

**ROYSTON & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE  
9 OCTOBER 2019**

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE**

**REPORT OF : *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 14<sup>th</sup> 2016.
- 1.3 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Engagement 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 £1,380 to BEEE Creative CIC to assist with costs for running 60 creative movement workshops at Royston & District Museum and Art Gallery. Funding will be used to assist with dance artist fees, travel costs, publicity costs and insurance and music licence costs as detailed in 8.1.1.
- 2.2 Committee be recommended to make a Grant Award of £1,340 to Enterprise East to assist with costs for running a series of workshops between Jan and March 2020 for up to 15 people local to the Royston area. Funding would be used to cover venue hire and marketing costs as detailed in 8.1.2 below.
- 2.3 Committee members are to comment on point 8.2.2 with reference to Town Talks and to agree as a Committee if they would like these introduced in Royston and held prior to future Royston & District Committee Meetings
- 2.4 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	£34	£3,720	£3,754

## 8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

### 8.1 Grant Applications

#### 8.1.1

<b>Applicant Project</b>	<b>BEEE Creative CIC</b> Funding support to assist with costs for running dance workshops at Royston Museum
<b>Sum requested</b>	£1,380
<b>Total project cost</b>	£4,880
<b>Match funding</b>	£2,250 Own Funds £350 HCC Locality Budget £900 Voluntary Contributions
<b>Annual expenditure</b>	£73,098.00
<b>Funds held</b>	£25,612.00
<b>Previous support</b>	None
<b>NHDC Policy met</b>	Yes
<b>Strategic objective met</b>	Attractive & Thriving

BEEE Creative is seeking funding support from the Royston & District Committee to assist with costs for running 60 creative movement workshops at Royston & District Museum and Art Gallery. Funding will be used to assist with dance artist fees, travel costs, publicity costs and insurance and music licence costs.

BEEE Creative (Community Interest Company) supports and delivers community projects that give people access to arts opportunities. The group was set up in May 2017 and consists of 4 Committee members, 1 part time paid member of staff and 14 volunteers. The group will run 60 creative movement workshops at Royston and District Museum and Art Gallery for families with pre-school children and for older adults aged 65+ from October 2019 to July 2020. Around 500 people will benefit from the workshops. The application is criteria compliant and the officer recommendation is an award of £1,380.

## 8.1.2

<b>Applicant Project</b>	<b>Enterprise East</b> Funding support to assist with venue hire and marketing costs for workshops between Jan & March 2020.
<b>Sum requested</b>	£1,340
<b>Total project cost</b>	£4,140
<b>Match funding</b>	£1,800 Enterprise East funds £1,000 Fowler Smith & Jones Trust
<b>Annual expenditure</b>	£11, 818.00
<b>Funds held</b>	£5,800.00
<b>Previous support</b>	None
<b>NHDC Policy met</b>	Yes
<b>Strategic objective met</b>	Attractive & Thriving

Enterprise East is looking for funding support from the Royston & District Committee to assist with costs for running a series of workshops between Jan and March 2020 for up to 15 people local to the Royston area who are furthest removed from employment including those with learning difficulties, homeless, ex-offenders etc

Enterprise East is a Community Interest Company which provides employment support through Inclusion and Thrive workshops. The organisation was set up in 2017 and is made up of 1 full time paid member of staff, 7 part time paid members of staff and 5 volunteers. Enterprise East services promote community cohesion and reach out to those who are disadvantaged by disability and circumstance, with tailored access to training and employment. The workshops will engage with 15 people from the Royston area. Workshops will be held in venues yet to be confirmed but will include Coombes Community Centre, Market Hill Rooms, Royston Golf Club, Royston Methodist Church and Royston Football Club. These venues are all run independent of NHDC so funding for venue hire costs is criteria compliant. This is the first time that the group has applied for funding from the Royston & District Committee and the officer recommendation is for an award of £1,340.

## 8.2 Community Engagement Updates

### 8.2.1 Pathway at end of Green Drift

The pathway at end of Green Drift is now a formal Public Right Of Way and signage is now in place.

The Royston CEO continues to liaise with Members and Officers at Hertfordshire County Council with the medium term aim to have the path resurfaced and lighting installed. This is not likely until at the earliest 2021.

### 8.2.2 Town Talk

A suggestion was made by a member of the Royston & District Committee if Town Talk could be introduced as an additional means of community engagement and held prior to future Royston & District Committee meetings. Royston currently holds a Councillor Surgery approximately once every two months which is supported by Town, District and County Councillors as well as Hertfordshire Constabulary. Hitchin, Letchworth and Baldock all have Town Talks prior to Committee meetings with varying levels of success and interest. Town Talks are held prior to the Committee Meeting, starting at 630pm and finishing at 715pm. These are attended by Committee members and it is usually the Community Engagement Officer (CEO) who minutes the meeting.

### 8.2.3 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.

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.

### 8.2.4 Royston Pageant

The Royston Pageant was held for the first time on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July and was well supported by the people of Royston and from further afield. The event catered for all ages and passed without incident.

The Royston CEO provided pre event support and also marshal support on the day.

### 8.2.5 Creative Royston

Creative Royston (formerly known as Royston Festival) will be holding its 30<sup>th</sup> festival between 20<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> September.

### 8.2.6 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.

### 8.2.7 Street Food Heroes

Following its success in 2018, Street Food Heroes returned to Royston Priory Memorial Gardens in July, August and September. Again these proved extremely popular and were well supported by the people of Royston.

### 8.2.8 Bus Shelters

The Royston CEO is working with colleagues at Hertfordshire County Council and its contractors to install two new bus shelters in the town. These will be located on Icknield Walk and Melbourn Road. Funding for these has been allocated from S106 Sustainable Transport monies and the shelters should be installed by 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020.

### 8.2.9 Bicycle racks

The Royston CEO is working with Royston Town Council Councillors to bring additional bicycle racks into the town. It is envisaged that the bicycle racks will be installed in the Market Hill car park area which is owned by the Royston Town Council. Funding for this project has been secured from S106 Sustainable Transport monies.

### 8.2.10 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 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
- 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 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

All carry forward amounts from 2018/19 total **£34**.

Total funds therefore available to the Committee are **£3,754**.

- 10.2 Should Members be minded to provide grant funding as requested under recommendations 2.1 to 2.2 the total spend from the Committee Budget will be **£2,720**, which would leave the Committee with **£1,034** to allocate in the remaining 2 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. If grant funding as requested was awarded the Committee would not be able to commit the full amount of £1,500 and this may impact on whether the Initiative can operate in the future.

## **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.