

LIST OF PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Reduction in Partnership funding levels – The Council has a Task and Finish Group for Partnerships which has reviewed the level of partnership funding by making direct contact with partners and makes the following recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding future funding levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CVS (£8,500)

Supporting Community Action for a Thriving West Devon. West Devon CVS supports voluntary groups, charities, social enterprises and other not-for-profit organisations to bring about positive change and build stronger communities. The CVS also help to promote active citizenship through volunteering. The CVS have an office in the Ockment Centre in Okehampton and a pop-up office in Tavistock Library and employ 1.5FTE and 3 core volunteers. A key project for 2017/18 has been facilitating and coordinating the Okehampton and Tavistock Health and Wellbeing Alliances to achieve economies of scale and better outcomes for local people. WDBC contributes £8,500 (30%) core funding to CVS with DCC providing the remaining 70%.

- i. **Recommendation:** Reduce CVS funding by 10% (£850) for 2018/19 and consider further cuts to funding in 2019/20 as this is not a statutory borough council function.

Citizens Advice (£32,900)

Torrige, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice operates as a local independent charity providing free confidential, impartial advice to everyone in the West Devon Borough. West Devon offices are located at the Ockment Centre, Okehampton and Kingdon House, Tavistock. The Citizen Advice service in West Devon makes a significant contribution to the local community and in the first 6 months of 2017/18 supported local people with over 1,750 issues and generated over £487,000 income gains for local people. Benefits and tax credits are the most common issues dealt with by West Devon Citizens Advice followed by debt, employment, housing and relationship and family issues. WDBC provides £32,900 per annum to the Citizens Advice which equates to 29% of its total funding. Other notable funders include DCC and charitable trust grants. Calculations show that WDBC pays just £2.52 for every 30 minutes of advice given to local people.

- ii. **Recommendation:** Reduce Citizens Advice funding by 10% (£3,290) for 2018/19 and keep to this level of funding for two years whilst continuing to closely monitor the work of Citizens Advice via 6 monthly progress reports.

Tavistock & District Local Transport Partnership (£10,315)

Tavistock and District Local Transport Partnership is the charity name for Tavistock Ring and Ride which was established in 1990. The main funders of the service are Devon County Council, West Devon Borough Council, and Tavistock Town Council with contributions from some parishes. Tavistock Ring & Ride is the preferred providers for 2 contracts for DCC namely, children with complex needs to school and frail and vulnerable adults to a day centre.

Annually Tavistock's Ring & Ride accounts show a small surplus or a break even position. Any reduction in funding would take the scheme into a negative position. Tavistock Ring & Ride carry the necessary reserves advised by auditors in accordance with good practice. The budget for 2017/2018 shows expected income £84,520 and expenditure £83,500.

Provided funding remains, it is expected 2018/2019 will be similar. The percentage split of funding is approx. Contracts 56%, DCC 18%, WDBC 12% (£10,315), Fares Parishes etc. 10%, TTC 4%. Tavistock Ring & Ride employ 2 full time drivers, 2 part time escorts, 1 part time co-ordinator and 1 reserve driver. One average Tavistock Ring & Ride carry 4,160 passengers per year, servicing Tavistock and surrounding areas. It is estimated the Ring and Ride customers contribute £108,400 to the local economy.

Okehampton & District Ring and Ride (£10,315)

West Devon Borough Council also provides funding to the Okehampton and District Ring and ride. Both Tavistock and Okehampton Ring & Ride Schemes receive £15,000 each from Devon County Council.

iii. Recommendation: Reduce Ring & Ride Funding by 10%

5% to Okehampton and 5% to Tavistock i.e. £515 each for 2018/19 and consider further cuts to funding in 2019/20 as this is not a statutory borough council function.

Tamar Valley AONB (£8,835)

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a statutory designation and is of equal standing to a National Park. AONBs are serviced by a core AONB team and their main purpose is to deliver a Management Plan that will conserve and enhance the natural beauty on behalf of a local Partnership reflective of the area. The funding to employ the core team (circa 5 FTE) and some modest project funding is provided through a contribution of 25% from the constituent Local Authorities and when this is provided, Defra provide a further 75% funding.

Statutory duties in relation to AONBs are provided for in Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Specifically, the Act states that, "in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in these areas, relevant authorities (which includes the constituent Local Authorities) "shall have regard" to their purposes".

Sections 88 and 89 of the Act state that each Local Authority shall prepare and publish a Management Plan for their AONB which should then be reviewed at intervals of no more than five years. Management Plans are adopted statutory policy of the Local Authority(s). Note, WDBC pays the Tamar Valley AONB £8,835 per annum for the production and delivery of the required Management Plan.

iv. Recommendation: Maintain funding at current level due to statutory requirement to produce a management plan.

Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) (£4,500)

WDBC contributes £4,500 per annum. The total budget of the TECF is £48,875 which equated to a 9.2% contribution from WDBC. The marine environment is under increasing pressure from human activity, which can damage and further threaten marine ecosystems. The Government is aiming to protect habitats and species in UK seas by contributing towards a network of well-managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The National MPA Steering Group has produced a document which sets out the duties of public authorities in relation to MPA management and this is appended.

The waters of Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries are classified as MPAs through their designation as: Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation; Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area; and Tamar Estuaries Marine Conservation Zone. Management measures are therefore required to protect the vulnerable features within the MPAs and Relevant Authorities need to consider appropriate measures when determining applications for development or permitting activities in or near the sites.

This requires a thorough knowledge of marine issues and access to marine data and is best achieved through collaborative management measures to protect the vulnerable features within it. For well over 20 years, Tamar Estuary Consultative Forum has been successfully managing the recreational waters of Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries through a collaborative approach. During that period we have seen the legislative burden increase on Relevant Authorities as the importance of protecting our key marine assets becomes more fully understood. There have been numerous studies which have shown that without the Forum, the financial burden on the individual organisations would be much higher than their contribution to TECF and so by working collaboratively, savings are being delivered to the Relevant Authorities – WDBC being one of them. An example of work undertaken by the TECF this year includes providing the specialist marine input into the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the local authorities' Joint Local Plan.

v. Recommendation: Maintain funding at current level due to statutory requirement to produce a management plan.

South West Museums (£2,000)

Unlike many other councils, West Devon does not provide direct funding for museums and galleries. As such this inhibits their ability to access Arts Council's investment at regional and national level which in turn also limits their opportunities to access national pots of funding and programmes. Predominately driven by a volunteer workforce, local museums are not just for the community, they are of the community.

This community commitment to heritage is demonstrated on a daily basis through the vast number of hours dedicated to supporting the delivery of local museums. Rurality hinders the region to fair access of opportunities, as such South West Museums is at the heart of national discussions with Arts Council England and provides a valuable broker function to increase awareness of rural issues and ensure that museums and heritage organisations in rural areas can have fair access to publically funded, national programmes.

During 2015/16 the five Accredited Museums in West Devon received almost 203,000 visits which generated economic impact of over £902,984 of local visitors and £3,578,465 of day visitors. Focusing on the three independent museums of Tavistock, Fairground Heritage and Dartmoor Life these museums received visits of over 34,800 in 2015/16 and 45,872 in 2016/17 generating an almost 25% increase in visitors. The economic value generated from these local and day visits by the three predominately volunteer run independent museums on the local economy was £771,485 over 2015-2017.

Furthermore a key success for 2017 has been the Devon Museum Development Officer working in conjunction with Somerset to secure £98,089 from across six funding sources including the Lottery and Arts Council England for the MUSE: Makers in Museums a project with six museums in Devon and Somerset. The Museum of Dartmoor Life is one of the six museums who has directly benefited from over £16,000 of investment from the project. This investment was only possible due to the capacity and expertise of the Museum Development Officer funded by South West Museums (£8,500). Grants, training and specialist advice to local museums from South West Museums equated to £6,392. In short, the £2,000 WDBC investment in 2016/17 has generated £30,892 of real investment in the sector.

vi. Recommendation: Cease funding

Young Devon (£7,500)

WDBC funding (£7,500) contributes greatly to the delivery of the youth counselling and young carer's service for the area. Without this Young Devon would not have been able to support so many young people and carers. In the first 6 months of 2017/18 Young Devon has provided counselling for 30 young people with a wide range of mental health issues including anxiety, depression and behavioural issues.

The number of counselling sessions is up by nearly 30% compared with the same period for last year. Counselling is provided by two female volunteer counsellors and one of the counsellors receives some paid hours to coordinate the service. The relationship with the local surgery where the service is based is very positive. The Young Carers programme currently has 180 young carers registered in West Devon.

Young Devon has provided 104 sessions in one to one support for young carers in the area which is up on the same period compared to last year due to additional youth hours support in Okehampton. Young Devon has also provided trips and activities for 35 young people since April in a bid to give them respite from their day to day caring responsibilities. Other funders of the Young Carers initiative this year include the Devon Community Foundation and Okehampton Rotary Club.

vii. Recommendation: Reduce funding by £2,500 for 2018/19 and consider further cuts to funding in 2019/20 as this is not a statutory borough council function.

Carn2Cove / Villages in Action (£4,000)

The WDBC annual contribution is £4,000. If this funding was ceased, the remainder of the 2018/19 season rural arts events would be at risk. Carn2Cove / ViA obtain match funding (often far exceeding the amount granted by WDBC) from the Arts Council. The Arts Council have stated in other instances that where no local match is available, it is minded to cease funding. If this were to happen, such events would not be hosted on a local basis and the goodwill of the volunteer network would be lost.

Carn2Cove are progressing communications with town and parish councils, requesting their support. If successful, this would form a match for future Arts Council funding.

As background, ViA / C2C have organised events in 33 West Devon Villages since the organisations inception. The number of events held each year has steadily fallen, as funding from local authorities has fallen. The funds raised effectively “underwrite” events in communities where ticket sales alone would not cover the cost of running the event. This disproportionately effects smaller communities / venues. (9 such events have been held so far this financial year). C2C do not make profits (they are a charity) but make surpluses which go to sustain local resources e.g. the village hall, social activity, small rural businesses, sole traders (performers).

viii Recommendation: Cease funding as this is not a statutory borough function.

BIP – Business Information Point (£15,000)

In the comments in the Members' Budget Survey, Members suggested that the grant (£15,000) should be reduced back to the £8k granted in 2016/17. A survey has been sent to all prior clients of the BIP, to gauge the impact the intervention has had in the area. Evidence has been received of both new businesses starting and growth within the area. Responses will continue to be collated and analysis will be available in time for the January budget setting session. The team, operating from its Okehampton base, hold consultations with referrals, workshops on various topics such as touching on marketing, budgeting, taxation, strategy, innovation and signpost businesses to sources of funding. In the year to date, 11 pre-start consultations have been held and 21 existing business consultations.

Part of the current £15k funding is an amount of £1200 per annum (committed for a further 2 years) which supports the Devon-wide Growth Support Programme. This began in January 2017 and offers an impartial diagnostic service for small and medium sized enterprises, aiming to help them grow in regional, national and international markets and to engage in the innovation process.

All businesses receive an initial 3-hour diagnostic after which they are either signposted to other support appropriate to their needs or can receive an additional 9 hours of intensive support via the programme. This project is funded by other Devon Districts, the LEP and County and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF- this is European funding). BIP deliver this programme in West Devon. As it is funded by ERDF, some business sectors are ineligible.

BIP undertake some activity in the area which is not funded by WDBC. This could continue without WDBC funding. However, this would likely result in lower activity and impact on the local economy. It is important to note that BIP activity targets potential businesses, start-ups and small to medium sized businesses. Not all of these will succeed and not all will pay business rates. However, if successful, they are creating and impacting on the economic prosperity of the region. BIP will advise the expected impact of any grant cut before the budget is finalised in January 2018.

ix. Recommendation: Reduce funding by £7,000 but note this is a contract and not a discretionary partnership contribution and as such should be market tested.

OCRA (£2,000)

Offer 'A lifetime of activity for all in West Devon'. The £2,000 core funding provided by WDBC allows the charity to deliver a wide range of activities, support groups and attract other funding, events and initiatives to the West Devon area. In 2017 OCRA delivered Sports, Health initiatives, Arts, Dance, Music, Fitness, Training, Events and Adventure sessions to over 5,000 children and adults of all ages and abilities.

Through OCRA's support of over 60 different local clubs /groups and development / running of facilities OCRA impacted positively on 100's more. OCRA's aim is to maintain and increase activity levels, build confidence, develop skills, inspire healthier individuals and create vibrant communities.

- x. **Recommendation:** Cease funding as this is not a statutory borough function.

Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership (£2,500)

The Partnership is still in operation but WDBC ceased making financial contributions to the partnership circa 2010.

- xi. **Recommendation:** Cease funding as this is not a statutory borough function.

Crowdfunding Platform

To allow for transparent awarding of discretionary funding it is recommended a pilot crowdfunding website is established in partnership with Devon County Council and other interested partners. Plymouth City Council has successfully backed a crowdfunding site since 2015 and has found it a useful tool to discern which projects to fund and those with the most local support. The £120,000 they have invested to date has supported projects worth nearly £1 million the majority of funds coming from individuals and businesses.

- xii. **Recommendation:** To transfer £10,000 from the capital community fund to a crowdfunding revenue pot to back local projects.

PARTNERSHIP FUNDING SUMMARY (reduction of £28,000 in 2018/19)

Partnership	Current Allocation	Proposed 2018/19	Proposed 2019/20
CVS	£8,500	£7,650	£?
Citizens Advice	£32,900	£29,610	£29,610
Tavistock Ring & Ride	£10,315	£9,800	£?
Okehampton Ring & Ride	£10,315	£9,800	£?
Tamar Valley AONB	£8,835	£8,835	£8,835
Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum	£4,500	£4,500	£4,500
South West Museums	£2,000	£0	£0
Young Devon	£7,500	£5,000	£?
Villages in Action (Carn2Cove)	£4,000	£0	£0
BIP (subject to market testing)	£15,000	£8,000	£8,000
OCRA	£2,000	£0	£0
Devon Rail Partnership	£2,500	£0	£0
WHS	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000
Junior Life Skills	£2,160	£2,160	£2,160
Devon Youth Games	£3,000	£0	£0
HoSWLEP	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
TOTAL	£122,525	£94,355 (reduction of £28,000)	£62,105+

2019/20 Funding Contributions

In fairness to partners, it is recommended a settlement (partnership contribution) for 2019/20 is communicated to partners in Spring 2018 in order that they can plan accordingly. A timely mechanism for agreeing future funding will need to be considered.

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