

BALDOCK & DISTRICT COMMITTEE 4 SEPTEMBER 2017
--

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 10
----------------------------------	---

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS AND 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 an in principle grant award for the Baldock & Bygrave Neighbourhood Planning Group, subject to officers receiving the appropriate supporting documentation in line with the Authority's grant criteria and as detailed in 8.1.1
- 2.2 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 2017/18.
- 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 Area Capital Visioning Budgets available to the Committee.
- 7.3 Funding remaining for the Committee to allocate in the 2017/18 is summarised below:

	2016/17 Carry Forward	2017/18 Base Budget	Total
Baldock Town	£1,907	£4,300	£6,207
Baldock East	£1,274	£1,600	£2,874
Arbury	£67	1,200	£1,267
Weston & Sandon	£1,313*	1,200	£2,513

Weston & Sandon 2016/17 carry forward includes the £285 that was previously allocated to Village Community Facilities and the £70 allocated to Village Projects

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Update on Community Engagement & Grant Request

8.1.1 Baldock & Bygrave Neighbourhood Planning Group

The steering group is continuing the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the town and parish of Bygrave.

The group believes that it is vital to raise awareness of the Neighbourhood Plan enabling local residents to voice their opinions so that these can be taken into account when the Plan is formally developed.

Like other plans being developed within the District, funding is required to produce publicity materials, hold meetings / drop in sessions in order raise awareness and gather information to feed into the consultation elements of the neighbourhood planning process.

As with other Area Committee awards made to Neighbourhood Planning Groups within the District, funding cannot be utilised for any section of the Neighbourhood Planning process if such elements were to conflict with the Authority's own Local Plan.

8.1.2 Baldock Cycle Challenge

The Baldock & District Communities Officer provided support to the Baldock Events Forum on the Baldock Cycle Challenge which was held for a 5th time on Sunday 23rd July.

The CO assisted the group with the planning for the event, the social media push and with signing of the route.

The event was a great success with 180 riders participating on the day, resulting in profits of £1,800 for the Baldock Events Forum.

The Baldock Cycle Challenge will return again in 2018 but will be held during National Bike Week towards the end of June.

8.1.3 Balstock

The Baldock & District Communities Officer is assisting the Balstock organisers with plans for this year's Balstock Family Fun Weekend which will be held on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September.

Support has included assistance with licensing issues, parking, waste management, landowner consent, toilet provision, first aid provision and support with drafting the event management plans as required by the North Herts Safety Advisory Group.

8.1.4 Baldock Fair

The Baldock & District Communities Officer is working with the organisers of the Baldock Fair with plans for this year's event.

The CO has organised the paperwork required by Highways for the TTRO and has assisted the organisers with the event management documentation.

During September CO will co-ordinate the advance publicity for the event notifying residents, businesses, the emergency services of the upcoming event.

The CO and CM will organise the removal of the street furniture ahead of the Fair's arrival and will also be in attendance to oversee the fair pulling onto Baldock High Street and White Horse Street.

The fair will pull onto Baldock High Street at midnight on Sunday 1st October and will be operating as normal on Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th October, leaving the town overnight and the early hours of the morning on Thursday 5th October 2017.

8.2 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 Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees confirm that they may establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations which include discretionary grant aid/financial support but excluding grants for district-wide activities. The Committee has delegated powers, as a body, 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.

9.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything:-

- An individual may generally do
- Anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
- For a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
- Without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or person's resident or present in its area.

9.3 Section 137 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 All Area Committees saw a 55% decrease in funding in the 2016/17 financial year. There are 4 meetings in the 2017/18 Committee cycle and members must ensure that sufficient funding is available for all meetings.

10.2 In 2017/18 the Baldock & District Area Committee has an overall budget of £8,600, which is split as follows – Baldock Town £4,300, Baldock East £1,600, Arbury £1,500 and Weston & Sandon £1,200.

10.3 As detailed in 7.3 above, members have carry forward from the 2016/17 financial year. Members are asked to spend from their carry forward prior to allocating from the 2017/18 base budgets.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Covalent, 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 All projects that are assigned area committee funding are assessed to ensure that they do not negatively impact on any part of the local community. The only deviation to this is where a minority or marginalised group may specifically receive funding or allocation of resources to address a particular area of need or 'gap' in provision.

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 Improvement Officer
Email: tim.everitt@north-herts.gov.uk
- Reuben Ayavoo, Policy Officer
Email: reuben.ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk
- Anthony Roche, Corporate Legal Manager and Monitoring Officer
Email: anthony.roche@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.