

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 approval of funding awards totalling £385 to an organisation known as 'Project 15' (a group of local contemporary artists, providing free exhibitions to the local community) towards a 'pop-up' exhibition of 3D and contemporary art in a shop unit that has been donated to them in Letchworth Town Centre for one month.

2. DECISION TAKER

Jeanette Thompson – Service Director Legal and Community

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

4 September 2019

4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 This grant application has been received in between the Letchworth Committee Meetings and as it is time sensitive (the exhibition is due to run 1st-30th September 2019) it can not be considered at the next meeting taking place in October 2019. Therefore it is considered appropriate to progress the application via a delegated decision.

4.2 The Chair and the Vice Chair of the Letchworth Committee have been consulted and have provided email evidence of their support to provide £385 from Letchworth Committee's development budget in order to fund this application.

4.3 Section 9.8.2 of the Council's Constitution – Area Committees Terms of Reference provide for "The provision of revenue grant aid/financial support where the grant aid/financial support is to facilitate an event which will take place prior to the next meeting of the Area Committee" to be awarded interregnum by the Service Director - Legal & Community in consultation with the respective Area Committee Chair(s), or Vice Chairs in their absence.

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 Consultation with Chair and Vice Chair of the Letchworth Area Committee has taken place.

6.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external bodies/groups has taken place with regard 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 Applicant: Project 15

'Pop-up' shop in Letchworth to be used for one month to display contemporary and 3D art pieces by local artists known as Project 15.

Shop unit provided as an in-kind contribution of approximately £2000 (based on local retail rents) by Letchworth Heritage Foundation. The exhibition will be open to the public, local community groups and schools will be invited.

The exhibition is scheduled to run 1st to 30th September 2019 which is before the next committee meeting on 16th October.

Operating costs for the project:

- £50 public liability insurance
- £25 window clean
- £150 volunteer expenses to include transportation of artwork
- £30 cleaning materials
- £50 Poster design costs
- £30 hanging costs
- £50 printing of flyers

TOTAL £385

Letchworth Heritage Foundation is donating a shop unit free of charge. Based on retail unit rents in that area it's estimated to be an in kind contribution of approximately £2000 to the project.

Funds held: £11.03

Previous Support: None

NHDC Policy met: Yes

Strategic Objective met: Attractive and Thriving

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 June 2016.

- 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 14.6.9(b) (iii)(A) in relation to Community engagement and development, including financial assistance and grants to external organisations.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The agreed budget for this financial year is £11,000 in line with the 20% reduction in grant budgets as agreed by full council.

All carry forward amounts from previous years:

2018/19 £17,732

Grant funding agreed at the last Letchworth meeting in June 2019 totalled £3,246 and utilise carry over amounts prior to using the current financial years' budget.

This will provide a total of £23,686 in the Letchworth Committee Discretionary budgets to provide grant funding.

The **£385** provided for Project 15 will also be utilising the 18/19 carry over budget

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Officers have identified the key risks relating to the scheme and have recorded these on the Council's risk register. These risks include the failure of applicants to obtain required joint funding for projects and failure of relevant facility management committees to manage approved works effectively. This could lead to funding not being released, funding not being used appropriately and subsequently, the standard of facilities failing to improve. The agreed qualifying criteria and implementation process, including the release of any approved funding, aim to manage and control the risks. In addition, officers will work closely with the facilities approved for funding from the project definition stage through project implementation to completion.

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

- 15.1 Committee Papers relating the to the Meetings of the Letchworth Area Committees which were held on Tuesday 21st May and Wednesday 19th June 2019 respectively.

15.2 Officers have received and approved the grant application, mission statement and recent bank statements.

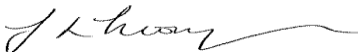
NOTIFICATION DATE

13.9.19



Signature of Executive Member Consulted

Date 11.9.19



Signature of Decision Taker

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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