

## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### **PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted for the Officer or Executive Member  
**[NO]**

Any conflict with any Member of the Panel and the bodies concerned **[NO]** *If yes indicate who and what below*

**SERVICE DIRECTORATE:** Legal and Community

#### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

1.1 The approval of the allocation **Letchworth Area Committee Grant** funding of:

1.1.1 **£600 to GARDEN CITY SAMBA (GCS)** towards covering fees for six new members to join their group at their concessions rate, thereby enabling the participants to attend free of charge.

#### **2. DECISION TAKER**

The Cllr Dennis-Harburg (Leader of North Herts Council in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community).

#### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

13.01.23

#### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

4.1 The group need funds to support their programme that runs throughout January, February, March, April and May. Waiting for the next Letchworth Area Committee meeting scheduled for March would result in funding activities retrospectively. As outlined in section 8 of this report the Committee budgets have sufficient funds to cover the grant requested.

#### **5. CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS**

5.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Letchworth Committee. Members are in favour and recommend that the Letchworth Committee Budgets should be used for this purpose.

#### **6. APPLICATION DETAILS**

##### **6.1 Garden City Samba**

<b>Applicant</b>	GARDEN CITY SAMBA (GCS)
<b>Project</b>	Funds to cover their fees for two sets of 10 weekly classes.
<b>Sum requested</b>	<b>£600</b>
<b>Total project cost</b>	£600
<b>Match funding</b>	None
<b>Previous support</b>	£1,285 in March 2022
<b>Council Objectives</b>	<b>People First, Sustainability, Brighter Future Together</b>

6.2 Garden City Samba (GCS) are asking for funds to cover fees for six new members to join their group at their concessions rate, thereby enabling the participants to attend free of charge.

They would like the funds to cover their fees for two sets of 10 weekly classes. The classes run for 2 hours, from 7 to 9 pm,

The 1<sup>st</sup> set of 10 classes will run from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January to Tues 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> set of 10 classes will run from Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March to Tues 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023

- 6.3 This is ideal timing as these new participants would then be ready to perform with them at local events during the Summer.

GCS is focused on giving their members a diverse and inclusive educational experience. Their group is open to everyone, regardless of musical experience, age, social or economic background. They try to keep their fees affordable, and they are always looking for ways to encourage the hardest to reach people within the community and those from a disadvantaged background to benefit from their activity.

- 6.4 They offer concessionary rates and have an internal hardship fund to assist people with membership fees during periods of financial difficulty.

The funds they are requesting are specifically aimed at benefiting young adults that live in Letchworth. They are between 16 & 19 years old, and refugees from countries including Sudan, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Albania.

They are ESOL students (English for speakers of other languages) at North Herts College (NHC). They have participated in a 6-week Samba Drumming Introductory Course at NHC with Raz (Ravin Jayasuriya), the music director of Garden City Samba.

- 6.5 Midway through the course, they were invited to attend a GCS class on a Tuesday evening so that they could first listen to their group drumming and then join them, to experience the feeling of making music together in a large group, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Since then, a few of them have expressed an interest joining GCS but unfortunately, they don't currently have the financial means to do so.

Many of these young people have endured a significant amount of trauma and the benefit of being involved with Garden City Samba will have a positive impact on their wellbeing. It would be a wonderful opportunity if some of them were able to join Garden City Samba.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything if it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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 14.6.8(b)(ii)(A) and as Leader of the Council under section 14.6.16.1 *"the Leader can make any decision which is delegated to any Executive Member"* in the absence of an appointed Executive Member in relation to Community engagement and development, including financial assistance and grants to external organisations.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The 2022/23 base budget was **£11,000**, with **£2,956** carried forward from the 2021/22 budget. **£3,404** was granted at the last Committee meeting and grants awarded to date total **£11,214**. This leaves a budget available of **£2,742**.
- 8.2 The grant application for this meeting total **£600** and if the Members agree the grants outlined in this report this will leave a balance of **£2,142**.

**9. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 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.

**10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 Grant 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.

**11. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" requirements do not apply to this report.

**12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report

**13. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications with the item outlined in this report.

**NOTIFICATION DATE**

13.01.23

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13.1.23

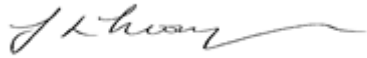
Signature of Executive Member Decision maker .....



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Date ...13.1.23.....

Signature of Service Director Legal & Community consulted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. L. Hwang', written in a cursive style.

**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.

**Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**