

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

DIRECTORATE: LEGAL AND COMMUNITY

1. **DECISION TAKEN** the approval of £350.00 grant funding from the Southern Rural Committee Budget to Offley Tennis Club to assist with the purchase of an electric blower for cleaning tennis courts.

2. **DECISION TAKER**
Jeanette Thompson, Service Director, Legal & Community

3. **DATE DECISION TAKEN**
27 March 2019

4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 This grant application was discussed and supported by the members of the Southern Rural Area Committee at their meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2019.

4.2 Subsequently, all the supporting information has now been received.

4.3 It is necessary for the funding award to be approved via Delegated Authority on two levels

- The paperwork was not available at the time of the meetings and
- The funds are required prior to the date of the next meeting of the Southern Rural Committee meeting scheduled for June.

4.4 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 sheet and the accompanying supporting documents.

6. CONSULTATIONS

6.1 Consultation with Members of the Southern Rural Committee has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds to the Offley Tennis Club from the Committee's Base Budgets for 2018/19.

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. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

7.1	Project	-	Purchase a leaf blower
	Sum requested	-	£350
	Total project cost	-	£350
	Annual expenditure	-	Newly established group
	Previous support	-	None

NHDC Policy met - Yes
Strategic objective Attractive & Thriving

The blower to be purchased will be used to keep the courts clear of leaves and debris making them safe for use by club members, visitors and members of the public. A new group of volunteers has taken up the coordination of this group following the original group disbanding some time ago. They currently have 47 members and the group is steadily growing. Other local groups also use the tennis courts including Offley School and tennis players from other areas. The Communities Officer considers that this grant meets the Grants Policy requirements.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

8.3 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.

8.4 The decision taker signing the Decision Notice has delegated authority to take such a decision in accordance with the North Hertfordshire District Council Constitution as per the Area Committee delegation mentioned in 4.5 above and under section 14.6.9(b)(iii)(A) in relation to Community engagement and development, including financial assistance and grants to external organisations.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To award £350 grant funding from Southern Rural 2018/19 General Grant Budget
There are £5,771 funds available in the budget.

10. RISK IMPLICATIONS

10.1 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.

11. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 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

11.2 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

12. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this decision.

13. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 Application documents and Decision Notice Area Committee 7 March 2019.

15. NOTIFICATION DATE

15.1 28 March 2019.

Signature of Executive Member Consulted



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Cllr. Tony Hunter

Signature of Decision Taker



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Jeanette Thompson, Service Director, Legal & Community

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.