

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>24 March 2015</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Town And Parish (TAP) Fund</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Community Manager</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED</b>	<b>All</b>

**Summary of report:**

To provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with information on projects supported through the TAP scheme.

**Financial implications:**

Devon County Council are the primary funder contributing £1 per elector; paid directly to the Borough Council to administer the fund on their behalf. The Borough Council then contributes an additional 10p per elector, making the fund up to £47,686.40 for 2014/15 plus under spend from the previous year of £6,819.80 bringing the total available spend to £54,506.20.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that Members

- Note the projects that have benefitted from TAP funding in 2013/14 and 2014/15 to date;
- Propose any changes they would like to see made to the scheme.

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**1. BACKGROUND TO THE TOWN AND PARISH (TAP) FUND**

- 1.1 The TAP Fund was originally a one year Devon County Council (DCC) led funding stream for 2012/13 but has since been funded in subsequent years and will continue for 2015/16.
- 1.2 Devon County Council contributes £1 per elector with West Devon Borough Council contributing an additional 10p per elector. The fund is open to all Town and Parish Councils within West Devon. Other Districts in Devon have their own schemes and all Districts administer the fund on behalf of Devon County Council.

- 1.3 Funding is allocated by Link area and Appendix A shows the current split of Parish Link areas.
- 1.4 The aim of this Fund is to develop collaborative working between towns and their surrounding parishes or between parishes, to tackle local community issues. Unlike other grants available to Town and Parish Councils, applications to the TAP Fund must be made by two or more councils. A project may centre on or be delivered in the main towns if it can be demonstrated that there will be a benefit to the surrounding parishes and that it has the support of at least one other benefiting parish.
- 1.5 Grants can pay for capital and/or revenue costs. The fund is intended as seed or catalyst funding for a new project or the delivery of a service, including projects that provide a different way of delivering a service withdrawn by public sector organisations, however projects that have previously received TAP Funding are not able to re-apply.
- 1.6 Applications are debated at the Link committee but the final decision is made by the local Ward and County Members
- 1.7 Following a recent DCC audit payments are now made retrospectively to ensure greater accountability. In previous years all payments were made in advance and advance and stage payments can still be made if needed. Proof of spend and a feedback form are also required.
- 1.8 It was also agreed that all District Councils will report to the County on projects funded and make this information publicly available via their websites, which West Devon has done for 2013/14 funded projects.

## **2. TAP FUND ALLOCATIONS**

- 2.1 Appendix B details all the projects allocated grant funding in 2013/14.
- 2.2 Appendix C shows projects submitted in 2014/2015 to date and details of what has so far been funded.

## **3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report as West Devon Borough Council accepts no liability for projects beyond the provision of grants.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Localism Act 2011 – General Power of Competence, a local authority has the power to do anything that individuals of full legal capacity may do giving authorities the power to take reasonable action they need 'for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area'.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council allocates grant funding as part of the Revenue budget setting process. Devon County Council provides funding at the rate of £1 per elector and West Devon Borough Council at a rate of 10p per elector, making a total of £1.10 per elector.
- 4.2 In 2014/15 £54,506.20 was available in the TAP fund divided into Link areas based on the number of electors in each.
- Eastern Link - £6927.80
  - Northern Link - £19,956.80 (£12,776.80 plus underspend from 2013/14 of £6819.80)
  - Southern Link - £27,981.80
- 4.3 Currently underspends may be carried forward into the next financial year.
- 4.4 Devon County Council has confirmed that funding will continue in 2015/16.

#### 5. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

#### 6. 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 TAP fund provides funding to a wide range of community groups, therefore promoting equal opportunities
<b>Biodiversity considerations:</b>	Some projects may support biodiversity
<b>Sustainability considerations:</b>	The TAP fund contributes to increasing the sustainability of communities in the Borough
<b>Crime and disorder implications:</b>	Some projects may alleviate crime and disorder issues
<b>Background papers:</b>	TAP guidance available online
<b>Appendices attached:</b>	<b>Appendix A</b> - Parish link areas <b>Appendix B</b> - Projects allocated TAP funding in 2013/14 <b>Appendix C</b> - Projects allocated TAP funding in 2014/15 to date

### 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 Councils contributions</p> <p>Opportunity: To support local projects that deliver outcomes for communities and enhance the reputation of the Councils</p>	3	2	6	↔	<p>Annual monitoring report to Overview and Scrutiny.</p> <p>Regular review of scheme to ensure delivery of outcomes that support a wide range of projects.</p>	Community Manager
2	Capacity to administer	<p>Insufficient staff capacity with diminishing resources</p> <p>Opportunity for innovative solutions in service delivery from communities</p> <p>Opportunity within T18 Locality working to promote and support innovative projects.</p>	3	2	6	↑	<p>Process accounted for in T18 during Sprints.</p> <p>Creation of Localities team as part of T18 model to take forward work with communities.</p>	SLT Localities Manager

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔