

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY WELL BEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held on Tuesday 22 July 2014 at 2.15pm

Present

Councillors: Mrs H Bainbridge (Chairman), E J Berry, Mrs C Heal, M R Lee, Mrs J Rendle (substituting for Mrs S Griggs) and P F Williams

Apologies

Councillors: Mrs S Griggs and D J Knowles,

Also Present

Councillors: R M Deed, C R Slade, R L Stanley and K D Wilson

Also Present

Officers: A Tregellas (Head of Communities and Governance), L Reeves (Head of Customer Services), S Newcombe (Public Health and Professional Services Manager), and J Stuckey (Member Services Officer)

13 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 May 2014 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

16 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Group had before it a report from the Head of Communities and Governance (HO CG) regarding the process for Grant Applications.

The Officer outlined the contents of the report explaining that the 31 March 2014 had marked the final year of a three-year programme of the strategic grant allocations process. The report recommended that the process be reviewed every two years.

The process divided applicants into groups, with priority being given to those that provided essential services to residents and represented strategic alignment with the Councils objectives.

The HOCG explained to the Group that as the Council was about to embark on the next period of reviewing grants she would like their feedback regarding the process.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Potential cuts to funding and the intention to concentrate on those applicants that helped the community and on the Corporate Plan priorities;
- A further review would be required if there were changes to Corporate Priorities;
- Seed fund monies would be carried forward if unused;
- Cuts to budgets had not yet been agreed;
- Members of the Community Development Team and the Cabinet Member looked at applications and meet with the applicants to decide the level of award.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that:

- a) The strategic grants review process as set out in the report be approved;
- b) The Process to be agreed every two years.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

17 LEADER FUNDING

The Group received an update from the Head of Communities and Governance regarding the bid being submitted for LEADER funding.

The Officer explained that in order to bid for the funding Mid Devon had to develop and submit a Local Development Scheme (LDS) and set up a Local Action Group (LAG). The LAG would be made up of representatives from the business sector, community and voluntary sector and local authorities. The LDS would set out what the LAG aimed to achieve based on locally identified priorities and actions.

Whilst certain parishes in Mid Devon had benefited from previous LEADER schemes by being part of a different LAG, Mid Devon as a whole had not previously had a LAG.

DEFRA had set out their priorities which were:

- Support for increasing farm productivity
- Support for micro and small enterprises and farm diversification
- Support for rural tourism
- Provision of rural services
- Support for cultural and heritage activity
- Support for increasing forestry productivity

DEFRA guidance suggested that 70% of all projects must directly support the rural economy. The remaining 30% of projects would also need to demonstrate that they were contributing to improving the local rural economy by, for example, increasing visitors to a particular area or providing an essential rural service.

Mid Devon District Council had already been successful in being awarded £20,000 in order to develop its Local Development Strategy. The money had been used to buy in resource from Devon County Council in order to work together to produce the Local Development Strategy.

A map outlining the area covered had been submitted in May, which determined the headcount and potential funding, if successful the funding could be worth anything between £1.3m and £1.72m.

Following submission of the bid a decision would be made in October/November. If successful a Local Action Group Board would have to be set up by January 2015. The authority would still need to be involved in order to encourage bids and help with submissions.

18 **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

The Head of Customer Services updated the Group with regard to Digital Transformation and the link with the Customer Care Policy, which was due for review later in the year.

The Officer explained that times had changed since the current Customer Care Policy had been written and the authority now needed to move towards a more digital system. As part of the review of the policy new channels of digitally connecting with the public would be investigated. These methods should be easy to use but it would also be necessary to maintain more traditional methods as well.

Discussion took place regarding procedures for contacting Officers.

19 **CCTV ANNUAL REPORT**

The Public Health and Professional Services Manager introduced himself to the Group and updated them on his new responsibilities.

He explained that responsibility for the CCTV service in Tiverton fell within the Licencing Service. A Tiverton CCTV Management Group, made up of members from the Town Council, Police, Community Safety Partnership and the Town Clerk met twice a year. Mid Devon was represented by a member of the Licensing Team. This Group was responsible for monitoring the work of the CCTV cameras, checking for lawfulness of the cameras, looking at future development, securing funding and reporting back to the Council, amongst other things.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The risk of funding for the CCTV;
- The necessity of the CCTV;
- That any information requested should be provided to the Group;

- The system is currently fully compliant with RIPA;
- The Council provides Officer time and a small budget.

It was **AGREED** that the Public Health and Professional Services Manager provide a written response to a question raised regarding the system. Members asked for clarification as to why the Tiverton CCTV system fell under the responsibility of the District Council but both Cullompton and Crediton were run independently.

20 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING – 16 September 2014**

- Financial Monitoring
- Customer Care Charter
- Performance and Risk
- Leisure Centre Updates
- Community Safety Partnership Update

(The meeting ended at 3.13pm)

CHAIRMAN