

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Overview & Scrutiny
DATE	4 June 2013
REPORT TITLE	West Devon Borough Council Grant Scheme Allocations 2012/13
Report of	Community Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	All

Summary of report:

To provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an update on projects supported through the West Devon Borough Council grant schemes in 2012/13 and to advise Members of the intention to review the schemes in 2013/14 to ensure they continue to support the delivery of a wide range of local projects in the most financial efficient way, delivering value of money.

Financial implications:

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Members:

1. Review the projects that have benefitted from Council grant funding in 2012/13.
2. Note the intention to review the West Devon grant schemes to ensure they remain "Fit for Purpose" as set out in section 3 of this report and advise if there are particular issues that should be considered as part of this review.

Officer contact:

Debbie Bird, Community Manager (debbie.bird@swdevon.gov.uk / 01822 813515)

1. BACKGROUND TO THE WDBC GRANT SCHEMES

- 1.1 WDBC runs a number of grant schemes to support local community projects and regeneration:

- The Community Project Grant scheme supports capital projects of local community benefit.
- The Village Hall Grant scheme supports capital works to repair, adapt, modernise or replace village / community halls.
- The Economic Development and Regeneration Grant scheme supports internal and external projects which help to deliver the Economic Development Plan.
- The Arts Grant scheme aims to increase access to the arts and encourage people to take part.
- The Sports Grant schemes support 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.

1.2 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. DCC has produced a report to its Members and asked the Devon Association of Local Councils to evaluate the Fund.

2. GRANT SCHEME ALLOCATIONS 2012/13

2.1 Appendix A details all the projects allocated grant funding in 2012/13.

2.2 Projects supported by the community projects grant scheme in 2012/13

In 2012/13, just under £18,500 was allocated to 11 projects with a total project cost of £321,000. Therefore, every £1 in grant funding has levered in just over £17 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. The projects supported range from works to improve community buildings to environmental projects to projects to provide facilities for young people.

2.3 Projects supported by the village halls grant scheme in 2012/13

In 2012/13, just over £16,000 was allocated to three projects with a total project cost of just under £72,000. Therefore, every £1 in grant funding has levered in £4.50 in match funding for projects to provide a modular stage system and lighting, general refurbishments and roof repairs to Village Halls in the Borough.

2.4 Projects supported by the economic development & regeneration grant scheme in 2012/13

In 2012/13 just under £17,000 was allocated to 10 projects with a total project cost of just under £186,000. Therefore every £1 granted levered in £11 in match funding. Appendix A shows that the grant scheme has supported a range of different projects across the Borough, including business start-up support, the development of websites, markets, village shops, festivals and feasibility studies.

2.5 Projects supported by the arts grant scheme in 2012/13

In 2012/13 £4,600 was allocated to 10 projects with a total project cost of just over £112,000. Therefore every £1 granted levered in £24 in match funding. Appendix A shows that the grant scheme has supported a range of different projects across the Borough, including a theatre project involving adults with learning difficulties, community arts and performance activities, dance activity for young and older people, outdoor film projection and a lantern making workshop and procession.

2.6 Projects supported by the sports grant schemes in 2012/13

In 2012/13, just over £7,200 was allocated to 18 projects with a total project cost of just under £122,000. Therefore, every £1 in grant funding has levered in £17 in match funding. Appendix A shows that the grant schemes have supported a range of different projects across the Borough including the Olympic torch procession, training for coaches and instructors, club start up costs and a School Olympics.

3. REVIEW OF GRANT SCHEMES

3.1 It is intended to review the West Devon grant schemes this to ensure they continue to support the delivery of a wide range of local projects and deliver value of money. The following areas will be considered during the review:

- Whether there is any merit in combining some of the schemes;
- Assessment criteria for each scheme;
- Streamlining and aligning the application processes for each scheme and increasing the availability and accessibility of on-line/electronic application;
- Financial limits per grant within each scheme, to ensure that they are consistent with the budget allocated and allow for a reasonable number of applications within this budget;
- Clarify how multiple applications to different schemes for the same project or by the same organisation in the same financial year are dealt with;
- Approval and delegation;
- Time limits for the completion of projects and claiming allocated grant funding.

3.2 Any changes, other than minor changes that do not affect the operation or principles of the schemes or the way in which grants are approved, will be brought back to this Committee for comment before formal approval is sought from the Community Services Committee.

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.

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 2012/13, the budgets allocated for each grant scheme were:

- Community Projects - £18,000
- Village Halls - £18,000
- Economic Development and Regeneration - £20,521
- Arts - £5,300
- Sports - £8,130

These figures are in addition to any roll-overs from 2011/12, where applicable.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

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

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>Approval and delegation process, including the Intention to Delegate table that allows all Members the opportunity to comment on proposed grants before allocation.</p>	Community Manager

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔