020 from Sanvignes & Eisenberg.
	Sum requested	£1,850
	Total project cost	£3,800
	Match funding	£1,800 from own funds.
	Annual expenditure	£5,119.61
	Funds held	£6,397.42
	Previous support	Yes
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Responsive & Efficient

Baldock Town Twinning is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with costs for the visits of their twinned towns in 2019 and 2020.

In 2019 Baldock Town Twinning will be welcoming visitors from Sanvignes in France and in 2020 they will host visitors from Eisenberg in Germany. Funding will be used to help with transport & venue hire costs, tour entry costs, & entertainment costs.

Baldock Town Twinning has been operating since 1988 and is made up of 9 volunteer committee members.

The objects of the Association are to:-

- Afford members interested in international twinning an opportunity to meet together in a social atmosphere in which activities of a nature pertinent to these interests can be provided.
- Create an environment in which those who wish to do so can have a positive opportunity to meet and establish friendship bonds with partner twinned communities and create good international understanding.

The application is criteria compliant.

The Officer has reminded the group that funding cannot be used for the purchase of food.

In the last five years, this organisation has received grants, totalling £1,630.

8.2 Update on Community Engagement Initiatives

8.2.1 Baldock Events Forum

The Baldock CO continues to provide support to the Baldock Events Forum (BEF) with the planning for their events in 2019. This has included support with licensing and event planning paperwork for both the Baldock Beast Half Marathon and the Baldock Big Lunch which will be held on Sunday 24th February and Sunday 2nd June respectively. The Baldock CO will also provide marshal and event support at both events.

8.2.2 Baldock Festival

The Baldock CO is supporting the Baldock Festival Committee with plans for this year's event. This has included support with licensing applications and the event management plan. The Baldock CO will provide support with the parking suspension arrangements for the event and will provide marshal support during the set up and take down of the Baldock Street Festival which will be held on Saturday 18th May 2019.

8.2.3 Baldock Community Fireworks

The Baldock Community Fireworks event will be held for the 7th time on Friday 18th October at Hartsfield School.

8.2.4 Street Food Heroes

The Baldock CO is working with the Baldock Events Forum and the organisers of Street Food Heroes to bring this exciting event to Baldock. Street Food Heroes has proved popular in both Hitchin and Royston and are looking to operate in Baldock High Street on the first Friday of every month from March through to September. Street Food Heroes is made up of around 5-6 food vendors (all different to those currently in the town so as not to clash with the local eateries), a bar and music via a dj.

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.

Baldock Arts & Heritage Centre

- Works to replace all the first floor windows and refurbish & reconfigure the majority of the ground floor are underway. 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 later in the year 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 Funding Scheme possibly later in the year.

Graveley Parish Council

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

Baldock Methodist Church

- The Baldock CO is working with the Baldock Methodist Church with their application to the Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme for works to enhance the toilet and kitchen facilities at the venue.

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

10.2 Members should note that there are insufficient funds remaining in the budget to award the grants being presented to the March Baldock & District Area Committee in their entirety.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, 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.