

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted *[if applicable]*

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Legal and Community

1. DECISION TAKEN

The provision of funding of **£450** to Royston Round Table.

This amount is to be taken from the Royston & District Committee's carry forward budget from the 2019/20 financial year (£404) and the 2020/21 base budget (£46).

This funding is for the Royston Vs Coronavirus support Group which is heavily involved in tackling the Coronavirus Pandemic in Royston and the surrounding villages. Royston v Coronavirus has not yet been able to set up a bank account so have been working with Royston Round Table who have submitted the funding application on behalf of the group. Funding is urgently needed to cover costs for volunteer DBS checks, additional telephone capacity and publicity costs.

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:

29 April 2020

4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 This grant application has been received in between the next planned round of Committee Meetings and it is time sensitive (in response to the Covid-19 outbreak) it cannot be considered at the next meeting taking place in July 2020. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to progress the application via a delegated decision.

4.2 The Chair (Tony Hunter) and the members of the Royston & District Committee have been consulted and have provided email evidence of their support to provide **£450** from their Committee's development budget in order to fund this application. This is made up of £404 from the 2019/20 carry forward and £46 from the 2020/21 Base Budget

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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 Chair and all members of the Royston & District Committee have been consulted.

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

8.1 Royston Round Table

The Royston Round Table is a community group which raises funds for local good causes in Royston and the surrounding villages. The Royston Round Table also links in with other organisations such as the Rotary Club and Lions. They have been providing support to the Town since 1960. The Royston Round Table have been liaising with / supporting the Royston vs Coronavirus Group and have made the application for funding on behalf of the group. This has been necessary as the Royston vs Coronavirus group has not yet been able to set up a separate bank account which is a requirement for funding under the NHDC Grants Policy.

Royston vs Coronavirus Group urgently requires funding support to assist with essential DBS checks for volunteers, to increase telephone capacity and to cover publicity /promotional costs. As well as the funding from Royston & District Committee, the group has secured £550 from both Councillor Fiona Hill and Councillor Steve Jarvis's Hertfordshire County Council Locality Budgets.

Since the Coronavirus lockdown the Royston vs Coronavirus group has been inundated with requests for support, averaging around 35 requests a day, peaking at 78 on one single day.

Previous Support: Nil

NHDC Policy met: Yes

Strategic Objectives met: Build Thriving and Resilient Communities
Respond to challenges to the environment

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 January 2020.
- 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.

- 9.4 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 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 The agreed budgets for 20/21 financial year is £6,000 for Royston Committee.

£404 of the required £450 funding is coming from the Royston Committee's 2019/20 carry over budget. Only £46 is required from the 2020/21 base budget.

The **£46** from the committee will leave £5,954 remaining in the 2020/21 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

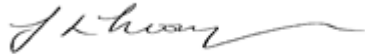
1.5.2020

Signature of Executive Member Decision taker

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read 'Judi Billing' in a cursive script.

Date 29.4.2020

Signature of Service Director: Legal and Community

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. L. H. W.', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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.