

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>24 June 2014</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>West Devon Borough Council Grant Scheme Allocations 2013/14</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Community Projects &amp; Policy Officer</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED</b>	<b>All</b>

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**Summary of report:**

To provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an update on projects supported through the West Devon Borough Council grant schemes in 2013/14.

**Financial implications:**

The Council allocates grant funding of £59,701 as part of both the Capital and Revenue budget setting process. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that Members

- Review the projects that have benefitted from Council grant funding in 2013/14.
- Make any necessary recommendations (as result of the review)

**Officer contact:**

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**1. BACKGROUND TO THE WDBC GRANT SCHEMES**

1.1 Throughout 2013/2014 WDBC ran a number of grant schemes to support local community projects and regeneration:

- The Community Project Grant scheme supported capital projects of local community benefit.
- The Village Hall Grant scheme supported capital works to repair, adapt, modernise or replace village / community halls.
- The Economic Development and Regeneration Grant scheme supported internal and external projects which help to deliver the Economic Development Plan.

- The Arts Grant scheme aimed to increase access to the arts and encourage people to take part.
- The Sports Grant scheme supported projects to improve the quality, range and impact of sport and physical activity and improve the skill level and number of volunteer coaches and officials in West Devon.

1.1 The TAP (Town and Parish) Fund, which encourages town and parish councils to work collaboratively on projects of community benefit, is largely funded by Devon County Council (DCC) and is therefore not included in this report. Following a recent DCC audit it was agreed that all district councils will report to the County on projects funded, and make this information publicly available via the internet.

## **2. GRANT SCHEME ALLOCATIONS 2013/14**

2.1 Appendix A details all the projects allocated grant funding in 2013/14.

### **2.2 Projects supported by the community projects grant scheme in 2013/14**

In 2013/14, £28,550 was allocated to 10 projects with a total project cost of £468,772. Therefore, every £1 in grant funding has levered in just over £16 in match funding. Appendix A shows that the Community Project Grant scheme has supported a range of community groups, charities and Town and Parish Councils.

### **2.3 Projects supported by the village halls grant scheme in 2013/14**

In 2013/14, just over £31,000 was allocated to three projects with a total project cost of just under £1,055,463.00. Therefore, every £1 in grant funding has levered in just over £34 in match funding for projects including building a new Village Hall in the Borough.

### **2.4 Projects supported by the economic development & regeneration grant scheme in 2013/14**

In 2013/14 £10,713.00 was allocated to 7 projects with a total project cost of just over £168,000. Therefore every £1 granted levered in over £15 in match funding. Appendix A shows that the grant scheme has supported a range of different projects across the Borough, including the development of websites, and feasibility studies.

### **2.5 Projects supported by the arts grant scheme in 2013/14**

In 2013/14 £4,900 was allocated to 12 projects with a total project cost of £53,255. Therefore every £1 granted levered in over £10 in match funding. Appendix A shows that the grant scheme has supported a range of different projects across the Borough, including community arts and performance activities.

### **2.6 Projects supported by the sports grant schemes in 2013/14**

In 2013/14, just over £2,651 was allocated to 7 projects with a total project cost of just over £9,216. Therefore, every £1 in grant funding has levered in just over £3 in match funding. Appendix A shows that the grant schemes have supported a range of different projects across the Borough including, training for coaches and instructors.

£3,047 was allocated from the sports grant fund towards the Playing Pitch Strategy, with a further commitment of £3, 000 promised for 14/15.

The Playing Pitch Strategy will provide a detailed assessment of current outdoor sports facilities across the Borough and provide a detailed evidence base that will support

- Robust evidence base for *Our Plan* helping us to determine local needs and priorities
- Negotiations with developers to secure appropriate financial contributions on new sites
- Evidence to allow clubs to make strong bids for grant aid

### **3. REVIEW OF GRANT SCHEMES**

3.1 A review of the councils grant schemes was carried out in 2013/14 and as a result the schemes have now been streamlined, revamped and re-launched for 2014/2015 as approved by members at Community Services Committee in March 2014, revised guidelines are attached as Appendix B for information.

3.2 The revised schemes will allow the council to support the delivery of a wide range of local projects meeting local need and demand in the most financially efficient way.

3.3 A report on grants funded for 2014/15 under the revised guidelines will be provided to this committee in summer 2015.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report as West Devon Borough Council accepts no liability for projects beyond the provision of grants. Grant funding will have to be repaid in the event that it is either not used for the intended purpose or the applicant fails to meet one or more of the grant conditions.

4.2 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising the effectiveness of Council policy to ensure it is delivering desired aims and outcomes for the local community and the organisation.

4.3 The Council has powers to award the grants specified in the report, under the Powers of General Competence set out in the Localism Act.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Council allocates grant funding as part of both the Capital and Revenue budget setting process. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 In 2013/14 £59,701 was allocated to grant schemes as follows:

- Community Projects - £18,000 (Capital)
- Village Halls - £18,000 (Capital)
- Economic Development and Regeneration - £10,271 (Revenue)

- Arts - £5,300 (Revenue)
- Sports - £8,130 (Revenue)

These figures are in addition to any roll-overs from 2012/13, where applicable.

5.3 For 2014/15 the allocation is still £59,701 as follows:

- Community Projects (including village and community halls) - £36,000 (Capital)
- Economy Projects (including Arts) - £15,571 (Revenue)
- Sports Projects - £8,130 (Revenue)

## 6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Risk Management implications are shown at the end of this report in the Strategic Risks Template.

## 7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

<b>Corporate priorities engaged:</b>	All
<b>Statutory powers:</b>	Localism Act 2011 (Section 1 – Powers of General Competence)
<b>Considerations of equality and human rights:</b>	WDBC grants provide funding to a wide range of community groups, therefore promoting equal opportunities
<b>Biodiversity considerations:</b>	None
<b>Sustainability considerations:</b>	WDBC grants contribute to increasing the sustainability of communities in the Borough
<b>Crime and disorder implications:</b>	None
<b>Background papers:</b>	CSC March 2014 report & Minutes
<b>Appendices attached:</b>	Appendix A – Grant allocation table 2012/13 Appendix B - Guidance Notes for Economic & Community grants

## STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status			Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership	
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Delivery of Outcomes and Value for Money	<p>Risk: Failure to deliver outcomes to the community and provide value for money for the Council's contributions</p> <p>Opportunity: To support local projects that deliver outcomes for communities and enhance the reputation of the Council</p>	3	2	6	↔	<p>Annual monitoring report to Overview and Scrutiny.</p> <p>Regular review of schemes to ensure they continue to deliver outcomes and support a wide range of projects.</p> <p>Streamlining of grant schemes and application process to ensure grants meet need in the most financially efficient way</p> <p>Approval and delegation process, including the Intention to Delegate table for grants over £2,000 that allows all Members the opportunity to comment on proposed grants before allocation.</p>	Community Manager

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔