

**ROYSTON & DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
15 JANUARY 2020**

**PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

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

REPORT OF THE POLICY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: 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 The Committee agrees the release of £1,500 in support of the Free After 3pm Parking initiative scheme for the town. This funding is required annually and is combined with funding from Hertfordshire County Councillors' Locality Budgets and Royston First. If agreed, funding will be carried forward for the Free After 3pm Parking Initiative into the 2020/21 financial year as payment is not required until April 2020.
- 2.2 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 Engagement 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 & District 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 for the remainder of 2019/20 is summarised below:

	<b>2018/19 Carry Forward</b>	<b>2019/20 Base Budget</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>
<b>Royston</b>	£0	£2,904	£2,904

## **8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

### **8.1 Free after 3pm Parking Initiative**

The Royston & District Committee have been supporting the above scheme for a number of years now. The aim of the scheme is to drive footfall for the local businesses of the town. The initiative has proved popular with the majority of car parks full after 3pm. As well as the support from the Royston & District Committee, funding for the scheme also comes from two Hertfordshire County Councillors Locality Budgets (£3k in total) and Royston First (£6k). The scheme requires the support of all parties to continue.

### **8.2 Community Engagement Updates**

#### **8.2.1 Pathway at end of Green Drift**

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) has submitted a draft scheme to its contractor, Ringway Infrastructure Services for them to undertake the necessary lighting and resurfacing design that can then be used in a public consultation exercise (to properties in the vicinity of the works).

Once a design has been undertaken, Ringway will provide County with a cost for the scheme (new lighting and footpath construction).

HCC is hoping to receive the costing for the scheme late December / early January and hope to carry out the works in 2020. HCC has approximately £18k in S106 Sustainable Transport funding from the Ivy Farm Development which should be sufficient for the works. In the case of a shortfall, the Royston Community Engagement Officer has allocated £5k from the District Council's S106 Sustainable Transport pot for the project.

#### **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.

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.

Youth Connexions are currently running targeted sessions for teenagers at Coombes Community Centre.

The Royston CEO is liaising with Youth Connexions to see if some outreach work is possible with the young people to gain an understanding of their issues and needs.

#### 8.2.3 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.

#### 8.2.4 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.

The Royston CEO is awaiting new quotations for the shelters as the previous quotes had expired whilst waiting for confirmation on who would be responsible for the maintenance of the shelters.

Maintenance of the shelters will be the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council.

It was reported in the October Report that the bus shelters would be installed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020. Due to the delay in receiving quotations, the works are now scheduled for completion by Summer 2020.

#### 8.2.9 Bicycle racks

The Royston CEO is working with Royston Town Council Councillors to bring additional bicycle racks into the town. 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.

Prior to carrying out the installation it is necessary to determine who is responsible for the future maintenance of the Bicycle Racks.

#### 8.2.10 Salt bins

The Royston CEO replenished all the Community Salt bins in Royston during early December. This included bins on Echo Hill, Layston Park and Shaftesbury Way.

#### 8.2.11 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.
- Enhanced provision of Bus Shelters at potential sites within the town
- Provision of cycle racks around Royston Town Centre.

- Fencing project at side of Coombes Community Centre to address anti-social behaviour
- Fencing project at Royston BMX to address anti-social behaviour
- Youth / Spectator Shelter to address anti-social behaviour around Coombes Area
- Resurfacing and lighting project on Public Right of Way Land linking Ivy Farm with Green Drift.
- A505 Cycle Path project
- Access and DDA improvements to Royston Town Hall
- All weather Hockey pitch for Royston
- 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 March 2020.

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

Total funds therefore available to the Committee are **£2,904**.

- 10.2 Should Members be minded to provide funding as requested under recommendation 2.1 the total spend from the Committee Budget this meeting will be **£1,500**, which would leave the Committee with **£1,404** to allocate in the remaining meeting of the Committee in the 2019/20 financial year.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 "Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on Council Facilities" is a Corporate Risk recorded on Pentana Risk, the Council's performance and risk system. This refers to the ongoing issues at the Coombes Community Centre and the surrounding area. Regarding grant funding, 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.

## **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.