

External grant review

Thursday 10th October, 2019, 2.00 – 3.30pm

Notes

In attendance: Councillor Cottle-Hunkin, Councillor Hames, Councillor Langford, Councillor Manley, Councillor Pennington, Councillor Watson, Phil Topham, Chris Fuller

- Objectives for the review- strategic priorities
 - No clarification provided yet on the officially agreed strategic priorities following on from Member strategy events.
- Financial position and future scenarios
 - Agreement that it is not feasible to run a New Homes Bonus grant scheme with only the projected £7,902.
- Relative benefits of existing grant recipients (in light of strategic priorities)
 - Delayed until follow-up meeting
- Future stimulant opportunities?
 - Delayed until follow-up meeting
 - Agreement that creativity will need to be used in order to ensure that additional external funds can be sought to enhance the potential from the Members' grants. This will also need to be supplemented by a more proactive level of community engagement to build capacity.
- Next steps- options to explore
 - Agreement was made that "grants" provided to North Devon AONB, North Devon Biosphere Reserve, North Devon Plus, North Devon Women's Aid and Citizen's Advice Bureau should be reclassified as Service Level Agreements.
 - Agreement was made that a 4 year cycle of grants should be established, with a transparent application process. This would allow for the first year of the Council to provide a "bedding-in" period for new Members to develop an

understanding of the system and the current grant recipients and then the application process will take place towards the end of that first year.

- Each year the grant recipient will need to provide an itemised list of how the requested funds will be assigned and the impact they will have. This will then be monitored at the end of each year and deeper scrutiny introduced if the targets are not met or if funds have not been spent as indicated.
- AOB
- Date of next meeting- 28th October at 2.00 in Water's Edge, Riverside.

Actions:

- Cllr Manley and Chris Fuller to request a draft copy of strategic objectives
- Chris Fuller to investigate the processes followed by other Councils in terms of year on year grant schemes with regards to a transparent policy and application form.
- David Heyes to provide a clear explanation of the New Homes Bonus funding stream.
- David Heyes to provide a specific breakdown of all external grants (below).

External grant breakdown for 2019 - 20

LOAN AND GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - BIDEFORD		£38,310
LOAN AND GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	TORRIDGE VOLUNTARY SERVICES (TTVS)	£16,900	
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	COMMUNITY TRANSPORT	£6,500	
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT	ATLANTIC VILLAGE TIC	£1,000	
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT	HOLSWORTHY TIC	£4,500	
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT	GREAT TORRINGTON TIC	£4,220	
CONSERVATION/ ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT	NORTH DEVON BIOSPHERE RESERVE		£17,280
CONSERVATION/ ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT	NORTH DEVON AONB		£17,000
NORTH DEVON PLUS	ECONOMIC REGENERATION- LEADER 5	£15,000	
NORTH DEVON PLUS	NORTH DEVON PLUS		£20,000
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	BIDEFORD NEW YEARS EVE	£3,000	
HOMELESSNESS	NORTH DEVON WOMENS AID		£3,090
NEW HOMES BONUS	MEMBER GRANTS	£72,000	
NEW HOMES BONUS	NEW HOMES BONUS	£81,000	
		£204,120	£95,680

Additional comments

- There is a five year funding agreement in place with The Burton at Bideford following the Burton transferring to a Trust running from 2016/17 to 2020/21 with a review process before the end of the term.
- 2020/21 is the final year of Leader 5 funding to North Devon Plus.
- Funding to Wessex CIC is two part - one is a Housing Renewal Subscription – Supplement for Home Improvement Loan Programme £9832.80 and the other was part of a Devon-wide funding support for a Communications Role £2,889.60.