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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

SUMMARY of a **MEETING** of the **GRANTS WORKING GROUP** held on 12 September 2016 at 10.00 am

Present Councillors

Mrs H Bainbridge, Mrs A R Berry, F W Letch
and Mrs E J Slade

Apologies Councillors

Mrs E M Andrews, Mrs C P Daw, Mrs G Doe, R J Dolley,
B A Moore and R F Radford

Also Present Officers:

Julia Stuckey (Member Services Officer), Amy Tregellas
(Head of Communities and Governance and Monitoring
Officer) and Paul Tucker (Grants and Funding Officer)

1 **Election of Chairman**

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Mrs Bainbridge would Chair the meeting.

2 **Group to Review the Grants Report**

The Group had before it a draft report from the Grants and Funding Officer regarding grant payments to external organisations for 2017/18.

The officer outlined the contents of the report explaining what had happened in the past and proposed changes to the process for the coming year.

The officer proposed that the Museum of Mid Devon Life and the Tiverton Tourist Information Service be removed from the grants budget and accorded similar status to the Grand Western Canal as a flagship tourist attraction. The collective annual grant of £31,500 for the Museum and the Tourism Information Service should therefore be removed from the grants budget and placed in a tourism budget.

It was further proposed that this arrangement should be accompanied by a three-year service level agreement setting out the performance standards expected of each service, together with a built-in six monthly review and reporting mechanism for Community PDG.

Such an arrangement would reduce the annual grants budget from £117,875 to £86,375.

Members discussed options 1 maintaining the status quo and option 2 a commissioning approach.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The current process did not give best value to the council;
- Option 2 would give the opportunity to 'start with a clean sheet';
- Option 2 would be more inclusive and would allow for new applications to be submitted;
- It may not be possible to implement the new scheme by the start of the financial year but any award would be backdated;
- The Corporate Plan was for a further 3 years so grants could possibly be awarded for the same length of time, with clauses.
- The need to promote the changes in a positive way with the press;
- The need to involve Town and Parish Councils.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Museum of Mid Devon Life and Tiverton Tourism Information Service be removed from the Grants Process and funded from the Tourism budget.

That Option 2 – a commissioning approach be recommended to the PDG.

That grants be paid on an annual basis for the period of the Corporate Plan.

It was **AGREED** that the Group review the feedback from Consultation at a meeting on Monday 12th December 2016.

3 **Date of Next Meeting (if required)**

Monday 12th December 2016.

(The meeting ended at 10.45 am)