

COMMUNITY WELL BEING PDG

20TH AUGUST 2019

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMY AND REGENERATION

COMMUNITIES TOGETHER FUND SUMMARY OF SPEND AND OVERVIEW OF CHANGES TO LOCAL FUNDING SCHEMES

Cabinet Member Cllr Dennis Knowles
Responsible Officer Mrs Jenny Clifford, Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration

Reason for Report: To provide Members with a summary of spend for the Communities Together Fund (2018/19) and to inform them of the closure of the funding scheme for 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the report is noted.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The report relates to Aim 1 of the Community Priority 'Support local communities to retain and develop their local facilities and services'.

Financial Implications: The Council contributed £0.10 per elector, amounting to £6,788 for the financial year 2018/19 based on the February 2018 electoral register. Mid Devon District Council administered the scheme on behalf of Devon County Council. The amount of time needed to respond to enquiries, receive and process applications, convene meetings of the County Committee and process payments has amounted to at least 20 days of officer time per year.

Legal Implications: Failure to have an efficient and effective process in place for administering the Communities Together Fund could result in legal challenge and adverse publicity for the Council.

Risk Assessment: Failure to have an efficient and effective process in place for administering the Communities Together Fund and other similar funding schemes could result in legal challenge and adverse publicity for the Council.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In 2012 the County Council and District Councils created a joint grant programme, called the Town and Parish (TAP) Fund. The aim of the fund was to encourage towns and parishes to work together on mutually beneficial projects. The funding pot consisted of a contribution of £1.00 per elector from Devon County Council with the addition of £0.10 per elector from each District Council, amounting in Mid Devon in 2018 to a grant pot of just under £68,000.
- 1.2 The Fund was administered at district level with applications being approved by a panel consisting of the relevant Devon County Councillors plus two Mid Devon District Councillors. County Members had the casting vote for applications within their ward.

- 1.3 For the financial year 2018-19 the TAP Fund was rebranded the Communities Together Fund (CTF), with the aim of encouraging more applications from community groups, working together on mutually beneficial projects. In the spring of 2019 Devon County Council announced they were going to discontinue the Communities Together Fund for the financial year 2019-20, in favour of supporting three new funding schemes. The Communities Together Fund is now therefore closed to applications.
- 1.4 This report summarises the fund activities and spend for the financial year 2018-19 with a list of all applications received and grants approved attached. It then goes on to outline future arrangements for groups wanting to access DCC funding.

2.0 Communities Together Fund 2018/19 - Summary of Spend

- 2.1 The total budget for 2018/19, including both the DCC and MDDC contributions, was £67,881.00. An additional £1,068.29 of funding became available from withdrawn applications from the previous funding year. The total funding available was split between two funding rounds, of which a total of £68,949.29 was allocated, underspends in County ward areas were redistributed with County Member consent to ensure the fund was fully spent by the end of the financial year. The spend profile was as follows:

County Ward	TOTAL Budget for Year	Allocated in Round 1	Allocated in Round 2	Total allocated	Outstanding Balance
Crediton	£11,097.90	£1,333.00	£5,726.67	£7,059.67	£4,038.23
Creedy, Taw and Mid Exe	£11,679.80	£4,844.00	£13,736.03	£18,580.03	-£6,900.23
Cullompton and Bradninch	£10,808.60	£2,900.00	£7,908.60	£10,808.60	£0.00
Tiverton East	£10,692.00	£0.00	£8,782.92	£8,782.92	£1,909.08
Tiverton West	£11,919.60	£0.00	£10,419.60	£10,419.60	£1,500.00
Willand and Uffculme	£11,683.10	£4,346.80	£8,951.67	£13,298.47	-£1,615.37
Underspend	£1,068.29	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,068.29
TOTAL	£68,949.29	£13,423.8	£55,525.49	£68,949.29	£0.00

- 2.2 Appendix A outlines the 2018/19 summary of spend per County Ward.
- 2.3 We received a total of 77 applications and enquiries in 2018/19 and an additional 2 applications that had been carried forward from 2017/18. Of these 79, 21 did not proceed past the enquiry / initial application stage (the applicants either did not proceed with making a formal application for funding or withdrew their application).
- 2.5 Of the 58 applications that proceeded to Funding Panels:
- 13 were received in Round 1 and 45 were received in Round 2.

- 47 applications (81%) were successful in being allocated funding (2 of which were conditional awards) plus an additional 4 applications (7%) successfully received S106 funding instead of Communities Together Funding.
- 2 applications were deferred (carried forward from Round 1 to Round 2, which then successfully received funding).
- 7 applications (12%) were declined either due to the application not meeting the Communities Together Fund criteria or due to inadequate funding during that round. This is a 1% increase on the previous year.

2.6 Successful applicants have until 28 February 2020 to claim their funding. Any unclaimed funds will be offered to projects that only received part funding (to be selected by the County Ward Members).

3.0 Devon County Council Funding Schemes for 2019/20

3.1 In March 2019, Devon County Council announced the decision to discontinue the Communities Together Fund in the 2019/20 financial year. Instead, they are administering three separate funding schemes:

- **Crowdfund Devon (Extra funding for Devon)** Further details are on the Crowdfunder website: <https://welcome.crowdfunder.co.uk/crowdfund-devon/>
- **Doing What Matters (Community Grants Fund)** featuring an intervention rate of 75% (25% match required) - offering one-off grants of between £5k to £20k to successful community project applicants: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/economy/business-support/doing-what-matters-communities-grants-fund/>
- **Making the Connection** grant fund - deploying one-off grants of up to £300 with no match funding required: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/making-the-connection-grant>

Contact for more Information: Zoë Lentell, Growth and Regeneration Officer ext 4298

Circulation of the Report:

List of Background Papers:

Appendix A: Summary of Decisions Round 1, 2018/19 by County Ward
Appendix B: Summary of Decisions Round 2, 2018/19 by County Ward