

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.

RECOMMENDATION: 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. As part of the budget setting process for next financial year, an indicative saving of £20,000 has been proposed from the grants budget.

- 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 following agencies:
- The Citizens Advice Bureau and the Grand Western Canal in January 2015;
 - The Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life and Tiverton and District (including Crediton and District) Community Transport in March 2015;
 - Involve – Voluntary Action in Mid Devon and the Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT) in June 2015, and
 - Age UK Mid Devon and Tiverton Tourism Information Service in August 2015.
- 1.9 The schedule for forthcoming Community Wellbeing PDG meetings is:

13 October 2015	(1) Market Centre Youth Drop-In, Tiverton and (2) Community Housing Aid Nightstop Service
8 December 2015	(1) Crediton Arts Centre, (2) Sunningmead Community Association and (3) Blackdown Support Group

2.0 The Market Centre Youth Drop-In

- 2.1 The Market Centre Youth Drop-In is a registered charity (number 1075456) based in Newport Street, Tiverton, in premises leased from the district council.
- 2.2 Formed in 1999, the Centre works with 11-19 year olds offering support, information, activities and services.

- 2.3 The council's annual grant award to the Market Centre Youth Drop-In over the last five years has been:

Financial Year	Grant Awarded
2015/16	£2,750
2014/15	£3,000
2013/14	£3,000
2012/13	£3,500
2011/12	£3,950

- 2.4 The Market Centre Youth Drop-In's lease for using the Newport Street premises has been reviewed over the last twelve months and increased from £5 to £1,000 per annum.

3.0 Community Housing Aid Nightstop Service

- 3.1 Community Housing Aid is a registered charity (number 1071945) that provides practical advice and support for people who are homeless or vulnerably housed in Exeter, Mid and East Devon. The charity, which was named the UK's charity of the year in 2011, is based in Exeter.
- 3.2 Nightstop is one of a number of services provided by the charity and the district council's grant is given specifically to maintain and develop this provision. Nightstop provides same day emergency overnight accommodation for young homeless people, between the ages of 16-25, in the homes of volunteer hosts who have been trained and vetted.
- 3.3 The council's annual grant award to the Nightstop service since 2011/12 has been:

Financial Year	Grant Awarded
2015/16	£2,500
2014/15	£2,500
2013/14	£2,500
2012/13	£2,500
2011/12	£2,500

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.