

**ROYSTON & DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
**13 JULY 2017**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM No.**

**8**

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

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, POLICY & GOVERNANCE**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS:  
COUNCILLOR TONY HUNTER**

**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 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 be recommended to consider the provision of grant funding to the organisations outlined below:
  - 2.1.1 Royston Arts Festival - £1,500 as outlined below in 8.1.1
  - 2.1.2 Corvus Cornix Basketball Club- £200 as outlined below in 8.1.3
  - 2.1.3 Rotary Club of Royston - £1,000 as outlined below in 8.1.4
  - 2.1.4 Royston Community Transport, £3,000 as outlined below in 8.1.5
- 2.2 That all grants be allocated from the 2017/18 financial year
- 2.3 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community 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 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix A Royston Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which details the amount of funding available to allocate in the 2017/18 financial year.

### **8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **8.1 Grant Applications for Consideration**

##### **8.1.1 Royston Arts Festival**

Creative Royston is an unregistered charity that was set up in 2007 and is run by 12 volunteers and 1 part time paid person.

This year the theme is festival and events and will be running over a weekend in September. Events will include a festival in Priory Memorial Gardens, the return of the Music Fest, the finale concert and many more art based events around the town.

Funding will be used to assist with the production and distribution of the festival programme which is delivered to all households in Royston and surrounding villages.

The festival is one of the showcase events in the Royston Calendar. As well as bringing many new visitors to the town, the events also help to drive up footfall for local businesses.

Royston Arts Festival is requesting £1,500 towards the overall cost of £14,600 from the Area Committee Budget in order to cover the costs for publicity and distribution costs of the Festival programme in 2017 and 2018.

#### 8.1.2 **Corvus Cornix Basketball Club**

Corvus Cornix Basketball Club was set up in 2011. It is a club for young people and has 80 members.

Funding will assist with training /coaching costs and venue hire costs. The sessions will be held at Royston leisure Centre on 4 Sunday afternoons in October, November, February and March.

Basketball is a growing sport in Royston and is played indoors and only the leisure centre has the capacity for running weekend sessions locally

Corvus Cornix Basketball Club is requesting £200 towards the overall cost of £600 from the Area Committee Budget.

#### 8.1.3 **Rotary Club of Royston**

Rotary Club of Royston is seeking funding support from the Royston & District Area Committee to assist with costs for their two main annual events, namely the Technology Tournament held in February and Youth Makes Music in March.

Funding is sought to assist with costs for the events including venue hire, equipment hire, transport costs, first aid costs and publicity costs.

The Rotary Club of Royston has been operating since 1962 and is made up of 9 Committee Members and 34 volunteers. In the region of 400 young people will participate in these activities. Funding sought is for the running of the events in 2018.

Rotary Club of Royston is requesting £1,000 towards the overall cost of £3,400 from the Area Committee Budget.

#### 8.1.4 **Royston Community Transport**

Royston Community Transport have been donated a minibus which requires a number of modifications before it can be used by the group. This will include modifications to enable the minibus to carry wheelchairs and installation of new seats. Funding will also be used for some minor body repair works.

This wheelchair-accessible vehicle will be used to transport clients, including up to two wheelchair users and/or up to seven seated passengers. It will also be the standby vehicle to cover for the three other minibuses and MPV, which are used for contracts which require a standby vehicle to ensure continuity of service.

Royston Community Transport is a registered charity and has been operating since 1994. It is made up of 8 committee members, 2 paid full time staff and 2 part time staff and 85 volunteers. The group is seeking £3,000, which exceeds the amount that can be recommended by an officer. The maximum that can be recommended by an officer is

£1500. Members should note that the group is asking for the full amount with no match funding.

## **8.2 Update on previous Grant Awards**

### **8.2.1 Royston Town Youth Colts**

In March 2017 the Committee awarded £330 to Royston Town Youth Colts to help set up a futsal club for Royston.

Futsal has now been running every week since the grant award. The group holds two sessions on a Thursday evening and two most Sunday afternoons.

The group now has over 90 children registered for training blocks. Currently offered is a 4 week blocks per age group from 6-13 year olds.

Feedback from the children participating and their parents has been just brilliant.

### **8.2.2 Royston Rockets BMX Club**

In March 2017 the Committee awarded £1,000 to Royston Rockets BMX Club to help with costs for installing hard standing around the club cabin.

These works have now been completed and have enhanced the facility in time for the Summer Series racing which started in May.

## **8.3 Update on Community Engagement**

### **8.3.1 Royston May Fayre**

The Royston CO provided marshal support to the Royston May Fare event which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The event was well supported and enjoyed by all who attended.

### **8.3.2 Royston Town Twinning**

The Royston CO assisted the Town Twinners with the planning for their visit from the French town of La Loupe.

As part of the visit, Royston Town Twinning, via support from the Royston CO, arranged for plaques to be erected on two benches marking the opening of La Loupe Court.

Prior to this, the Royston CO arranged through Property Services the painting of the benches in time for the plaques being added.

### **8.3.3 Coombes Community Centre**

The Royston CO and Communities Manager assisted the Community Centre in finding funding for the refurbishment of the upstairs area of the Community Centre which was formerly run as a bar & clubroom. The works are now completed and the rooms are now being booked up by local groups and businesses, increasing participation and assisting the centre to become more sustainable for the future

### **8.3.4 Royston Arts Festival**

The Royston CO is assisting Creative Royston with planning for this year's festival. Support has included assistance with license applications.

#### **8.4 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 Following a 55% reduction in the committee's budget last year, the Committee starts the current financial year with a budget of £10,700. The Committee did not carry any funding over from the 2016/17 financial year. This funding is to be shared across the 4 Area Committee meetings planned. Members should note that if all funding was agreed as requested at the July meeting, there would only be £2,800 available for the remaining 3 meetings of the committee in the current financial year.

### **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 The grants awarded by the Area committees promote the development and enhancement of community wellbeing. They seek to improve the services provided by voluntary and community groups to residents. The work of the groups identified here support: the increased physical activity of residents, mobility of and participation of residents to advance the equality of opportunity.

### **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 – Budget Sheet for the Royston & District Area Committee
- 15.2 Appendix B – Grant Form for Royston Arts Festival
- 15.3 Appendix C – Grant Form for Corvus Cornix Basketball Club
- 15.4 Appendix D – Grant Form for Rotary Club of Royston
- 15.5 Appendix E – Grant Form for Royston Community Transport

### **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.

17.2 Review of Grants Policy Report to Cabinet June 2016.