



North Devon Council

Report Date: Strategy and Resources Committee: 6 March 2023

Topic: Community Councillor Grants Strategy 2023-2027

Report by: Senior Corporate and Community Services Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Councillors are allocated a sum of money that they can use to support community and voluntary organisations for the benefit of the people in their wards. In 2023/24 this will be £1,000 each. These are known as Community Councillor Grants (CCGs).
- 1.2. The Council recognises the value that Voluntary and Community Groups add to the lives of residents of North Devon, and Community Councillor Grants offer a way for Councillors to help support these groups and the local Community. Voluntary and Community Groups are often at the heart of our communities and can be essential to improving the delivery of public services and improving community cohesion.
- 1.3. All organisations' and projects supported by CCGs must benefit the community, the local economy or the residents of the District
- 1.4. CCGs from North Devon Council can also be used as match-funding for organisations to attract other funding from external sources.
- 1.5. CCGs are administered in accordance with the Community Councillor Grants Strategy. The current Strategy expires in 2023, therefore a review has been undertaken of the strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. Approve the updated Community Councillor Grant Strategy 2023 - 2027 as detailed in Appendix A.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To improve the way the Council processes Community Councillor Grants by increasing transparency of the scheme and clarify the criteria and procedure for determining applications for applicants.
- 3.2. To ensure that a policy for 2023-2027 is in place prior to the District Council Elections in May 2023 and to enable the grants scheme to be open for applications in May 2023.

4. REPORT

- 4.1. At present Councillors are allocated £1,000 each to use to support voluntary and community organisations and Charities in the District.

4.2. Councillors use their Community Councillor Grants to support many voluntary and community groups and charities. In 2021/22, 89 applications were received and in 2022/23, 104 applications were received. For the year 2021/22 a total of £98,479 match funding was drawn in. So far for 2022/23 £70,226 has been drawn in.

4.3. The current strategy expires in 2023 and therefore the strategy has been reviewed to ensure that it is transparent for all parties and to clarify the criteria and procedure for determining applications for applicants.

4.4. Minor amendments have been made to: clarify the types of groups and charities that can apply for funding; some criteria for clarification purposes to make it easier for organisations to know whether they can apply or not; the application process; and additional criteria for when grants cannot be given for clarification purposes such as:

4.4.1. not being able to apply for a grant on behalf of another group or Charity who has responsibility for delivering the project

4.4.2. for the payment of salaries or wages.

4.4.3. Minor amendments have also been made to :

4.4.4. references to job titles within the policy

4.4.5. inclusion of using the applicants data for the Council to engage or consult with in relation to any future projects or changes in its services which are relevant to their group or organisation

4.4.6. clarification that should there be a by-election during the period of the policy, that following the election of a new Councillor any remaining balance from their predecessor would be re-allocated to the newly elected Councillor.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. £42,000 is already included in the 2023/24 budget for CCGs.

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1 Please detail if there are/are not any equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report. Groups that do not have access to the internet may not be awarded of the CCG scheme. The form will be amended to capture data from applicants on the characteristics that their group or organisation are helping to support within the community. If so, please complete the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Summary form available on Insite and email to the Corporate and Community Services Team at equality@northdevon.gov.uk.



7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 Please undertake an Environmental Assessment and complete the checklist (EAC) form available on Insite. If there are no environmental implications arising from your proposals please state that there are none. If after completion of the assessment there are environmental implications please provide a brief summary. If you require any further information, please contact the Sustainability and Climate Change Officer. Email completed EACs to donna.sibley@torridge.gov.uk

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: None.

8.1.2. Improving customer focus and/or: Positive as it will make the process for applying for CCG's clearer for applicants.

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development. None

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. Article of Part 3 Annex 1 paragraph: Paragraph 1 (e)

9.2. Referred or delegated power? Delegated

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: (The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Leader of the Council, Head of Governance, Accountancy Services Manager, Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Bev Triggs, Senior Corporate and Community Services Officer. 22/02/23