

**COMMUNITY WELL BEING PDG
30 JUNE 2015**

**PRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL AGENCIES IN RECEIPT OF AN ANNUAL
COUNCIL GRANT**

Cabinet Member **Cllr C Slade**
Responsible Officer **Grants and Funding Officer**

Reason for Report: To provide supporting information on the agencies invited to give a short presentation on their work and the value of their district council's annual grant award.

RECOMMENDATIONS that:

The Policy Development Group notes the report as presented.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The allocation of grants provides support to external agencies delivering services that advance the council's corporate priorities. Grant allocations tend to be most closely aligned to the Empowering our Communities priority, although they also have a bearing on other strategic objectives, such as Economic Development, including tourism, and Housing.

Financial Implications: Presentations by agencies in receipt of an annual grant award will enable the Policy Development Group to form a better understanding of their work and the benefit of the council's grant allocation. This will lead to more informed decision making when the PDG is asked to recommend grant award levels for 2016/17.

Risk Assessment: There is minimal risk to the council in receiving presentations from annually grant funded agencies, although the Policy Development Group will need to take into account that the current term of the council's Corporate Plan, against which grant awards are assessed, is currently being reviewed.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In 2015/16 the council will award grants totalling £178,225 to twelve agencies providing fourteen services (Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life also delivers a tourist information service from the museum, while Tiverton and District Community Transport Association also manages community transport services in Crediton and its rural hinterland).
- 1.2 Over the last five financial years, grant payments to external agencies have been reduced from £240,290 (2011/12) to £178,225, representing a 26% decrease.
- 1.3 There is an ongoing demand to identify savings from all council services to accommodate an assumed 10% reduction in government grant for 2016/17.
- 1.4 The council has established a track record of carefully managing grant

reductions in order that the impact on agencies providing services to the district's most vulnerable residents is minimised. Over the last two years, more severe decreases in annual grant to individual agencies have been avoided by reducing the Seed Fund budget. However, as the Seed Fund budget stands at £1,075 for 2015/16, it cannot be deployed to protect agencies against reductions in 2016/17.

- 1.5 Should the Policy Development Group be required to recommend savings from the grant budget for 2016/17 it may be faced with challenging and potentially unpopular choices.
- 1.6 The purpose of introducing presentations by annually grant funded agencies is to help Members form a better understanding of the work and services each agencies provides, and how the council's grant enables the delivery of these services to take place.
- 1.7 Two grant funded agencies are invited to each give a fifteen minutes presentation on their work, plus five minutes for questions and answers. The style of and media for each presentation will be for individual agencies to determine.
- 1.8 To date, presentations have been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Grand Western Canal (January 2015), and Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life and Tiverton and District (including Crediton and District) Community Transport in March. Involve – Voluntary Action in Mid Devon and the Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT).
- 1.9 The schedule for forthcoming Community Wellbeing PDG meetings is:

30 June 2015	(1) Involve – Voluntary Action in Mid Devon and (2) Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT)
18 August 2015	(1) Age UK Mid Devon and (2) Tiverton Tourism Information Service
13 October 2015	(1) Market Centre Youth Drop-In, Tiverton and (2) Community Housing Aid Nightstop Service
8 December 2015	(1) Crediton Arts Centre and (2) Sunningmead Community Association
2 February 2016	Blackdown Support Group

2.0 Involve – Voluntary Action in Mid Devon

2.1 Involve’s aims, as stated in its Charity Commission entry, are:

“To maintain and develop services and support for voluntary and community organisations working to meet the needs of Devon’s communities. It facilitates liaison within the sector and between the sector and its strategic and statutory partners.

Involve also encourages and supports voluntary activity and strives to improve the environment in which volunteering takes place”.

2.2 During the last six months, Involve has undergone a number of staffing changes, including the redundancy of its Chief Officer, and reconfigured its staff resources.

2.3 The council’s annual grant award to Involve over the last five years has been:

Financial Year	Grant Awarded
2011/12	£15,000
2012/13	£17,500
2013/14	£16,000
2014/15	£15,000
2015/16	£14,250

3.0 The Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT)

3.1 CHAT’s aims, as stated in its Charity Commission entry, are:

“To relieve, either generally or individually, persons within the area of Mid Devon, without distinction of gender, or of political, religious, or other opinions, who are in conditions of need, hardship, or distress, by making grants of money, or providing or paying for items of service, or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship, or distress of such persons, and in particular to relieve persons who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, or who are without decent, secure, permanent accommodation”.

3.2 The council’s annual grant award to CHAT over the last five years has been::

Financial Year	Grant Awarded
2011/12	£5,000
2012/13	£5,000
2013/14	£5,000
2014/15	£5,000
2015/16	£5,000

Contact for more information: Paul Tucker (Grants and Funding Officer, ext. 4930; email: ptucker@middevon.gov.uk)

Circulation of the report: Management Team, Cllr C Slade, Head of Communities and Governance, Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer, Community Development and Regeneration Manager.