

## OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

**Name of decision maker:** Matt Rawdon

**Service Area:** People and Performance

**Title of Decision:**

To approve Community Grants for the Summer 2016 round

**Decision made and reasons:**

**To make grants to the following organisations for the Summer 2016 round of bidding:**

1. Dacorum Community Choir, 'Singing with the community': to deliver a range of performances in the community including Christmas light switch-ons and fetes, venues such as care homes and groups for those disadvantaged by age or disability such as the Heather Club, £750
2. Hemel Hempstead Swimming Club, 'HHSC Education': for volunteer development, supporting members of the club to access training and development courses - such as governing body coaches or teacher courses, time keeper or referee courses, with a particular emphasis on encouraging participation from 15 to 18 year olds to retain their participation in sport if they decide to stop competitive swimming. £500 (*pending further information*)
3. Age UK Dacorum, 'Reducing Social Isolation': For hire of minibus for travel to friendship teas which help to improve services users wellbeing and reduce isolation through socialising, £3000
4. Rennie Grove Hospice Care, 'Shared meals for patients at day hospice': food ,catering and volunteer costs for project to encourage patients to enjoy meals in a group setting helping to reduce isolation, £3000
5. Herts Boat Rescue, 'Flood rescue and safety boat patrol acquisition': To purchase a new inflatable rescue boat (IRB) and outboard engine which will restore and increase rescue capabilities and water safety work within Dacorum and Herts, £1536 (*pending further information*)
6. St Albans Education Partnership, 'Book Banks': Working together with local foodbanks to encourage and foster a love of reading with preschool children and their parents, £2371.97 (*pending further information*)
7. The Hospice of St Francis, 'Specialist Mattress': For an oska cirrus pain therapy mattress, and mattress cover, which is a specialised pressure-reduction mattress that can be tailored to suit individual needs, £2941.20 (*pending further information*)
8. Dacorum Society for the Blind, Creating job opportunities: Provision of a job club for the visually impaired and blind people of Dacorum including specialist training, coaching and counselling, £2000 (*pending further information*)

The Community Grant Scheme is specifically set up to support Community, Voluntary, Arts and Sporting groups that benefit the residents of Dacorum. There are three rounds of Community Grant funding per financial year. Charities are invited to apply for funding and the applications are assessed by a panel of officers, who will be looking at whether the projects support the Council's objectives and how

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they support the following key themes:

- Improving health and wellbeing
- Helping to look after the interests of vulnerable and deprived people and communities
- Encouraging people from all backgrounds to get involved in their community and promote a sense of belonging
- Developing social enterprise and a sustainable voluntary sector
- Ensuring that Dacorum is an excellent place to live, work and visit.

### Reports considered:

n/a

### Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Officers on the grants panel present:

Eli Tweed, Community Partnerships Officer

Jackie Doyle, Senior Accountant, Finance

Julie Still, Group Manager, Resident Services

Marion Rawdon, Assistant PA to the Chief Executive

Lesley Crisp, Maylands Business Centre Manager

Kim Gioiosa, Administration Manager, Chief Executives Unit

Also consulted: Alex Care, Community Partnerships Team Leader

### Financial Comments:

One finance representative was present at the grants panel meeting and gave their detailed comments to each application as it was discussed. These are written on the grants portal for staff. The finance officer also approved the applications.

### Monitoring Officer Comments:

No comments to add to the report

### Deputy S151 Officers Comments:

The awards can be met from within approved 2016/17 revenue budgets.

### Implications:

**Value for Money:** The community grants helps voluntary and community organisations with projects that benefit the local community. Each application considered is scrutinised by Finance and other officers to ensure value for money.

**Financial:** The community grant pot is protected for allocating to community and voluntary organisations and the budget is allocated for 2016/2017 financial year

**Risk:** If we did not fund these community projects through the community grant scheme, they may not be able to go ahead.

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**Officer Signature:**

*MJ Randh*

**Date –**