



North Devon Council

Report Date: Monday, 2 October 2023

Topic: Grant Scheme 'Keeping North Devon Connected' 2024-2027

Report by: Head of Governance

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Council at its meeting on 19th July 2023, noted that Go North Devon was to dissolve by 30th September 2023
- 1.2. The Board of Go North Devon would like to transfer any excess funds to North Devon Council to provide a grant scheme, with the aim of supporting older people or those with mobility issues or disability to keep connected in North Devon, to match the purpose for which the money was originally secured by Go North Devon.
- 1.3. The excess funds could be circa £120,000. It is anticipated that this will be confirmed in February or March 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the excess funds from Go North Devon are placed in an earmarked reserve for the purposes of a grant scheme for the next three financial years (2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27).
- 2.2. That the excess funds be specifically held for the purpose outlined in 2.1 and not be used to replace any strategic grants already provided by North Devon Council.
- 2.3. That the grants provided be aligned to the purpose of supporting older people, or those with mobility issues or disability, particularly in relation to facilitating or enabling activity within our communities and our town centres.
- 2.4. That delegated power be given to the Head of Governance to approve the grant applications.
- 2.5. That the 'Keeping North Devon Connected' grant policy for 2024-2027 in Appendix A be approved.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Go North Devon are to dissolve on the 30th September 2023 and are looking to distribute any excess funds.
- 3.2. The Board Members of Go-North Devon would like to set up a grant scheme to support older people, or those with mobility issues or disability to help keep communities connected in North Devon, with the District Council to administer the scheme.

4. REPORT

- 4.1. The excess funds, circa £120,000 would be distributed to the Council once the process of dissolving Go North Devon has been completed. This would

be no earlier than February 2024 but likely to be prior to the end of the financial year March 2024.

- 4.2. Applicants could then apply for the grant funding on an annual basis once the scheme opens in April 2024 or as soon as the funds are received, if after that date.
- 4.3. Eligible grants up to £5,000 will be paid out on a 'first come first served basis' on meeting the grant criteria. Consideration may be given to applications for grants above this limit in exceptional circumstances.
- 4.4. It is proposed that this funding stream would be available for the financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. Approximately £40,000 will be available for each financial year (NOTE: Amount to be confirmed). Any underspend would be rolled forward into the next financial year through the earmarked reserve.
- 4.5. The fund would be available to community groups, clubs, charities, CIC or voluntary groups operating on a not for profit basis, whose work/project will benefit older people, those with mobility issues or disability, particularly in relation to facilitating or enabling activity within our communities and our town centres.
- 4.6. The grants policy in appendix A, sets out the aims, processes and due diligence in connection with the 'Keeping North Devon Connected' grants scheme.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The funds would be provided by Go North Devon and transferred to North Devon Council, with no financial implications for the Council other than the officer time to administer the scheme.

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

- 6.1. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. This grants scheme will have a positive impact on older people, those with mobility issues or disability. Figures from the Census 2021 state that 25.8% of North Devon's residents are over the age 65 years. 19.6% of North Devon residents have a disability under the Equality Act and their day to day activities are limited a lot or limited a little.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 7.1. There are no environmental implications arising from your proposals please state that there are none.

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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



- 8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: Not applicable
- 8.1.2. Improving customer focus and/or: Positive
- 8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development: Not applicable.

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

- 9.1. Part 3 Annexe 1 paragraph 1
- 9.2. Delegated power

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:

Adam Tape, Head of Governance