

## COMMUNITY WELL BEING PDG

### 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 annual grant award from the district council.

#### **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 minute presentation on their work, with an additional 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), the Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life and Tiverton and District (including Crediton and District) Community Transport (March 2015), and Involve – Voluntary Action in Mid Devon and the Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT) in June 2015.
- 1.9 The schedule for forthcoming Community Wellbeing PDG meetings is:

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 Age UK Mid Devon

- 2.1 Age UK Mid Devon is a registered charity (number 1070792) which provides a range of services for older people in Mid Devon, including day services based in Tiverton as well as information, advice and advocacy services.
- 2.2 Since the beginning of the 2015 calendar year, Age UK Mid Devon has

appointed a new Chief Officer.

- 2.3 The council's annual grant award to Age UK Mid Devon over the last five years has been:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>
2011/12	£4,450
2012/13	£4,450
2013/14	£4,500
2014/15	£4,500
2015/16	£4,500

### **3.0 Tourist Information Service**

- 3.1 Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life took on the function of providing a Tourism Information Service in the autumn of 2013 following the closure of the Tourist Information Centre in Phoenix Lane.

- 3.2 The council's annual grant award to the Tourist Information Service since 2013/14 has been:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>
2013/14	£4,000
2014/15	£4,000
2015/16	£4,000

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**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.