

20 May 2008

Our ref: B&D Ctte/Jun08
Contact: Sue Gow
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To: Members of the Baldock and District Committee of North Hertfordshire District Council

(Councillors M.R.M. Muir (Chairman), I.J. Knighton (Vice-Chairman), S.K. Jarvis, Marilyn Kirkland, M.E. Weeks and A.D. Young)

You are invited to attend a meeting of the
BALDOCK & DISTRICT COMMITTEE

to be held at

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, SIMPSON DRIVE, BALDOCK

on

MONDAY 2 JUNE 2008

at

7.30 p.m.

Yours sincerely,



David Miley
Democratic Services Manager

AGENDA
PART I

ITEM	PAGE
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	-
2. MINUTES To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 17 March 2008.	-
3. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS Members should notify the Chairman of other business which they wish to be discussed by the Committee at the end of the business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency. The Chairman will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.	-
4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a prejudicial or personal interest and are required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a prejudicial interest should leave the room and not seek to influence the decision during that particular item.	-
5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION To receive petitions, comments and questions from members of the public. Any public participation requests received within the agreed time will be notified to Members as soon as practicable. <i>A petition will be handed to the Chairman of the Committee by Mrs Jean Garrett, concerning provision of bus services for Clothall estate. It is to be passed on to the relevant person at Hertfordshire County Council.</i>	-
6. PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS OF BALDOCK GREENSPACES <i>A verbal presentation will be given by Dieter Iwan of the Countryside Management Service on behalf of Friends of Baldock Greenspaces.</i>	1
7. BALDOCK TOWN HALL TEMPORARY REFURBISHMENT REPORT BY THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES <i>A report by the Head of Financial Services on the options for the refurbishment of Baldock Town Hall.</i>	3
8. CHAMPION NEWS REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES <i>A summary of the activities undertaken by the Community Development Officer for Baldock since the meeting of the Committee held on 17 March 2008, and events taking place in forthcoming months.</i>	7

9.	BALDOCK & DISTRICT COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT AND AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2007/2008	11
	REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CULTURAL SERVICES	
	<i>To take the Members through the current budget balances for the Committee Development and Area Visioning Budgets and to consider the following grant application:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appendix 1 – Spreadsheet of Committee Delegated Budgets 2008/9 ▪ Appendix 2 – Grant application for the Baldock Branch of Herts Action on Disability – To Follow ▪ Appendix 3 – Area Visioning – Response to Scrutiny Committee of 1/4/08 	<p>15</p> <p>19</p> <p>21</p>

The date of the next meeting of the Baldock & District Committee is:

Monday 21 July 2008.

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BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE

2 June 2008

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

6

PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS OF BALDOCK GREENSPACES

A VERBAL PRESENTATION WILL BE GIVEN BY DIETER IWAN OF THE COUNTRYSIDE
MANAGEMENT SERVICE ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS OF BALDOCK GREENSPACES

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BALDOCK TOWN HALL TEMPORARY REFURBISHMENT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
Portfolio Holder – Councillor Terry Hone

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 To seek Members views on options to refurbish Baldock Town Hall, and to agree the next steps in the process.

2.0 FORWARD PLAN

2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council adopted the Baldock Town Centre Strategy together with its supporting Action Plan on 19 January 2006 as the Councils Statement of Policy.

3.2 Included in the adopted Strategy and the Action plan was the requirement to undertake a feasibility study of the Baldock Town Hall to identify:

- (a) alternative community uses for the building including renovation and maintenance costs
- (b) other uses that will contribute to the economic viability and social vitality of the town centre should no alternative and sustainable community use be found.

3.3 The Strategy stated that such a study should include community involvement, working in partnership with key organisations to investigate alternative community and non-community uses and appropriate funding arrangements. The Baldock and District Committee agreed a brief for consultants at their meeting on 23 January 2006. A local architectural firm by the name of Widdup/Amer was appointed to carry out the feasibility study. Following the study, the Area Committee agreed to pursue the following options:

- Option 1 – Baldock Community Association in partnership with the Baldock Museum and Local History Society be invited to prepare a business case for the running of the Town Hall, in full or part, with officer and, if necessary, financial support towards its preparation to determine the viability of a two centre community facility. The Baldock Town Hall Independent Stakeholder Group is

currently developing a business case for the use of the building as a theatre and art centre.

- Option 2 – That market testing is carried out to determine what commercial ventures may be available and the extent if any full commercial viability exists for either full commercial or mixed commercial/community use. No interest was found following market testing.

3.4 Following a fire risk assessment in December 2007 defects were identified that classed the building as a health & safety risk under the Regulatory reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, this required the building to be closed for community use. Because of the nature of use and through some remedial measures the building remained open for use by the Baldock Museum Society. All other groups that used the facility have been found alternative venues for their activities.

4.0 CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Currently there is insufficient budget to carry out the necessary remedial works to allow the building to be put back into full use. Subject to cabinet approval for the necessary budget, the committee is asked to consider the following options to bring the building back into community use:

- Essential compliance works to enable safe use of building and bring the building back into use to the previous level of activity is £29K. The majority of work is to make the facility safe under the Regulatory reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, of which the major item is the installation of a fire alarm and emergency lighting system.
- To allow a proposal by the Baldock Town Hall Independent Stakeholder Group to pilot activities from the hall later in the year as part of the development of their business case to take possession of the building and fund its major refurbishment. To bring the building into temporary use to facilitate the Group's plans would require an additional budget of £16K. This would involve removing non load bearing walls in the former area office to provide more open reception areas for the proposed temporary use and make good walls and decoration as necessary.
- Other works to support more active use of the building, estimated at £5K, this would include a general overhaul of the ground and first floor kitchens and redecoration.

4.2 The total cost of works could therefore range from £29K to £50K. Repair and maintenance budgets allocated to the Hall for 2008/09 total £7K. Most of the above works would classify as capital expenditure.

5.0 THE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROJECT

5.0 The Stakeholder Group requires more time to develop their proposal and the continued use of the building is judged critical to the development of their business case and further interest as a community facility. Thus it is suggested that works are carried out that not only bring it in to use but also provide improvements/decoration that will attract other users.

- 5.1 To justify the above level of investment up to two years use would be applicable and may allow the Stakeholder Group to work up a robust financial bid to take over the premises, otherwise alternative use of the building/site may come into play.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Continuing use of the building by the various community groups requires formal legal agreements to manage their use.
- 6.2 Implications regarding any restrictive covenants on the land and building will be addressed as part of any alternative options should community cease.
- 6.3 It is further noted that a planning application would be required if there were to be a change of use for the building and/or alterations to the external façade of the building, given that it lies within the Baldock Conservation Area and is on the District Council's adopted register of Important Local Buildings.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As stated in the main body of the report the total cost of works could range from £29K to £50K, as follows:

Option	Estimated Cost
1. Essential compliance works	£29k
2. Additional community use	£16K
3. Redecoration	£5K

Repair and maintenance budgets allocated to the Hall for 2008/09 total £7K. Most of the above works would classify as capital expenditure and requires Cabinet approval.

- 7.2 The future use of Baldock Town Hall is identified as a risk on the Council's risk register.

8.0 HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None other than officer time involved in project managing the next steps in the project as outlined in Section 5 of this report.

9.0 CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 9.1 None.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Baldock & District Area Committee notes the content of this report and agrees the level of investment it wishes carried out to the building. That once determined, it requests that Cabinet considers capital approval for the work to commence as soon as practicable.

- 10.2 That the Baldock & District Area Committee agree that the Baldock Town Hall Independent Stakeholder Group is allowed shared use of the building to further develop their business case.

11.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To allow continuing community use and to meet the aims of the adopted Baldock Town Centre Strategy, and in doing so contribute towards achieving the Council's strategic objectives.

12.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 12.1 That the building remains unused other than by the Baldock Museum Society until a decision is made on the viability for full community use.

13.0 APPENDICES

- 13.1 None.

14.0 CONTACT OFFICERS

- 14.1 Jim Turner - Property Manager, Financial Services, ext. 4540
14.3 Barrie Jones, Head of Financial Services, ext. 4243

15.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 Baldock Town Centre Strategy Final Version (adopted 19 Jan 2006).

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
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TITLE: CHAMPION NEWS

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved during the past month.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Not Applicable.

4. ISSUES – PROJECT / ACTIVITY / SCHEME DETAILS

4.1 The Tene CCTV Coverage

It has been proposed by PCSO Chris Nash, supported by PC Gibbs and North Herts Homes, that it would be useful from a long term community safety point of view, to site a mobile CCTV outside of the Sheltered Housing Scheme in the Tene.

The area has historically been a hot spot for antisocial behaviour, and it is believed that camera covering the area would prove a deterrent to those who engage in illegal or antisocial activities.

4.2 Clothall Village Hall

Site clearance works have commenced with removal of trees and shrubs. The disconnection and removal of the EDF electricity supply pole has also taken place.

The next stage of the project will be the demolition of the old Village Hall, followed by the removal of a substantial amount of top soil in order to achieve the site levels required to construct the new Village Hall.

It is hoped that instead of land filling the excess quality top soil, it could possibly be transported to the Wilbury Cemetery, to help in the construction of a series of mound banks set between the rows of graves, primarily to reduce wind erosion at the site. This would be a much greener option and save on landfill charges.

4.3 North Herts Big F.A.B. Event

In partnership with Herts County Council's 'Wellbeing for Over Fifties' project group, the 50+ Community Development Officer is coordinating the largest event aimed people between 55 and 70 the district has seen so far. This project is being seen as pilot by Herts County Council, which is looking to roll out similar events county wide.

On Saturday June 14th 2008 at the Spirella Building in Letchworth, people from across the district will be invited to attend a community engagement exercise called 'Talking about My Generation'. In conjunction, the Big F.A.B. (Fifty and Above) Event will take the form of an Information fair with a Free Prize Draw, Health Checks, Complementary Therapies, Stalls provided by local community groups and organisations, as well as Tours of the public areas of the Spirella building.

Using the information gained from the community engagement process, the 'F.A.B. Development Plan - 2009 to 2012' will be drawn up to look at what activities and services will be required by the new generation of retired people in North Herts.

To be involved in the event or for more information contact 50+ Development Officer on 01462 474226.

4.4 Knights Templar Music Project with the City of London Sinfonia

30 GCSE Music students from Knights Templar, Hitchin Boys and Hitchin Girls Schools took part in 3 composition workshops run by musicians from the City of London Sinfonia and lead by the Composer John Cooney.

The students performed their compositions to a sell out audience at a concert held at The Knights Templar School on Friday 18th April 2008 as part of the main musical programme by The City of London Sinfonia.

4.5 Bypass Landscaping – Old Wallington Road

Countryside Management Service will be undertaking the construction of the two ditch board bridges to provide access from the Clothall Common Estate directly onto the foot path and works are due to take place during the summer between June and the end of August.

Planting to soften the appearance of the fencing at the entrance to the path will now take place on Saturday 22nd November 2008.

4.6 Service Level Agreements

A review of the Council's Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to the Voluntary and Community Sector is currently underway, with a report scheduled to go to Cabinet in the near future. This review includes the arrangements for Service Level Agreements as well as the general grants that are awarded by Area Committees.

4.7 Town Centre Enhancement Public Information Events

Two events have been organised to provide public information on the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme. The first being an information stall at the Baldock Fair on May 17th 2008. In addition it is seen that this will also be an opportunity for Members to engage with the public on a range of issues.

The second event will take place on Tuesday June 2nd 2008 at the Zeus restaurant, on the Baldock High Street from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Both events will be attended by officers from North Hertfordshire District Council's Planning Department, BDP - the design consultants, officers from Hertfordshire Highways and representatives from Skanska McNicholas, the appointed contractors to undertake the enhancements.

4.8 Ashwell Cycle Club

The Cycle Club have been informed that their bid for 'Awards for All' has been successful and they are to be awarded a grant of £7530. This funding, in conjunction with the funding provided from Arbury Ward Budget, will be used to provide equipment that will specifically attract young people into the sport via the Grass Track Racing evenings planned for the summer.

The secondary aim of the Club is to build a core membership of 30-40 young people aged between 9 and 18 years. A separate section of the club has been set up to concentrate on Youth Development and a youth racing team.

The club has also recently been offered 7.5 acres of land in Ashwell, to perhaps develop a more permanent all weather and grass track facility.

4.9 Baldock Festival

This year, the Festival celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Although at the time of writing this report a formal review of the two weeks festival hadn't taken place, it was however clearly evident that all the events and activities were great successes, with nearly all of them fully booked or over subscribed.

In normal fashion, the festivities culminated with the Medieval Street Fayre on Saturday 17th May 2008. Advanced preparations meant that come the morning of the Fayre no cars remained on the High Street Car Park and therefore all of the market type stalls were put up by 8.00am.

Despite the odd drizzly shower and the FA Cup Final being played later that day, numbers attending were extremely good. Early feedback from some of those attending said that it was the busiest Fayre for some years and they complemented organisers on the range of stalls and sideshows.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 5.1 Consultation with the respective agencies, organisations and Ward Members has taken place with regards to the projects, activities and events mentioned in Section 4 of this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well being.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That the Committee enforces the actions and policies involved in the tasks and projects undertaken by the Community Development Officer.

8. CONTACT OFFICER

- 8.1 Claire Morgan (Community Development Officer – Baldock & District Area)
Telephone: 01462 474226
E-Mail: claire.morgan@north-herts.gov.uk

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
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TITLE: BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT & AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2008/09

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the delegated budgets for financial year 2008/09. and the carry forward preallocated balances of delegated budgets from financial year 2007/08.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent application, allocation and commitment of delegated funds for Community initiatives and projects.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Not Applicable.

4. ISSUES - AND FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE

- 4.1 Baldock Branch of Herts Action on Disability Group
Grant request sought from the Ward Discretionary Budgets for financial support to provide activities for the Baldock Branch of Herts Action on Disability.
- 4.2 Community Safety Project
Request for 50% funding £400 towards a static pole to house CCTV camera outside of The Tene Sheltered Housing Scheme.

4.3 The Grass Maze in Avenue Park

The Committee is advised that to continue the cutting of the Grass Maze would cost £50 per cut and that it would need cutting fortnightly during the growing season. To maintain the maze this would equate to approximately 15 cuts per year with a total annual maintenance of £750.

4.4 STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE DELEGATED BUDGETS 2008/09

4.3.1 See Appendix 1 – Spreadsheet of Committee Delegated Budgets 2008/09.

4.3.2 Appendix 2 - Baldock Branch of Herts Action on Disability Group - Grant Form to follow.

4.3.3 Appendix 3 – Response to Scrutiny Committee 1st April 2008 – Area Visioning.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Committee has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described.

5.2 There are no other legal implications pertinent to this report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2008/09.

6.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2007/08 to the current financial year 2008/09.

6.3 In addition, the spreadsheet includes the balances relating to allocated Visioning Budgets available within the Baldock & District area.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no human resource and equalities implications pertinent to this report.

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

8.1 Consultation with the respective Ward Members has occurred in connection with the pre allocation of funds for Community Initiative & Projects from the previous financial year 2007/08.

- 8.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external agencies/groups has taken place with regard to funding proposals for Area Committee Ward Discretionary Development Funds.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, current balances and carry forwards from the Ward Development Budgets 07/08, the Small Area Grants Budget and the allocated Visioning Budgets.
- 9.2 That the Committee notes and acknowledges the pre-allocations of uncommitted Ward Development Discretionary Funds to respective projects and initiatives within each Ward Budget.
- 9.3 That the Committee considers a grant allocation of £250 for the Baldock Branch of Herts Action on Disability group in order to support the groups activities in this financial year.
- 9.4 That the Committee considers a funding allocation of £400 to assist in the part funding of a static CCTV pole in the Tene for periodic placement of a mobile camera.
- 9.5 That the Committee considers a funding allocation of £350 to assist in the part funding of the grass maze.
- 9.6 That the Committee notes the response to the Scrutiny Committee as detailed in appendix 3.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The allocation of funds will improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 11.1 Not applicable.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1 – Spreadsheet of Committee Delegated Budgets 2007/08.
- 12.2 Appendix 2 – Baldock Branch of Herts Action on Disability - Grant Form to follow
- 12.3 Appendix 3 – Response to Scrutiny Committee 1st April 2008 – Area Visioning.

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 13.1 Claire Morgan (Community Development Officer - Baldock & District Area)
Telephone: 01462 474854
E-Mail: claire.morgan@north-herts.gov.uk
- 13.2 Lois Stewart (Group Accountant – Customer Services)
Telephone: 01462 474566
E-Mail: lois.stewart@north-herts.gov.uk
- 13.3 Jodie Penfold (Assistant Accountant Customer Services)
Telephone: 01462 474332
E-Mail: jodie.penfold@north-herts.gov.uk

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 None.

Appendix 1

BALDOCK AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2008/09

<u>SUMMARY/ TOTALS</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Oustanding</u>	<u>Unallocated Budget</u>					
VISIONING	£2,470	£2,470	£1,419	£1,051	£0					
SMALL AREA GRANTS	£190	£0	£0	£0	£190					
BALDOCK TOWN	£21,270	£11,840	£366	£11,474	£9,430					
BALDOCK EAST	£11,513	£8,613	£3,993	£4,620	£2,900					
ARBURY	£9,070	£5,810	£0	£5,810	£3,260					
WESTON & SANDON	£6,750	£4,210	£0	£4,210	£2,540					
Total	£51,263	£32,943	£5,778	£27,165	£18,320					

Appendix 1

VISIONING	Funding	Year Allocated		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Preallocated Funds C/F from 2007/08	£2,470	2005/2006		Town Centre Strategy	£2,470	11.04.05	£1,419	£1,051		
Total	£2,470				£2,470		£1,419	£1,051	£0	

DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS										
SMALL AREA GRANTS	Funding			Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Base Budget 2008/09	£190									
Total	£190				£0		£0	£0	£190	

Appendix 1

BALDOCK TOWN	Funding		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 0708	£11,840		Baldock Allotment Association - plot for disabled holders at North Rd	£390	26.09.05	£0	£390		
			Town Centre Enhancement Works	£4,410	02.04.07	£0	£4,410		
			Friends of Baldock Greenspaces	£380	07.08.07	£366	£14		
			Town Projects Initiatives	£6,090	17.03.08	£0	£6,090		
			Baldock Town Cricket Club	£570	17.03.08	£0	£570		
Base Budget 2008/09	£9,430								
Total	£21,270			£11,840		£366	£11,474	£9,430	

BALDOCK EAST	Funding		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 07/08	£8,613		Spring Bulbs	£50	24.08.06	£0	£50		
			Clothall Common - Enviromental Projects	£6,273	02.04.07	£3,993	£2,280		
			Clothall Common - Enviromental Projects	£1,940	17.03.08	£0	£1,940		
			Friends of Baldock Greenspaces	£120	07.08.07	£0	£120		
			North Herts Book Festival	£50	21.01.08	£0	£50		
			Baldock Town Cricket Club	£180	17.03.08	£0	£180		
Base Budget 2008/09	£2,900								
Total	£11,513			£8,613		£3,993	£4,620	£2,900	

Appendix 1

ARBURY	Funding		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 07/08	£5,810		Community Visioning Project - Bygrave Village Green	£1,000	07.02.08	£0	£1,000		
			Youth Development Projects	£3,190	07.02.08	£0	£3,190		
			Rural Youth Projects	£1,620	17.03.08	£0	£1,620		
Base Budget 2008/09	£3,260								
Total	£9,070			£5,810		£0	£5,810	£3,260	

WESTON & SANDON	Funding		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 07/08	£4,210		Weston Footpath Lighting Project	£2,250	02.04.07	£0	£2,250		
			Sandon Village Hall Chairs	£1,200	17.04.08	£0	£1,200		
			Rural Development Projects	£760	17.04.08	£0	£760		
Base Budget 2008/09	£2,540								
Total	£6,750			£4,210		£0	£4,210	£2,540	

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
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**TITLE: BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT & AREA
VISIONING BUDGETS 2008/09**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL
SERVICES

Appendix 2 is “To Follow”

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Appendix 3

Area Visioning

The Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 1st April 2008 resolved that the following answer on the Area Visioning budgets should be circulated to all Area Committees, for their information and to take any further actions as required.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting held at the Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 1 April 2008 at 7.30p.m.

92. QUESTIONS

The following question had been submitted by Councillor David Billing.

(H) Area Visioning

"Please could we be updated as to the continuance of the work of the various Visioning Groups. In particular, when did each of them last meet formally, when were their Action Plans last updated, how many of their intended projects which were due to be completed by December 2007 were completed and how many still are unfinished, what is the total (aggregated for all years to date) of the budgets (revenue and capital) for each which have been spent to date, and what budgets remain unspent?"

The following response had been provided by the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services:

"1. Visioning Funding

The Area Visioning programme was time limited to four years April 2002 – March 2006. The budget allocation each year was £50,000 revenue, allocated on a pro-rata demographic basis. The capital allocation was £375,000 As of 30.01.08, the budget position is:

Revenue Budgets

Area Committee	Allocation	Committed	Spent (not spent)	Unallocated
Letchworth	55,570	11,354	39,867	4,410
Hitchin	59,850	3,010	56,840	0
Baldock	34,210	1,053	33,157	0
Royston	17,709	1,493	16,216	0
S. Rural	35,405	5,910	29,495	0

Capital Budgets

Area Committee	Allocation	Committed	Spent (not spent)	Unallocated
Letchworth	120,100	75,232	28,000	16,355
Hitchin	112,600	110,350	0	2,250
Baldock	75,000	75,000	75,000	0
Royston	62,700	62,700	0	0
S. Rural	79,600	41,900	5,000	32,700

Appendix 3

2. Area Work Programmes

Each Area Committee did develop a three year work programme, based on the initial visioning consultation. These programmes were last formally reviewed during November to February 2005/6. Thereafter, all the outstanding projects that were deemed achievable were transferred to the Area Committee report / budget process.

Monitoring of progress on these issues is now carried out at Area Committee meetings, via the Champion News and Delegated Budget reports.

As part of the implementation of the new Sustainable Community Strategy, consideration is being given to refreshing the work programme approach for Area Committees.

3. Visioning Groups

Each Area Committee developed its own approach to visioning and not all set up specific visioning groups.

Baldock

The original visioning group became the Baldock Bypass Consultation Group which evolved into the Town Centre Stakeholder Consultation Group that meets periodically to address Town Centre Developments and the Town Partnership Group that meets monthly to look at initiatives of raising the Town's profile with regards to business and tourism.

Revenue commitments and expenditure:

Consultants for Land associated to By-Pass £23,400
Streetscene Improvements (HH funding) £14,000
Town Centre Conservation Area £1,275
Tree Works £4,500

Capital commitments and expenditure:

Feasibility study for new railings £15,000
Two CCTV cameras £60,000

Hitchin

Established 3 local visioning groups – Youth, Transport and Planning.

The last formal meeting of the Planning Group was in June 2006 and there remain a number of outstanding issues, eg: Churchgate.

The 2020 Transport Vision for Hitchin was presented to Hitchin Area Committee in March 2007 by the Visioning Transport Sub Committee.

The Youth Visioning Group became the Voice of Hitchin Youth and still meets on a regular basis.

Revenue commitments and expenditure:

Woodside Screening £10,544
Town Centre Strategy £927
Visioning Presentations £443
BMX Dirt Bike Track £1,372
Tree Planting Butts Close £1,500

Appendix 3

Voice of Hitchin Youth £1,500
Churchgate Project £2,635
Community Centre leaflet £700
Cabbies Hut, Market Place £1,300
Community Centres Leaflet £700

Capital commitments and expenditure:

Refurbishment/rebuild of Bancroft Hall (£67,500) & improvements to Windmill Hill (£42,850).

Southern Rural

No specific visioning group has met. There were visioning representatives pre 2003 who fed in to the overarching Visioning document. To develop the Rural Strategy (2004/5), a Rural Members Group and multi-agency Strategic Rural Partnership Group were established, but these have not met since 2006.

All Parish Councils/Parish Meetings are consulted on many district wide issues/strategies and there is an annual Rural Parish and Town Council Conference.

Revenue commitments and expenditure:

Reduce vandalism in Breachwood Green, St Ippolyts and Kimpton £3,000
Drugs and alcohol project for young people £500
Anti fly tipping measures £2,000
Produce Village Halls booklet £1,350
Rural detached outreach youth provision £6,000

Capital commitment and expenditure:

SCooTS 2 Wheels Scheme £15,000.

Letchworth

The original visioning group was wound up as a result of the evolving a Town Council and the Letchworth Town Centre Partnership.

Revenue commitments & expenditure:

The Grange Improvement Forum £500
The Grange Youth Club £10,190
Jackman's Youth Initiatives £6,263
Street Tree Planting £5,000
Letchworth Youth Council £2,000

Capital commitments & expenditure:

New Youth Facility within the proposed Ivel Court development £30,000
The Grange Community Garden Project £45,745
Letchworth Open Air Pool – enhancement works £28,000

Royston

Set up one visioning group of about 11 people, ranging from 15 to 80 plus.

Revenue commitments and expenditure:

Young People's events £4,000
Bus stop seating £1,400

Appendix 3

Royston Town Council – East of England £2,000
Youth Council £790

Capital commitments and expenditure:

£62,700 to transport related projects.

4. Outstanding Projects

Other than those listed below, all projects identified through visioning are either completed, ongoing or mainstreamed.

Baldock

The Area Committee committed the remaining revenue balances of the visioning programme to the future Town Centre enhancements £2,470 (this was area committee visioning, not main visioning)

Letchworth

Unallocated capital funds of £16,355 are being proposed for a range of projects associated with Norton Common .

Youth Activities Wilbury Area £5,000

Southern Rural

Revenue visioning - £1k project for volunteers yet to complete, £4,150 agreed (£3,368 yet to allocate) in support of Parish Plans, £990 underspend against Village Halls Networking events as project now completed. Awaiting re-allocated project

Capital visioning - £32,700 yet to allocate on other projects.”

Following debate upon the response, it was

RESOLVED: That the answer provided by the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services be circulated to the Area Committees.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Area Committees to make any further decisions required regarding the follow-up of outstanding projects and any under spends.