

ROYSTON & DISTRICT COMMITTEE
3 JUNE 2019

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF THE POLICY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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 Committee be recommended to make a Grant Award of £700 to Small Acts of Kindness CIO to assist with the purchase of and distribution of winter bags as detailed in 8.1.1 below.
- 2.2 Committee be recommended to make a Grant Award of £1,000 to Rotary Club of Royston to assist with costs for running the annual Youth Makes Music Concert and the monthly Royston Rotary Memory Café as detailed in 8.1.2 below.
- 2.3 Committee be recommended to make a Grant Award of £1,050 to Home Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire to help with costs for supporting one vulnerable family in Royston with children under 9 for a year as detailed in 8.1.3 below.
- 2.4 Committee to comment on the funding that was allocated to Royston Bowls Club at the November 2018 meeting for the purchase of a de-thatching machine. Royston Bowls Club were unable to raise the necessary funds to purchase the desired de-thatching Machine but instead purchased a verticutter machine. While not of the same specification as the de-thatching machine, the verticutter does help with weed control and the maintenance of the green. The Royston Bowls Club advised the Royston Community Engagement Officer of the purchase in March and hope that the Committee acknowledges this as a purchase in keeping with what the funding award was granted for back in November 2018. The Community Engagement Officer is seeking confirmation from the Committee that funding agreed at the November 2018 has been spent in line with the original grant application
- 2.5 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Engagement 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 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 A. Royston Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for 2019/20. The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the 2018/19 financial years, including balances and past expenditure.

7.3 Funding available for the Committee to allocate in the 2019/20 is summarised below:

	2018/19 Carry Forward	2019/20 Base Budget	Total Budget
Royston	£470	£6,000	£6,470

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Applications

8.1.1

Applicant Project	Small Acts of Kindness CIO Funding support assist with the purchase of and distribution of winter bags
Sum requested	£700
Total project cost	£2,500
Match funding	£1,050 Letchworth & District Committee (Pending) £750 Own funds
Annual expenditure	£84,287.55
Funds held	£18,955.33
Previous support	£2,700 in December 2016 split between all 5 area committees
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Strategic objective met	Attractive & Thriving

Small Acts of Kindness is seeking funding support from the Royston & District Area Committee and the Letchworth & District Area Committee to assist with the purchase and distribution of 100 Warm In Winter Gift Bags to older people living in North Herts. Funding would be split in the ratio of 60% Letchworth and 40% Royston based on the identified recipients of the bags. Elderly residents in Royston and Letchworth have been identified as needing support. Requests for the bags have come from North Herts CVS, North Herts Community Transport and Hertfordshire Independent Living Services.

Small Acts of Kindness was set up in 2014 as a Community Interest Company. In 2018 it was registered as a CIO with the Charity Commission. It is made up of 15 Committee Members and 150 Volunteers. Since 2014, the group have been sourcing and distributing Warm in Winter Gift Bags to elderly people. The bags contain a large fleecy blanket, thermal socks, hat and gloves and a mug together with a selection of hot drinks and soup. The application is criteria compliant and the officer recommendation is for the award of £700.

8.1.2

Applicant Project	Rotary Club of Royston Funding support to assist with publicity, transport and room hire costs.
Sum requested	£1,000
Total project cost	£4,431
Match funding	£2,835 Concert Ticket Sales
Annual expenditure	£70,459.00
Funds held	£9,202.00
Previous support	£1,000 in 2017 and £1,000 in 2016
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Strategic objective met	Attractive & Thriving

Rotary Club of Royston are seeking funding support from the Royston & District Area Committee to assist with costs for running the annual Youth Makes Music Concert and the monthly Royston Rotary Memory Café. Funding will be used to cover publicity costs, transport costs and venue hire costs.

The Rotary Club of Royston is a registered charity that was set up in 1962. It is made up of 8 volunteer committee members and 35 volunteers. Youth Makes Music is an annual event that showcases the musical talent of students from the First, Middle and Upper Schools in Royston. More than 200 students between 8 and 16 years will benefit from the event. Royston Rotary Memory Café is a monthly event that is held at Royston Day Centre. The Memory Café is open to everyone who feels that they, or a person they know may have a short term memory problem. The application is criteria compliant and as the group has significant match funding the recommendation is for an award of £1000. The Community Engagement Officer has reminded the group that venue hire costs are for one year only.

8.1.3

Applicant Project	Home Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire Funding support to assist with costs for supporting a vulnerable family for one year
Sum requested	£1,050
Total project cost	£1,500
Match funding	£450 Own Funds
Annual expenditure	£154,452.00
Funds held	£46,555.59
Previous support	£1,000 in March 2015, £1,250 in November 2015 and £1,500 in March 2016
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Strategic objective met	Attractive & Thriving

Home Start Royston & South Cambs are seeking funding support from Royston & District Area Committee to provide support via the Home Visiting Service (HVS) to one vulnerable family in the Royston area with children under 9 for the duration of a year. The aim of HVS is to prevent the vulnerable family from descending into crisis. The funding requested will enable the HVS to have the family supported by a highly-trained volunteer, who will visit the family for 2 to 3 hours every week, providing emotional and practical support, which is non-judgemental, confidential and free. Support is tailored to the family's individual needs from the outset, the aim being to empower the family and enable them to become independent of Home Start help.

The families that would benefit from the service would be those struggling with a diverse range of issues such as • Post-Natal Depression • Depression • Anxiety • Low Self-esteem • Lack of Ability to Engage in Children's Development • Social Isolation • Bereavement • Disability • Domestic Abuse • Family Breakdown • Children's Behavioural Problems • Children's Developmental Delay.

The funding requested is solely for the benefit of one family in Royston and not for use in other areas of South Cambridgeshire. The overall project cost for the Home Visiting Service across the whole area is £159,000. The application is criteria compliant and the officer recommendation is an award of £1050.

8.2 Community Engagement Updates

8.2.1 Policy and Community Engagement Team Restructure

Following the corporate wide restructure of the district council, there have been some changes to the Council's Corporate Policy and Community team. This has resulted in the merger of the Community Development Team and the Policy Team. This has created a new team which is called Policy & Community Engagement.

The team is managed by the Policy & Community Engagement Manager. Reuben Ayavoo (previously the Senior Policy Officer) takes up this post.

The Policy & Community Engagement Manager will be directly supported by the Community Engagement Team Leader (Claire Morgan), Community Engagement Officer – Events (Ashley Hawkins) covering Royston and Baldock Committees and Trainee Policy Officer (Kei-Retta Farrell).

The Community Engagement Team leader will be supported by two Assistant Community Engagement Officers and Grants and Data Systems officer.

The Community Engagement team will be covering Letchworth, Hitchin and the Southern Rural Committee's.

The Community Engagement Officer – Events will cover the Area committees of Baldock and Royston; support events in Royston and Baldock and seek to support new district events as practical; link officer to the North Hertfordshire Safety Advisory Group.

8.2.1 Pathway at end of Green Drift

The Legal Agreement is now complete and the path is due to be advertised during late May/early June. The advertising process will see notices being erected along the pathway showing the details of the order creating the path and its boundaries.

This will be followed by signage highlighting the pathway as a Public Right of Way.

Following the formal opening of the pathway, the Royston CEO will be liaising with Highways Officers to determine what enhancements can be made to the pathway in terms of the surface and lighting and will look to unlock S106 funds for these works during 2019.

8.2.2 Coombes Community Association

The Royston Community Engagement Officer (CEO) continues to sit on the above group which meets on a quarterly basis and provides advice and support accordingly.

The Royston CEO is now based at Coombes Community Centre on Thursday afternoons, to be on hand for any issues arising at the centre and also to have a location for meeting with Royston organisations / groups and Royston District & Town Councillors.

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

To tackle the anti-social behaviour problem the Coombes have installed additional CCTV cameras at the centre and have also erected metal fencing to the rear of the centre which was purchased using S106 monies.

8.2.3 Royston Pageant

The Royston CEO 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, will be held for the first time on Sunday 7th July.

The event is being held in its entirety at Priory Memorial Gardens and will include re-enactments, falconry displays, archery and performance of dance from local school children.

The Royston CEO continues to sit on the planning group and will assist with event management and licensing issues on the build up to the event. The Royston CEO will also provide marshal support on the day and will assist with event set up and take down. .

8.2.4 Creative Royston

Creative Royston (formerly known as Royston Festival) will be holding its 30th festival between 20th and 29th September. This is one of the key events in the Royston Calendar and includes a range of activities for all ages to enjoy, from art to music. The highlight of the event is the Festival Day which will be held in Priory Memorial Gardens on Saturday 28th September.

The Royston CEO is supporting the group with their licence applications, event plan and will also provide marshal support to the event In Priory Memorial Gardens on the 28th September.

8.2.5 Royston Town Centre Working Party

The Royston CEO continues to sit on the Royston Town Centre Working Party. The group meets on a quarterly basis and focuses on tackling waste issues within the town. The group is made up of colleagues from Waste and the contractor Urbaser, Royston First, Chamber of Commerce and both District and County Councillors.

8.2.6 Premises Licence for Royston Events

The Royston CEO has been working with Sarah Dingley and colleagues in Licencing and the Police to secure a Premises Licence for Priory Memorial Gardens. This Licence can be used for a number of events in the town including the Royston Pageant, Street Food Heroes, Royston Festival and potentially the Royston May Fayre. This will help to reduce administration time for both groups holding events in the town and Licencing Officers at North Herts District Council and will ensure a single point of contact for events within the Town.

8.2.7 Royston Day Centre

The Royston CEO provided support to the Royston Day Centre on their application for funding from the Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme to address internal enhancements at the centre, including upgrading the toilet and kitchen facilities and enhancing the lighting and heating systems.

The group was successful in their application and received £50k from the Member Community Facilities Capital Grants Panel held on 27th March 2019. Works are planned to commence in September/October.

8.2.8 Developer Contributions / s106 & other Capital Funding projects

The Royston CEO has worked with external groups and colleagues in the Planning Department in the potential utilisation developer contributions and other sources of capital funding available.

Projects Completed:

- Fencing to the rear of Coombes Community Centre to create an outdoor space for users of the centre and to improve safety and reduce risk of anti-social behaviour. Project completed in May and funded from S106 Play Space Allocation.
- £50k funding allocated to Therfield Sports Pavilion from the Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme. Funding was agreed at the Community Facilities Capital Grants Panel held on 27th March 2019, subject to the group getting planning permission for the project and securing the additional £100k external funding.

Projects in process:

- 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.
- Barkway PC re the installation & disabled access to the Recreation Ground & Pavilion
- Enhanced provision of Bus Shelters at potential sites within the town
- Provision of cycle racks around Royston Town Centre.
- Royston British Legion, internal refurbishments & enhancements which will result in an application to the CFCPFS in September / October 2019.

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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

- 8.3.1 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 As outlined in Appendix A Committee budget 2019/20

The agreed budget for this financial year is **£6,000** in line with the agreed 20% reduction in grant budgets as agreed by full council.

All carry forward amounts from 2018/19 total **£470**.

Total funds therefore available to the Committee are **£6,470**.

- 10.2 Should Members be minded to provide grant funding as requested under recommendations 2.1 to 2.3 the total spend from the Committee Budget will be **£2,750**, which would leave the Committee with **£3,720** to allocate in the remaining 3 meeting of the Committee in the 2019/20 financial year. The Committee has also provided £1,500 annually from its budget towards the Free After 3pm Parking Initiative. Supporting this again in 2019/20 would reduce the funds available to the Committee for the next 3 meetings to **£2,220**.

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 positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

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 - 2019/20 financial year budget sheet

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.