

**TITLE: ANNUAL GRANTS, DEVELOPMENT, DISCRETIONARY AND VISIONING
BUDGETS 2008 - 2009**

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.
- 1.3 For the Committee to note the summary on Area Visioning expenditure that was submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 1st April 2008.
- 1.4 For Members of the Committee to consider the requested locations for the installation of Voluntary Disabled Parking Bays and possibly add sites for consideration within their respective wards.

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 A spreadsheet detailing the total spends to date of the Area Development Budgets is enclosed as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The Committee agreed last financial year that its programme of grant awards to community organisations would be managed on a meeting by meeting basis. All Parish Councils and Parish Meetings, Community and Voluntary Groups and Organisations were advised on this change and invited to apply for grant-aid.
- 3.3 The Head of Community Development and Cultural Services has advised that where there are multi Member Wards, it is good practice, and indeed custom and practice, for Members to advise their colleagues on any community grant requests. This will avoid any potential application conflicts and ensuring that multiple requests are managed in a coordinated way from the same organisation.

4. ISSUES & FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE

- 4.1 A spreadsheet showing detailed spend to date of the Area Development budget is enclosed as Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Two grant requests have been made for the Area Committee to consider:
- a) Ickleford Parish Council - Production of Village Information Booklet - £757
 - b) Knebworth Festival Committee - Funding for the Festival 08 - £1,000
- 4.3 At the last Joint Members Panel, Herts Highways Meeting held on 24th April 2008 it was agreed that Ward Member opinions should be sought with regard to the possibility of highlighting any additional locations for the installation of Voluntary Disabled Parking Bays within each ward.
- 4.4 A detailed item is to be released within the Members Information Service week ending Friday 6th June 2008, asking for Members' comments on the matter to be returned to the Planning Projects Manager, Louise Symes Officers by Monday 30th June 2008.

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 the current financial year 2008/2009.
- 6.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2007/2008.
- 6.3 In addition, the spreadsheet includes the balances and past expenditure relating to the allocated Area Visioning Budgets available to the Committee.
- 6.4 The total budget for the Committee for 2008/2009 is £25,789, including a Ward Members budget of £7,000.
- 6.5 The current unallocated base budget is £18,789.
- 6.6 2 Discretionary grant applications to the requested total of £1,757 which are criteria compliant, have been received as outlined in Appendices 2 and 3.
- 6.7 The current unallocated Members Ward Discretionary Budget is £7,000.

7. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBER

- 7.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects.
- 7.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external agencies/groups has taken place with regard to funding proposals for Area Committee Discretionary Development Funds.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards from the Ward Development Budgets and the allocated Visioning Budgets as set out in Appendix 1.
- 8.2 The Committee is asked to allocate grants to applicants as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3.
- 8.3 That the Committee notes the response to the Scrutiny Committee as detailed in Appendix 4.
- 8.4 That Members consider any additional locations within in their respective Wards for the possible installation of Voluntary Disabled Parking Bays and to advise the Planning Projects Manager, Louise Symes Officers by Monday 30th June 2008.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 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.

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – Budget expenditure, balances, and carry forwards from the Ward Development Budgets and the allocated Visioning Budgets.
- 10.2 Appendix 2 – Grant Form - Ickleford Parish Council - Village Information Booklet - £757
- 10.3 Appendix 3 - Grant Form - Knebworth Festival Committee – Festival '08 - £1,000
- 10.4 Appendix 4 – Response to Scrutiny Committee 1st April 2008 – Area Visioning

11. CONTACT OFFICERS

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SOUTHERN RURAL AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2008/2009

SUMMARY/ TOTALS	Funding	Allocated	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget					
Revenue Visioning	£12,340	£12,340	£2,535	£9,805	£0					
Capital Visioning	£54,600	£15,000	£10,000	£5,000	£39,600					
Discretionary Budget 0708	£23,510	£4,721	£4,142	579	£18,789					
Member Discretionary Budget 0708	£7,000	£0	£0	£0	£7,000					
Preallocated Amounts carried forward from 0607	£26,335	£24,205	£0	£24,205	£2,130					
TOTAL	£123,785	£56,266	£16,677	£39,589	£67,519					

REVENUE VISIONING	Funding	Year Allocated		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated	Comments
Preallocated Budgets Brought Forward from 0708	£12,340	2005/06		Southern Rural - Community Events	£500	16.03.06	£453	£47		
		2005/06		Southern Rural - Volunteers	£1,000	16.03.06	£0	£1,000		
		2005/06		Southern Rural - Parish Plans	£4,150	16.03.06	£782	£3,368		
		2005/06		Southern Rural - Village Halls	£990	16.03.06	£0	£990		
		2005/06		Southern Rural - Youth Events	£500	16.03.06	£0	£500		
				Southern Rural - Warranty for CCTV Cameras	£5,200	16.11.06	£1,300	£3,900		
Total	£12,340				£12,340		£2,535	£9,805	£0	

CAPITAL VISIONING SR	Funding	Year Allocated		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated	Comments
Capital Visioning SR	£54,600	2006/07		Scooter & Cycle Transport Solutions (Scoots)	£15,000	13.07.06	£10,000	£5,000		
	£54,600				£15,000		£10,000	£5,000	£39,600	

DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS	Funding		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Amount	Comments
Preallocated Funds Brought forward from 2007/2008	£26,335		Preston Tennis Club	£448	02.02.06	£0	£448		
			Preston Cricket Club	£1,000	24.08.06	£0	£1,000		
			Preston Cricket Club	£700	01.02.07	£0	£700		
			Highways Project - Codicote	£2,000	15.03.07	£0	£2,000		
			Southern Rural Community Projects	£3,660	15.03.07	£2,814	£846		
			Letchworth Arts Centre	£3,000	20.02.08	£3,000	£0		
			Dog Bin	£210	14.03.08	£149	£61		
			Dog Bin	£210	14.03.08	£149	£61		
			Highways Project	£12,977	03.04.08	£0	£12,977		
				£24,205		£6,112	£18,093	£2,130	
Base Budget 08/09	£23,510		Wymondley Baptist Church	£642	20.02.08	£642	£0		
			Lilley Village Fete Committee	£579	20.02.08	£0	£579		
			Codicote Village Day Committee	£1,000	03.04.08	£1,000	£0		
			Codi-Fest	£1,000	03.04.08	£1,000	£0		
			Kimpton May Festival 2008	£1,000	13.12.07	£1,000	£0		
			Great Ashby Fun Day	£500	13.12.07	£500	£0		
				£4,721		£4,142	£579	£18,789	
Member Discretionary Awards £700 per Member 08/09	£7,000								
				£0		£0	£0	£7,000	
Total	£56,845			£28,926		£10,254	£18,672	£27,919	

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 (not spent)	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 (not spent)	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

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
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
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.