

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted N/A

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Legal and Community

1. DECISION TAKEN

The provision of funding of **£8,477** from the District Wide Community Fund as follows:

As outlined in 8.1 - Garden House Hospice Care: £2,477

As outlined in 8.2 - Imajica Theatre Company: £2,000

As outlined in 8.3 - North Herts African and Caribbean Community: £4,000

2. DECISION TAKER

Executive Member - Community Engagement- Cllr Judi Billing, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal and Community (under section 9.8.2 (h) and 14.6.9(b)(iii) 5 of the Constitution).

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

13 Oct 2020

4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 The Council has a (currently) one off District Wide fund of £10,000 and the grants applied for meet the Council's Grant's criteria.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 There are no alternative options being proposed other than those detailed within the text of this report.

6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)

6.1 The grant was discussed and recommended by the Community Facility and District Wide Grant panel at the virtual meeting on Wednesday 23rd September 2020.

6.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external bodies/groups has taken place with regards to this funding proposal via Area Committee Grant Funds.

7. FORWARD PLAN

7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

Applicant	Garden House Hospice (GHH)
Project	Lights of Life
Sum requested	£2,000 (shortfall of £608.22)
Total project cost	£8,264.22
Joint funding	£5,656
Previous support	Yes
NHDC Policy met	Build thriving and resilient communities
Council Objectives	Respond to challenges to the environment

Garden House Hospice Care provides medical, practical and emotional support for patients living with a life-limiting condition. The support extends to patients' families and ultimately helps patients and their loved ones make the most of the time they have left together.

Each year Garden House Hospice holds an event called 'Lights of Life' which takes place at the start of the festive season. It is an annual remembrance event which gives people the opportunity to pause, reflect on precious memories, celebrate their loved one's lives and write a dedication for them on a star to be displayed within the hospice grounds. This year has been especially challenging for those who have been bereaved of a loved one, in some cases at very short notice.

Due to current government guidance GHH have been required to change the format of the event as mass gatherings are currently prohibited. They will instead host a 15-minute online ceremony hosted by Pam Rhodes, with musical contributions and readings. Families will also be invited to visit the hospice grounds, (adhering to Covid guidelines) following the ceremony to light a candle in memory of their loved one and hang their star in the special 'tunnel of stars' memorial area. Visitors will have the chance to enjoy a true festive spectacle as the hospice gardens will be transformed with thousands of white sparkly lights. For those unable to visit, they will welcome dedications by post which will be placed on display for the week.

Due to the pandemic, GHH had to furlough many staff, and re-assign others. Bereavement support was adapted to be given online and the fundraising team were trained in giving personal care. All the usual fundraising events were cancelled.

The Lights of Life event expects to raise £20,000 which will enable GHH to deliver compassionate end of life care, support families through incredibly challenging times and provide rehabilitative day services to help people with a life-limiting illness enjoy their remaining time to the full. In 19/20 GHH supported 928 patients and carers across all of the hospice services.

Currently GHH holds just over 5 months of expenditure in reserves (£2,224,352* - one month below the agreed level of 6 as decided by the Trustees). They also hold designated reserves of £5,359,425* however these incorporate the value of buildings and their contents etc. At this time, when the financial landscape is so uncertain, the Trustees are averse to using reserves unless necessary and feel the reserves should be protected given the current uncertain climate. GHH have therefore sought funding to help cover costs of the Lights for Life event to ensure they are still able to offer it to the communities across North Hertfordshire after what has been an incredibly difficult time for many.

****taken from 19/20 accounts***

Following careful deliberation from the Panel agreed to recommend the amount requested with an additional £477 making a total of £2,477.

The additional funding was the most they could give given the constraints of the budget available within the district wide pot. The Panel wished to provide as much funding as they were able given the serious funding shortfall the GHH are dealing with. This is due to the lack of fundraising opportunities caused by ongoing social distancing measures introduced by central government to combat Coronavirus. The Lights of Life event, though on-line is hoped to raise £20,000 and the Panel felt if NHDC could provide extra funds towards the event we should do so.

8.2

Applicant	Imajica Theatre Company
Project	Online Christmas Panto
Sum requested	£2,000
Total project cost	£7,600
Joint funding	£5,600
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council Objectives	Build thriving and resilient communities Respond to challenges to the environment

Imajica Theatre creates interactive immersive musicals, interactive workshops, and a theatre in education programme for the younger audience, sharing environmental & educational messages. They are a small company of five/six actors, who give most of their time voluntarily. Promoting positive wellbeing and encouraging young people to actively participate in the arts. As specialists in relaxed theatre they adopt a multi-sensory approach, to develop important life skills that can be transposed in everyday life.

Every Christmas Imajica deliver a popular pantomime to North Herts residents and offer a number of free tickets to families on a low income or with health difficulties. Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions they are creating a digitally recorded 'live' version of the pantomime that will then be available online. This can then be shared with community groups and organisations supporting families in North Herts, in addition offering the option to watch in the home for those who might still be shielding. The panto will still be interactive and have local connections (i.e. local footage).

Imajica's in-theatre outreach is normally around 784 people from North Herts, of which 400 complementary tickets are given to families with additional social and educational needs and families living on lower income.

Imajica hopes that this year's online performance will reach even more people than previous years.

The production will be filmed October/November and publicity will begin as soon as possible.

The Panel recommended that the Imajica Theatre Company be provided with £2,000 grant funding as requested in their application.

8.3

Applicant	North Herts African Caribbean Community
Project	Black History Month Events
Sum requested	£3,345
Total project cost	£10,345
Joint funding	£3,000 - Ticket sales for Gala Dinner £3,000 – Sponsorship of outdoor cinema £1,000 – Cllr Judi Billing Locality Budget
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council Objectives	Be a more welcoming and inclusive Council/ Build thriving and resilient communities

North Herts African Caribbean Community is a not for profit organisation with the aim of bringing together various community associations, groups and individuals to provide opportunities that support the health, cultural, spiritual and business needs of the BAME people of North Herts. Initially, this will be achieved through events, workshops and fundraising activities.

The group aim to organise several free to attend events and activities throughout October to educate residents on Black History and culture. These include:

- Black History Film events across various locations in Hitchin & Letchworth, including family and children’s films.
- A creative writing workshop with an emphasis on mental health.
- A showcase evening for local Spoken Word artists and musicians.
- An exhibition for the whole month of October at North Herts Museum, based on the origins and movement of black people.
- A “Black Britons Trail” through Hitchin town centre in partnership with Hitchin BID.
- A black hair workshop and positivity event aimed at promoting acceptance and understanding of afro hair.
- Dragons Den style business mentoring event.

There will also be a paid for Gala Dinner evening with all proceeds being donated to charity. This was originally planned to take place in October but with current social distancing guidelines it will not be possible to hold this event until next year sometime when the Government’s Coronavirus Guidelines allow for events to take place.

All residents of North Herts will benefit from this project especially in Hitchin and Letchworth. The idea behind it is to promote Black History to everyone to help with integration, understanding and tolerance, while empowering people from the Black Community to strive for better.

The organisers have approached local businesses for sponsorships and Councillors for funding from locality budgets so these avenues will pay for any events which take place before NHDC funding is received.

The panel were very supportive of this initiative and recommended a grant award of £4,000.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The Terms of Reference in relation to the Community Facility Capital and District Wide Revenue Grant panel do not provide the delegated power to make a funding decision but can make recommendations to the Executive member for Community Engagement to make a decision using their delegated authority in consultation with the relevant Service Director.
- 9.2. No District Councillors have been identified as nominees, members or any board involvement with the any of the applicant organisations involved (although Cllr Sam Collins is understood to have provided advice to the North Herts African and Caribbean Community).
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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.
- 9.5 The decision taker signing the Decision Notice has delegated authority to take such a decision in accordance with the North Hertfordshire District Council Constitution under section under section 9.8.2 (h) and 14.6.9(b)(iii) 5 in relation to Community engagement, including financial assistance and grants to external organisations.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 £10,000 has been set aside for District Wide Grants that cover more than one Committee area. One grant has been paid; £1,523 to the North Herts Talking Newspaper will left a budget of £8,477.

The total grants outlined about total £8,477 which will utilise the remaining budget.

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 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 decision.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

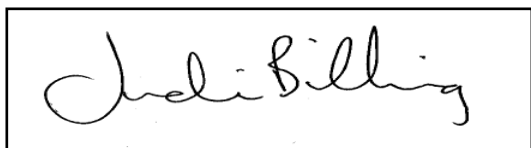
14.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Officers have received and approved the grant application, mission statement and accounts.

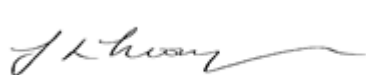
NOTIFICATION DATE; 16 Oct 2020

Signature of Executive Member Decision taker

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judi Billings".

Date : 13 October 2020

Signature of Service Director: Legal and Community

A handwritten signature in cursive script, partially obscured by a vertical line, likely representing the Service Director.

Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.