

## **PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date: Wednesday 26 June 2019  
Time: 5.30 pm  
Venue: Rennes Room - Civic Centre

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business.

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Howard Bassett, Democratic Services Officer (Committees) on 01392 265107.

Entry to the Civic Centre can be gained through the Customer Service Centre, Paris Street.

### *Membership -*

Councillors Vizard (Chair), Wardle (Deputy Chair), Begley, Foggin, Moore, J, Newby, Oliver, Pattison, Pierce and Quance, I

## **Agenda**

### **Part I: Items suggested for discussion with the press and public present**

#### **1 Apologies**

To receive apologies for absence from Committee members.

#### **2 Declaration of Interests**

Councillors are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests that relate to business on the agenda and which have not already been included in the register of interests, before any discussion takes place on the item. Unless the interest is sensitive, you must also disclose the nature of the interest. In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, you must then leave the room and must not participate in any further discussion of the item. Councillors requiring clarification should seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer prior to the day of the meeting.

#### **3 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public**

It is considered that the Committee would be unlikely to exclude the press and public during consideration of the items on this agenda, but if it should wish to do so, the following resolution should be passed:-

**RECOMMENDED** that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the particular item(s) on the grounds that it (they) involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**4 Questions from the Public under Standing Order 19**

Details of questions should be notified to the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support at least three working days prior to the meeting. Further information and a copy of the procedure are available from Democratic Services (Committees) (Tel: 01392 265115) and also on the Council web site - <https://exeter.gov.uk/councillorsfaq/>

**5 Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order 20**

To receive questions from Members of the Council to appropriate Portfolio Holders.

**ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE**

**6 Community and Arts Grants Review**

To consider the report of the Director.

(Pages 3 -  
92)

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Thursday 5 September 2019** at 5.30 pm in the Civic Centre.

Find out more about Exeter City Council services by looking at our web site <http://www.exeter.gov.uk>. This will give you the dates of all future Committee meetings and tell you how you can ask a question at a Scrutiny Committee meeting. Alternatively, contact the Democratic Services Officer (Committees) on (01392) 265107 for further information.

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**Individual reports on this agenda can be produced in large print on request to Democratic Services (Committees) on 01392 265107.**

REPORT to Council 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019  
REPORT to Executive 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
REPORT to People Scrutiny 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Report of: Director, Communities Health Wellbeing Sport and Leisure

Title: Community and Arts Grants Review

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes

Yes/No

\* One that affects finances over £1m or significantly affects two or more wards. If this is a key decision then the item must be on the appropriate forward plan of key decisions.

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

## 1. What is the report about?

1.1 This report describes the public consultation on the proposed Exeter Grants Programme, highlights feedback themes and proposes a revised Exeter Grants Programme to replace the current core, rent, city and grass roots grants.

## 2. Recommendations:

**It is recommended that:**

- 2.1 **People Scrutiny Committee** considers the revised Exeter Grants Programme in the light of the feedback from the comprehensive public consultation process and the amendments made to the original proposals noting the actions taken to support organisations in the transitions from the old to the new system.
- 2.2 **Executive Committee** considers this report and recommends that Council adopts the proposed Exeter Grants Programme appended to this report and allocates a startup budget of £30,000 from the Hew Homes Bonus Local Community Reserve<sup>1</sup> to mobilise the new Exeter Grant Programme.
- 2.3 **Executive Committee** considers this report and recommends that Council approves the creation of the Exeter City Fund from the sources described and notes that the extensive listening and consultation process has enabled the Council to seek views on spending priorities with regard to the Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)<sup>2</sup>. This is in line with CIL Regulations 2010 (Regulation 59F) and the underpinning Planning Practice Guidance (PPG Paragraph 73).

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<sup>1</sup> The New Homes Bonus is a grant paid by central government to local councils to reflect and incentivise housing growth in their areas. It is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use. The Local Community Reserve is an amount set aside by Council for its community programme.

<sup>2</sup> The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge that local authorities can require of most types of new development (based on £s per square metre) in order to pay for the infrastructure needed to support development.

2.4 **Executive Committee** considers this report and recommends that Council approves the establishment of the Exeter Grants Panel to provide strategic oversight and leadership of the Exeter Grants Programme.

### **3. Reasons for the recommendation:**

3.1 In 2018 the Council identified a need to modernise the community and arts grants programmes. Red Quadrant were commissioned to undertake the review, conduct a listening exercise and make recommendations on future arrangements for the Council to consider.

3.2 The Red Quadrant Report of October 2018 made a series of recommendations aimed at modernising the Council's approach to community and art grants. Following this Council set a budget that included a reduction in the General Fund budget for community grants of £290,000 for 2019/20 and a further £210,000 for 2020/21.

3.3 In order to achieve spending in line with the 2019/20 budgets interim arrangements were made for core and rent grant awards for 2019/20 to allow time for public consultation on future policy.

3.4 In February 2019 the Executive approved in principle the high level proposals for future policy and mandated the Directors, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Communities and Culture, to draft policy for public consultation to commence in March with a final report to be presented to Council in July 2019.

3.5 A key aim is to achieve a new policy and approach that will provide a sustainable funding pipeline for grants through the Neighbourhood Proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the New Homes Bonus and funds other than the General Fund.

3.6 Red Quadrant were commissioned in March 2019 to consult with community groups and organisations on the draft proposals.

3.7 The proposed Exeter Grants Programme will be underpinned by the Exeter City Fund which will be made up of a variety of funding including the Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy. The listening exercise of 2018 and the consultation process in 2019 enable the Council to demonstrate that it has complied with the statutory provisions of the CIL Regulations 2010 and its underpinning Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph 73) in that "...the charging authority will retain the levy receipts but should engage with the communities where development has taken place and agree with them how best to spend the neighbourhood funding."

### **4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.**

4.1 The Exeter Grant Programme and Exeter Fund will initially be funded from the New Homes Bonus Community Reserve of £265,000 per year for three years and the Neighbourhood Proportion of the CIL (where receipts allow) of £800,000 per year, creating a total annual fund of £1,065,000.

4.2 This will be reviewed on an annual basis and depending on the available fund the allocated budget may go up or down. Any uncommitted but received funds could be allocated to a one off Strategic Grant Fund to support bespoke or larger community projects. Where CIL funds are to be used, applicants will need to demonstrate that there is community support for their project and that it satisfies the provisions of Regulation 59F

of the CIL Regulations 2010 and these requirements will be built in to the fund application and evaluation processes.

- 4.3 There are resource implications for officer time in mobilising the new programme which will be met from existing resources. A one-off start-up budget of £30,000 is required to commission a simple to use website and underpinning digital platform. Once fully mobilised the new streamlined system will require less input from senior officers.
- 4.4 There will be a negative impact on planned rental income this financial year as a result of re-negotiated leases pertaining to rent grants, this is estimated to be £14,000. There is the potential for further reductions in income should any existing tenants decide they can no longer afford to continue to rent premises from the Council. This is a minor risk and one that will need to be managed by the Director through business as usual arrangements.

## **5. Section 151 Officer comments:**

- 5.1 The financial implications are set out in section 4. The funding is currently available in the earmarked reserve set aside from New Homes Bonus. Going forward, in line with the current Council resolution, £189,000 of New Homes Bonus will be set aside for this purpose. If the level of funding received is below the level of commitments made as a result of either a change in Government policy or lower than expected delivery of new homes in the City, then Council will have to consider which of the commitments it wishes to reduce. This will have financial implications for the overall budget which will require addressing. The same principle will apply to CIL funding.

## **6. What are the legal aspects?**

- 6.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge that local authorities can require of most types of new development (based on £s per square metre) in order to pay for the infrastructure needed to support development. Regulation 59A of the CIL Regulations envisages that a local authority should engage with communities where development has taken place (in this case the city of Exeter) and agree on spending priorities with regard to the neighbourhood portion of CIL. The amount of neighbourhood CIL equates to at least 15% of levy receipts for chargeable development in an area where there is no neighbourhood plan and 25% for chargeable development in an area where there is a neighbourhood plan.
- 6.2 The Exeter City Fund, where it includes the 15%/25% of the Neighbourhood portion of the CIL levy will be established within the statutory provisions of the CIL Regulations 2010 and its underpinning Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). The 15%/25% neighbourhood portion of CIL must be spent in accordance with the statutory criteria set out in Regulation 59F and Paragraph 73 of the PPG as summarised below.

Regulation 59F of the CIL Regulations states: "...the charging authority (i.e. Exeter City Council) may use the CIL...to support the development of the relevant area by funding-

- (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
- (b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area."

Paragraph 73 of the PPG: "...the charging authority will retain the levy receipts but should engage with the communities where development has taken place and agree with them how best to spend the neighbourhood funding."

- 6.3 The listening exercise of 2018 and the consultation process in 2019 enable the Council to demonstrate that it has complied with the statutory provisions of the CIL Regulations 2010 and its underpinning Planning Practice Guidance.

## **7. Monitoring Officer's comments:**

- 7.1 The rules on spending CIL monies are very clearly set out in the CIL Regulations and supporting Guidance. Care has been taken to ensure that any CIL spend complies with these provisions, namely that any grant application must demonstrate that the funds will be used to support the development of the relevant area of Exeter by funding:

- (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
- (b) Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

## **8. Report details:**

- 8.1 In April 2018, the Council commissioned a review of its grants policy and practice. This work was facilitated by Red Quadrant and their 2018 report [LINK](#) underpinned a set of proposals that were subject to a formal consultation in 2019. Red Quadrant again facilitated this consultation and their findings have informed the recommended Exeter Grants Programme.

- 8.2 The Exeter Grants Programme is a new model within a transparent and purposeful strategic framework aligned to the council's objectives and priorities, which aims to:

- Enable a balance of awarding grants with a model around commissioning through contracts for more strategic service requirements;
- Support a clear 'bottom up' approach to community development;
- Establish a grant funding approach that will maximise the value of the council's spending and ensure the sustainability of community groups; and
- Ensure that the Council and community decide on priorities together but with recognition of the specific accountability of elected members.

- 8.3 The proposals include the following:

- Establishment of a Strategic City Fund:
- A digital approach
- A crowdfunding platform
- Build capacity for a sustainable community and voluntary sector
- Adopt a commissioning approach
- Separate out and ring-fence the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) funding
- Improve communication
- Improve evaluation
- Strengthen asset transfer

- 8.4 The main headline findings are that the extensive listening and consultation process has enabled the Council to seek views on spending priorities with regard to the Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) This is in line with CIL Regulations 2010 (Regulation 59F) and the underpinning Planning Practice Guidance (PPG Paragraph 73). This states that the Council should engage with communities where development has taken place in Exeter and agree with them how best to spend the Neighbourhood Portion of the CIL. The Council may use the CIL to support the development of the relevant area (in this case the City itself) by funding the *“provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area”*.
- 8.5 The 2019 Red Quadrant Report (2019) appended to this paper, demonstrated that there is a strong consensus for the concept of the proposed single city fund and the five priorities. Feedback from the consultation suggested that the Council should include a separate priority to improve health and wellbeing, so the new Grants Programme now has six priorities.
- 8.6 The feedback demonstrated a strong consensus for the proposed approach and principles, including the proposal that the future framework enables a balance of awarding grants with contracts for more strategic service requirements. The two priority areas for service contracts were strongly supported: “Information Advice and Advocacy” and “Infrastructure Support”. These services are included in the new Grants Programme and are to be commissioned and mobilised during 2019.
- 8.7 The consultation feedback showed a general consensus for a single city fund and a grant funding approach that maximises the value of the Council’s spending and ensures the sustainability of community groups. There was also support for the Councillor ward grants programmes to continue but to allow grants to be awarded at higher limits, which has been taken forward in the new programme.
- 8.8 There were concerns about the ability of everyone to benefit from the proposed use of digital platforms. These concerns will in some way be mitigated through the introduction of the new ***Exeter Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service*** which will be tasked with providing practical support and training. The monitoring of the mobilisation of the new programme will ensure that application processes are simple and easy to access with improved communication channels. Care will be given to monitor applications and steps will be taken to encourage and support underrepresented groups.
- 8.9 There were also concerns expressed about the ability of some groups and projects to be able to raise match funding. In direct response to these concerns the initial grant programme will have a mixture of approaches with not all funds requiring a match and one fund will accept volunteer hours as a cash equivalent. Care will be taken in the monitoring of uptake that this is working well.
- 8.10 There is very strong and positive feedback for the Council to continue with its ‘bottom up’ (ABCD) approach to community development. Therefore, we will continue to support ABCD through ***Wellbeing Exeter*** and will work with partners to ensure ***Community Builders*** provide hands-on support to community groups to help them to develop the skills, confidence and capabilities to access the Exeter Grants Fund.

- 8.11 There was a clear plea to the Council to clarify how arts and cultural projects will be supported in addition to the proposal to ring fence revenue funding from the General Fund for the four Arts Council National Portfolio organisations in the City. The intention is that the new **Exeter Grants Fund** will support grass roots arts and cultural events that contribute to the aims and priorities of the overall programme. The Council will also continue to work with partners in **Exeter Culture** to encourage grass-roots community cultural and art activities that underpin community engagement and celebration.
- 8.12 Some commentators felt that the proposed maximum limit on the large grants fund of £30,000 could mean that some larger community projects may be disadvantaged. This has been taken into account with the addition of the opportunity for large, strategic projects to be presented on an annual basis so that larger, bespoke awards could be made should the funding be available.
- 8.13 Feedback on impacts and decision making and governance, with the need for transparency and openness were key themes from the consultation and the feedback has influenced the new governance and monitoring arrangements.
- 8.14 The new Exeter Grants programme can be found in appendix 1 with the Red Quadrat Report in appendix 2

**9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?**

- 9.1 The Exeter Grants programme will contribute to the 2018/21 Corporate Plan objectives of promoting active & healthy lifestyles; building great neighbourhoods and providing value for money services

**10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?**

- 10.1 The Voluntary and Community sector have been affected by long term austerity with some of the larger service provider charities in particular having experienced reductions in contracts for services from a range of sources. Some organisations have reduced service provision and some have folded. There are risks locally that, in this context, some organisations may have become reliant on council grants (despite the annual nature of the awards). Some organisations may decide to stop or change service provision which could be a loss to service users and the local community.
- 10.2 Long term austerity has incentivised transformation and reform in parts of the sector resulting in the development of more sustainable models of social finance such as Social Impact Bonds, Crowdfunding and digital platforms with a much greater emphasis on collaboration and new models of delivery. Some of these changes can be seen in Exeter with CoLab and Wellbeing Exeter as prime examples, but there is much more that the sector can do. The Council is taking pro-active steps to support the sector by the commissioning of the Exeter Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service to provide support and leadership to the sector locally.
- 10.3 The Exeter Grant Programme, through its utilisation of the Neighbourhood Proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to provide grant funding to support communities to take action on local issues that mitigate the demands of development of the city, assists in mitigating these risk by providing a more secure and sustainable funding pipeline for grant giving. Establishing a strategic city fund of this nature is a first step to securing additional investment through external partners and funders who

are likely to see considerable added value and leverage for their own funds in partnering with the city council on this approach.

**11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?**

- 11.1 The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not. To comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices in relation to those with protected characteristics. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impact on all members of the community.
- 11.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the new Exeter Grant Programme and is set out in appendix 3. This concludes that the new approach is likely to have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics as it is a more transparent and open system with clearer criteria and priorities. The introduction of a commissioning approach for strategic service provision within the new system is a particularly positive benefit for reducing inequality, as these services will be specifically targeted at people with greatest needs including those with protected characteristics.
- 11.3 As the new programme is a significant change from the previous system another Equalities Impact Assessment (see appendix 4) has been undertaken with a focus on potential impacts on those with protected characteristics who may have had access to services and/or support from organisations who have been in receipt of core and rent grants that will no longer be available under the new system.
- 11.4 This assessment has identified that the new system is likely to bring positive benefits for some groups with some of the protected characteristics. This is because the Council does not currently provide any grant to organisations that specifically work with, provide services for people or are led by people who have black or minority ethnic heritage; those undergoing gender reassignment or those who have a particular or no religious belief. Overall the proposals for a more open, transparent and accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future.
- 11.5. However there is the potential that some organisations who have become dependent on Council core and/or rent grants may close or reduce services that could negatively impact on people with other protected characteristics. For example Exe Access say that the loss of a core grant may lead to reduced opening times which may reduce access to transport for people with disabilities which may restrict daily living for some. Age UK Exeter say the loss of rent and core grant may impact on service delivery which could negatively impact on people over 50.
- 11.6 In order to mitigate these, and other possibilities officers have worked with organisations to provide advice and support for alternative sources of funding and will continue to provide this during the transition phase. A summary of the results of this support and known residual risks are in appendix 5.

11.7 As mobilisation takes place officers will monitor the impact of the new programme on people with protected characteristics as set out in the Disability Act (2010) and seek opportunities to promote the new programme to these and other potentially disadvantaged groups in particular.

**12. Are there any other options?**

12.1 An alternative option would be to not seek to utilise CIL funding in this way but this would result in a small and unsustainable grant fund which would not match the Council's priorities and commitment to supporting communities to mitigate the impacts of development.

12.2 These proposals have been designed following an extensive listening exercise and widely consulted upon, with amendments made to proposals following feedback. The strategic framework, priorities and approach is widely endorsed. The improved governance, mobilisation and evaluation plans will address and monitor areas of concern through the transition process.

**Director**

Jo Yelland

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)**

**Background papers used in compiling this report:-**

None

Contact for enquires:

Democratic Services (Committees)

Room 2.3

01392 265275



## EXETER GRANTS PROGRAMME

### APPENDIX 1

## Foreword

The Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) is a key part of the city's fabric and it delivers extraordinary value for the grant funds allocated from the Council and a wide range of other sources. Their value is so much more than the services or the events our grants fund, their value is also in the social benefits brought to communities through local connectivity, social organisation, leadership and ownership demonstrated through the fantastic things that people achieve in their communities.

This new Exeter Grants Programme is an exciting and bold step forward for the Council in our endeavours to support community groups and organisations as they continue to work together on local projects that help make Exeter such a great place to live. I am delighted that the council has been able to find a way, in the face of on-going austerity from national government, to ensure that community groups have access to a sustainable grant fund to help them to take action on the things that matter most to them as they take on the opportunities and challenges of a growing city.

I would, like to thank everyone that took the time and effort to take part in our extensive listening and consultation exercises which have really helped us to gain consensus on a common set of priorities and principles. This helps us build on the approach set out in the Exeter Community Strategy and I look forward to learning more about the great things going on in our communities during my tenure as leader of the Council.



Councillor Phil Bialyk  
Leader Exeter City Council

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9. Mobilisation Timeline

## Appendices

Appendix 1: Financial Strategy

Appendix 2: Rules and Conditions for Grant Applications

Appendix 3: Impacts Evaluation Framework for Grant Applications



## 1. Introduction

As one of the fastest growing cities in the country with 100% employment within a high tech, high knowledge and high wage economy in a fantastic location, we have much to celebrate. Our city brand: *Exeter Live Better, the brilliant alternative* sums this up, however we are not complacent. Not everyone has benefited from growth: small pockets of the city are among the most deprived areas in the country and in peak times, traffic congestion means Exeter is one of the slowest moving cities in the country. Ensuring that all residents benefit from our success and that congestion becomes a problem of the past are priorities for the Council set out in the 2019/2021 Corporate Plan<sup>1</sup>.

This document describes the new Exeter Grant Programme for 2019 to 2021. This programme is an exciting step forward in how the Council works with community groups and organisations to address the demands that development places on the city. It builds on the principles in the *Exeter Community Strategy* <https://exeter.gov.uk/media/4513/exeter-community-strategy-22-03-16.pdf>. This sets out shared aspirations to support Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approaches which build on the assets in the community and mobilises individuals, associations, and institutions to come together to realise and develop their strengths.

## 2. Consultation Feedback Headlines

In April 2018, the Council commissioned a review of its grants policy and practice. This work was facilitated by Red Quadrant and their 2018 report [LINK](#) underpinned a set of proposals that were subject to a formal consultation in 2019. Red Quadrant again facilitated this consultation and their findings have informed this programme.

The main headline findings are that the extensive listening and consultation process has enabled the Council to seek views on spending priorities with regard to the Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)<sup>2</sup>. This is in line with CIL Regulations 2010 (Regulation 59F) and the underpinning Planning Practice Guidance (PPG Paragraph 73). This states that the Council should engage with communities where development has taken place and agree with them how best to spend the Neighbourhood Portion of the CIL. The Council may use the CIL to support the development of the relevant area (in this case the City itself) by funding the *“provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area”*.

The second Red Quadrant Report (2019) demonstrated that there was a strong consensus on the concept of the proposed single city fund and the five priorities. Feedback from the consultation suggested that the Council should include a separate priority to improve health and wellbeing, so the new Grants Programme now has six priorities.

Feedback from the consultation demonstrated a strong consensus for the proposed approach and principles, including the proposal that the future framework enables a balance of awarding grants with contracts for more strategic service requirements. The two priority areas for service contracts were

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<sup>1</sup> The Council Corporate Plan 2018-2021 <https://exeter.gov.uk/corporateplan18/> sets out the emerging Exeter 2040 Vision and the Council's priorities.

<sup>2</sup> The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge that local authorities can require of most types of new development (based on £s per square metre) in order to pay for the infrastructure needed to support development.

strongly supported: “Information Advice and Advocacy” and “Infrastructure Support”. These services will be commissioned and mobilised during 2019.

The consultation showed a general consensus for a single city fund and a grant funding approach that maximises the value of the Council’s spending and ensures the sustainability of community groups. There was also support for the Councillor ward grants programmes to continue but to allow grants to be awarded at higher limits, which has been taken forward in the new programme.

There were concerns about the ability of everyone to benefit from the proposed use of digital platforms. These concerns will in some way be mitigated through the introduction of the new **Exeter Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service** which will be tasked with providing practical support and training. The monitoring of the mobilisation of the new programme will ensure that application processes are simple and easy to access with improved communication channels. Care will be given to monitor applications and steps will be taken to encourage and support underrepresented groups.

There were also concerns expressed about the ability of some groups and projects to be able to raise match funding. In direct response to these concerns the initial grant programme will have a mixture of approaches with not all funds requiring a match and one fund will accept volunteer hours as a cash equivalent. Care will be taken in the monitoring of uptake that this is working well.

There is very strong and positive feedback for the Council to continue with its ‘bottom up’ approach to community development. Therefore, we will continue to support ABCD through **Wellbeing Exeter** and will work with partners to ensure **Community Builders** provide hands-on support to community groups to help them to develop the skills, confidence and capabilities to access the **Exeter Grants Fund**.

There was a clear plea to the Council to clarify how arts and cultural projects will be supported in addition to the proposal to ring fence funding for the four Arts Council National Portfolio organisations in the City. The intention is that the new **Exeter Grants Fund** will support grass roots arts and cultural events that contribute to the aims and priorities of the overall programme. The Council will also continue to work with partners in **Exeter Culture** to encourage grass-roots community cultural and art activities that underpin community engagement and celebration.

Some commentators felt that the proposed maximum limit on the large grants fund of £30,000 could mean that some larger community projects may be disadvantaged. This has been taken into account with the addition of opportunity for large, strategic projects to be presented on an annual basis so that larger bespoke awards could be made should the funding be available.

Feedback on impacts and decision making and governance, with the need for transparency and openness were key themes from the consultation and the feedback has influenced the new governance and monitoring arrangements.

### 3. The Strategic Framework 2019/2021

The Exeter Grants Programme is designed to enable the Council to modernise its grant giving policy and practice to contribute to the delivery of our corporate priorities as well as to contribute to the Exeter Community Strategy vision that:

***“Exeter is a city where communities lead development, helping create a city where everyone has access to the places and services which enable them to meet their needs, and lead fulfilling lives.”***

***Exeter Community Forum (March 2015)***

There are four strands to the new strategic framework.

1. Establishment of a grant funding approach that will maximise the value of the council's spending and ensure the sustainability of community groups.
2. A balance of awarding grants with contracts for more strategic services.
3. A clear 'bottom up' approach to community development: Asset Based Community Development.
4. Good governance that recognises the specific accountability of elected members but enables the Council and community to decide on priorities together.

The ***Exeter Grants Programme*** will be underpinned by a new ***Exeter Grants Fund*** initially created from a combination of Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and New Homes Bonus funding<sup>3</sup>. A key focus for the fund will be addressing the demands that development places on the City. By utilising the CIL in this way we can provide a core and sustainable funding source for community groups.

Partners will be encouraged to invest in the programme and the Council will proactively seek new external strategic partners to grow and sustain the fund. The Council will work with networks such as the Exeter Community Forum; Exeter Communities Together; Exeter Youth Voice; Wellbeing Exeter and Exeter Culture to encourage groups and communities to engage in the programme, its grants and to support initiatives that address the demands that development places on the city.

The ***Exeter Grants Programme*** will support community groups and organisations to use their passion, skills, experience and knowledge to focus efforts on working sustainably to make a difference and create change by focussing on:

- Helping people to help themselves and each other
- Building on the strengths of people and communities
- Connecting people and organisations within and across communities

Intended long term impacts

- Reducing disadvantage and inequality
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Increasing individual and community resilience (the ability to manage)

Key priorities are to:

1. Address inequalities
2. Improve health and wellbeing
3. Get people active
4. Support communities working together to address local needs
5. Encourage volunteering
6. Improve where we live

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<sup>3</sup> *The New Homes Bonus is a grant paid by central government to local councils to reflect and incentivise housing growth in their areas. It is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use.*

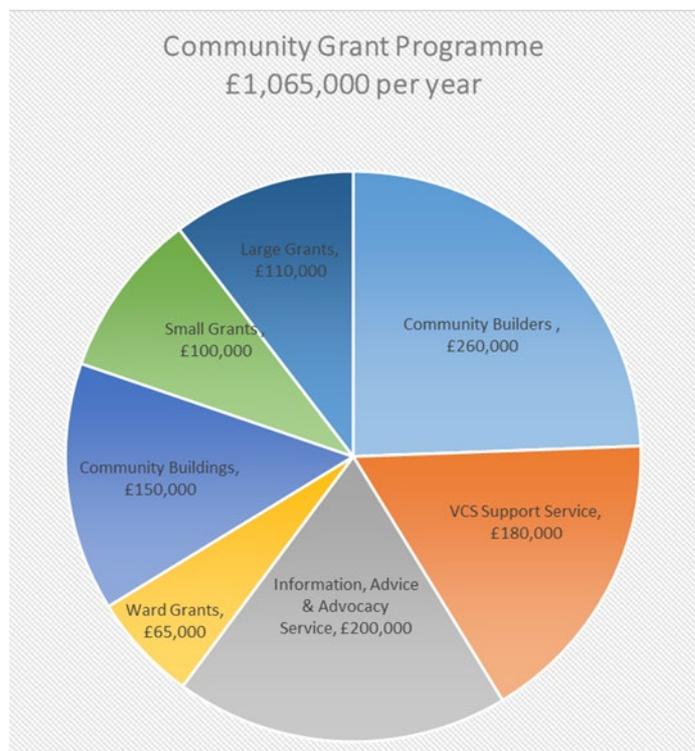
#### 4. Exeter City Fund

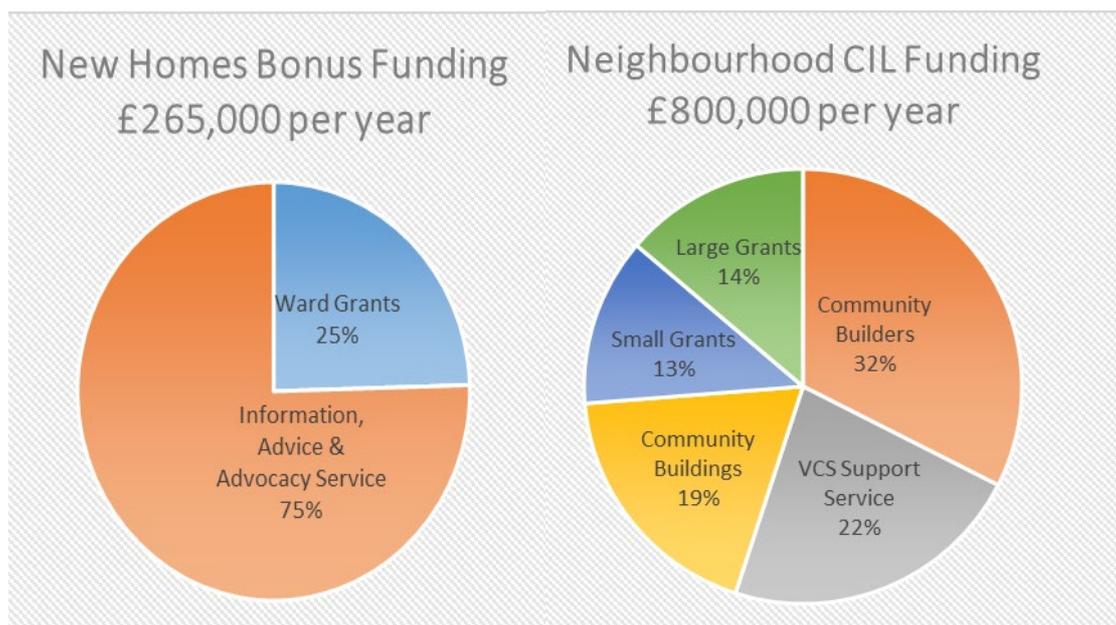
### Establishment of a grant funding approach that will maximise the value of the council's spending and ensure the sustainability of community groups

The Exeter Grant Programme and Exeter Fund will initially be funded from the New Homes Bonus Community Reserve of £265,000 per year and the Neighbourhood Proportion of the CIL (where receipts allow) of £800,000 per year, creating a total annual fund of £1,065,000.

This will be reviewed on an annual basis and any uncommitted but received funds could be allocated to a one off Strategic Grant Fund to support bespoke or larger projects. Further details can be found in appendix 1.

Where CIL funds have been used, applicants will need to demonstrate that there is community support for their project and that it satisfies the provisions of Regulation 59F of the CIL Regulations 2010. Further information can be found in appendix 2





There is an additional fund of £55,000 funded through Sport England and linked to the Delivery Pilot for 2019/2020

The Exeter Grants Fund for 2019/21 is summarised in the table below:

City Grant Fund Name	Description	Purpose	
<b>Exeter Ward Grants</b> <b>£65,000</b>  <b>Maximum grant £500</b>  <b>No match Funding</b>	<p>Each ward will have an annual Fund of £5,000 with maximum award to any group in any one year of £500.</p> <p>Councillors will give priority to first timer applicants and will positively encourage new groups to apply.</p>	<p>This fund can be used by ward councillors to support one-off community led initiatives that reflect Council priorities.</p>	<p><b>Cannot be used to pay for everyday running costs.</b></p> <p>Applicants will need to demonstrate that there is community support for their project.</p>
<b>Exeter Community Buildings Fund</b> <b>£150,000</b>  <b>Maximum grant £5,000</b>  <b>*50% match funding</b>	<p>Community Associations will be able to apply for a three year grant towards the annual running costs of their community centre up to £5,000 per year.</p> <p>Pledges will be for a maximum of 50% of the funding target.</p> <p>Pledges will only be made once 10% of the project target has been met.</p>	<p>This fund can be used to support registered Community Associations with the running costs of existing community centres.</p> <p><b>This fund is for every day running costs of community centres run by Community Associations.</b></p>	<p><b>Cannot be used for refurbishment or building costs.</b></p> <p>Applicants will need to demonstrate that there is community support for their project</p>

<p><b>Exeter Small Grants Fund £100,000</b></p> <p><b>Maximum grant £3,000</b></p> <p><b>*Minimum of 20% match funding</b></p> <p><b>Volunteering hours may count as the match funding</b></p>	<p>Voluntary and community groups will be able to apply for a grant of up to £3,000.</p> <p>Pledges will be for a maximum of 80% of the funding target.</p> <p>Pledges will only be made once 10% of the project target has been met.</p>	<p>This fund can be used to support any community led initiative to support locally identified needs that tie in with the Council priorities.</p> <p><b>This fund can be used for putting on or running an event, festival or celebration.</b></p> <p><b>This fund can be used to pay for one-off purchase or repair of equipment.</b></p>	<p><b>Cannot be used to fund every day running costs.</b></p> <p>Applicants will need to demonstrate that there is community support for their project</p>
<p>For Small Grants Fund projects that aim to encourage community participation we will consider counting the projected hours of volunteer involvement for the delivery of the project towards the funding match. We will count volunteering hours as equivalent of living wage hourly rate.</p>			
<p><b>Exeter Large Grants Fund £110,000</b></p> <p><b>Maximum grant £30,000</b></p> <p><b>*Minimum of 50% match funding</b></p>	<p>Voluntary and community groups will be able to apply for a grant of up to £30,000.</p> <p>Pledges will be for a maximum of 50% of the funding target.</p> <p>Pledges will only be made once 25% of the project target has been met.</p>	<p>This fund can be used to support any community led initiative to support locally identified needs that tie in with the Council priorities.</p> <p><b>This fund will pay towards building or refurbishment costs or the purchase of equipment.</b></p>	<p><b>Cannot be used to fund every day running costs.</b></p> <p>Applicants will need to demonstrate that there is community support for their project</p>
<p><b>Exeter Move More Small Grants £55,000</b></p> <p><b>Maximum grant £300</b></p> <p><b>No match funding</b></p>	<p>Voluntary and community groups will be able to apply for a grant of up to £300.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects in the target geographical areas and groups.</p>	<p>This fund can be used to support community led initiatives that get inactive people taking part in physical activity.</p> <p>This fund will pay for the purchase of kit and equipment or the hire of a hall or instructor to start up a group or session.</p>	<p>Applicants will need to demonstrate that there is community support for their project.</p>

*\*The Grant Panel will consider a reduced match % for grant requests for projects within the top 20 LSOA's (i.e. the most disadvantaged communities) set out in the Physical Activity Strategy*

Following the annual review, where there are sufficient funds available in the Neighbourhood CIL, calls will be made for applications to a **Strategic Fund** which will allow members to consider the merits of large or unusual funding requests. Details of any such fund opening will be placed on the Council website and widely promoted through social media and community networks.

A simple set of rules and conditions will apply to all grants and these will be published on the Council website and based on those set out in appendix 2. All grant recipients will be expected to provide an impact report within 1 month of their project completing and a simple framework for this is set out in appendix 3. An annual report will be published setting out the impacts and learning from all projects funded by the Exeter Grant Fund.

## 5. Contracts for Services

### Enable a balance of awarding grants with contracts for more strategic service requirements.

An **Independent Information, Advice and Advocacy Service** will be commissioned to address the demands of development by increasing access to good quality information and advice service for residents. There will be a particular focus on increased digital inclusion for people whose circumstances make it difficult for them to access services and the opportunities they could benefit from. This contract will cost in the region of £200,000 per year and will initially be funded for a 3 year period from the New Homes Bonus.

The purpose of the service will be to help address the widening inequality gap for Exeter communities in terms of health, income, employment and access to services by ensuring that free, independent, confidential and impartial advice, information and advocacy is available to help people resolve the problems they face and that all residents are able to access opportunities available in the city to build a better quality of life

The service will help people to be well informed with choice and control over the advice, support and opportunities they can access in areas of health and wellbeing, housing, and financial and social inclusion. This information and advice will be available in a number of ways (e.g. phone, web, face to face) for individuals to choose the channel which best suits their needs.

An **Exeter Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service** will be commissioned to build capacity to develop a sustainable community and voluntary sector with a particular focus on supporting groups to use their skills, local knowledge and expertise to improve things for everyone in the city (individuals as well as geographic communities and communities of interest). This contract will cost in the region of £180,000 per year and will initially be funded for a 3 year period from the Neighbourhood Proportion of the CIL.

The service will provide free, independent and professional practical support to existing and new community organisations in the city and help groups develop and become self-sustaining. The service will build capacity with a particular focus on the skills, knowledge and expertise of grass roots groups & organisations to improve their communities (both geographic and communities of interest). The service will promote quality of life, health and wellbeing, improved inclusivity and community connectivity across the city

Mobilisation of these services will commence in September 2019 and both services will be commissioned through a tender process (in line with Council procurement policy) and contracts will be awarded for an initial 3 year period. Any further awards will be based on available funding and contract quality and outcomes.

## 6. Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)

### A clear 'bottom up' approach to community development

We will continue to support ABCD through Wellbeing Exeter and will work with our partners to ensure Community Builders provide hands-on support to community groups to help them to develop the skills, confidence and capabilities to access the **Exeter Grants Fund**.

We will also continue to work with partners in **Exeter Culture** and encourage grass-roots community, cultural and art activities that underpin community engagement and celebration.

## 7. Governance

### Good governance that recognises the specific accountability of elected members but enables the Council and community to decide on priorities together

A formal panel will be established to oversee the deployment of the grants and to provide strategic overview and direction for the grant programme.

The purpose of the Panel is to provide strategic direction for the Exeter Grant Programme and to ensure that grant awards are made in line with Council priorities and requirements. The Chair will be accountable for ensuring that decisions and recommendations made by the Panel are fair and transparent and that the underpinning system and processes are proportionate to the funding required but that they also recognise the accountability of elected members.

Detailed operating policy and procedures and terms of reference will be drawn-up as part of the mobilisation plan set out in Section 9. The panel membership will reflect the political make-up of the Council and will include community representatives and advisers. Initially, membership will be eight Councillors with one being the Portfolio Holder for Communities who will be the chair of the panel. Two Community Representatives will also be full voting members of the panel alongside Councillors. Advisory Members (non-voting) will be invited and are likely to include Director with responsibility for Communities, CEO, Devon Community Foundation and CEO, Exeter Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service

The community members of the panel will need to represent the range of community networks in the city taking into account the need to include those that may be disadvantaged or who may not have the confidence to participate in community networks. The **Exeter Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service** will be required to advise on and support the selection of the community representatives. The advisory members will be appointed to provide strategic advice and guidance to the panel, particularly in relation to the securing of strategic partners to invest in the fund and the impact measurement of the funded projects.

Decisions for smaller grants funds will be done via a funding sub-committee so that grants can be processed quickly and that the process is proportionate to the amount awarded. This process has worked well through a virtual committee for both Ward Grants and the Exeter Crowdfund Pilot and will apply to the following grants:

- Exeter Small Grants Fund (max £3,000 one off with 20% match) *Volunteering hours may count as the match funding*
- Exeter Ward Grants (max £500 one -off)
- Move More Small Grants (Max £300 one-off)

Decisions for larger grants will be made by the Exeter Grant Programme Panel and applicants will have the opportunity to present their applications directly to the panel. This process will apply to the following grants:

- Exeter Community Buildings Fund (max £5,000 for 3 years with 50% match)
- Exeter Large Grants Fund (max £30,000 one-off with 50% match)

Criteria for grants will be set annually and an annual report will be published setting out:

- Impacts from previous year's grants programmes
- Recommended priorities for the forthcoming year's programme.
- Proposed budgets for the forthcoming year's programme.
- Membership of Community Grants Panel for the forthcoming year.

## 8. Match Funding

Match funding unites funders and the fundraising public in a collaborative drive around a social cause or local need. Funders increasingly like the ability to offer match funding grants because the approach encourages charitable projects to utilise multiple sources of funding rather than relying on grants alone. This is important in the long term for the Exeter City Fund as we plan to attract external fundraisers to contribute to the city fund.

When a funder offers to double the amount of money raised on a project through match funding, everyone is more incentivised to drive up the amounts raised and donated and to do this more quickly to enable their chosen charities and good causes to benefit from the doubling of their grants and donations before the fund runs out.

Digital technology that brings multiple grants, donations and fundraising activities together and instantly matches the grant makers and donors that have money to give, with the charities and community groups that need money.

We have seen the evidence of this locally through the Devon and Exeter Crowd Fund pilot supported by the Exeter Strategic Board in 2018/9. For Exeter projects our £9,500 investment was amplified by 86% through the external partners and local fundraising as seen in the illustration below.

## Headlines (Exeter Council)



In recognition that the transition to the new digital and match funding approach may be more difficult for some groups than for others, not all funds will require a match. We are also introducing volunteer hours as a matchable currency and we are commissioning the new Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service to proactively help and support local groups with this type of fundraising.

All grant applications will be online through the **Exeter City Fund** website which will link directly to the **#CrowdfundExeter** website for grants requiring match/crowd funding. These are:

- Exeter Community Buildings Fund (max £5,000 for 3 years with 50% match)
- Exeter Large Grants Fund (max £30,000 one-off with 50% match)
- Exeter Small Grants Fund (max £3,000 one off with 20% match) *Volunteering hours may count as the match funding*

These funds do not require any match:

- Exeter Ward Grants (max £500 one -off)
- Move More Small Grants (Max £300 one-off)

## 9. Mobilisation Timeline

*Pending Council decision on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019*

Contracts Awarded for Commissioned Services	August 2019
Inaugural Exeter Grant Panel Terms of Reference and Operating Policy and Procedures agreed and published	September 2019
Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service for Exeter mobilised	October 2019
Exeter Grant Programme Website and City Fund Launch	November 2019
Exeter City Fund First Awards	December 2019

## Appendix 1: Financial Strategy

The Exeter Grant Programme and Exeter Fund will initially be funded for the New Homes Bonus Community Reserve of £265,000 per year and the Neighbourhood Proportion of the CIL (where receipts allow) of £800,000 per year creating a total annual fund of £1,065,000. This will be reviewed on an annual basis and any uncommitted but received funds could be allocated to a one off Strategic Grant Fund to support bespoke or larger projects.

### New Homes Bonus Funding will pay for:

- Ward Grants @ £65,000 per year
- Information, Advice and Advocacy Contract @ £200,000 per year.

Current position: there is a reserve of £400,000 for Community Grants available along with annual budget of £39,000 for Ward grants and £150,000 for Community Grants as set out in table1:

**Table 1: Current**

	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
<b>Current Annual Budget</b>					
Ward Grants	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
Wider Grants	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
<b>Total Annual Budget</b>	<b>189,000</b>	<b>189,000</b>	<b>189,000</b>	<b>189,000</b>	<b>189,000</b>

**Table2; New Grants Programme**

<b>New Grants Programme</b>					
Ward Grants	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
Information, advice & advocacy contract	200,000	200,000	200,000		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>265,000</b>	<b>265,000</b>	<b>265,000</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>65,000</b>

<b>Variance - Over/(Under)</b>	<b>76,000</b>	<b>76,000</b>	<b>76,000</b>	<b>(124,000)</b>	<b>(124,000)</b>
<b>New Homes Bonus Reserve</b>	<b>76,000</b>	<b>76,000</b>	<b>76,000</b>		

***New Homes Bonus reserve remaining as at 1/2/2022 = £172,000***

The contract for the Information, Advice and Advocacy Contract can only be guaranteed for the first 3 year term of the contract. However there is the potential to continue to fund for years 4 and 5 from the New Homes Bonus Reserve if it is decided to continue with the contract.

***NB there is long term uncertainty about the future of New Homes Bonus which will need to be taken into account at the annual review.***

### Neighbourhood Proportion of the CIL will pay for:

- Community Builders @ £260,000 per year
- Exeter Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service @£180,000 per year
- Community Buildings Fund of @£150,000 per year
- Small Grants Fund of @ £100,000 per year
- Large Grants Fund of @ £110,000 per year

Current position there is NH CIL fund of £1,155,720 with a commitment of £80,000 already made alongside the Community Builders commitment of £260,000 per year. The spending proposals above can only be achieved due to the large sum that has accumulated to date and annual expenditure will need to be reduced after the 5 year period unless receipts increase.

Taking a pessimistic approach the average forecast annual new Neighbourhood CIL income is around £650,000. These funds can only be committed once the receipts have been made to the Council so the actual amount in the Grant Fund will be reviewed and agreed on an annual basis and some years it will go up and in others it may go down. Providing the minimum anticipated CIL receipts are achieved, the proposals should leave a balance of £324k at the end of the 5 years.

It is vital that we continue to monitor the CIL receipts and have the flexibility to reduce or increase planned expenditure if necessary. If the pot is reduced to zero we will not be allowed to spend anything further until new income is received. With careful monitoring we should be able to forecast this well in advance.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Neighbourhood CIL Available</b>						
Neighbourhood CIL brought forward	1,155,720	733,928	530,482	415,268	162,052	<b>1,155,720</b>
Forecast Neighbourhood CIL Income	457,874	596,554	684,786	546,784	972,057	<b>3,258,055</b>
<b>Total Neighbourhood CIL Available</b>	<b>1,613,594</b>	<b>1,330,482</b>	<b>1,215,268</b>	<b>962,052</b>	<b>1,134,109</b>	<b>4,413,775</b>

<b>Commitments:</b>						
New Proposals	540,000	540,000	540,000	540,000	540,000	<b>2,700,000</b>
Grass Roots Grants	80,000					<b>80,000</b>
Community Builders	259,666	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000	<b>1,299,666</b>
<b>Total Expenditure &amp; Commitments</b>	<b>879,666</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>4,079,666</b>

<b>Total Available Neighbourhood CIL Receipts</b>	<b>733,928</b>	<b>530,482</b>	<b>415,268</b>	<b>162,052</b>	<b>334,109</b>	<b>334,109</b>
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## Appendix 2: Rules and Conditions for online grant applications

### Exeter Fund Conditions

All grant applications will:

- Be made online through the Council's new *Exeter Fund* website: the application process will be easy to access.
- Only be accepted from constituted bodies with bank accounts in the name of the organisation.
- Supported by copies of appropriate policies if required for example Safeguarding Policy.
- Show that the project ties in with one or more of our priorities and how it meets the demands of development across the City.
- Show that at least 75% of people benefiting from the project live in Exeter
- Show that there is community support for the project: this can be established by asking local people to vote on-line in support of the project or to contribute to a crowdfund when there is a requirement for a grant to be joint or match funded.
- Be required to provide feedback about how the grant has helped by supplying proof of how fund monies have been spent in the form of invoices, photos and a simple project summary and impact template within 1 month of project completion.
- Acknowledge Exeter City Funds support in project publicity material by using the logo provided.
- Give Exeter City Council the right to share information you have provided in public reports and publicity material.
- In relation to the neighbourhood portion of CIL, demonstrate how the statutory provisions are satisfied (Regulation 59F of the CIL Regulations 2010) by achieving progress towards the long term impacts that will:
  - Reduce disadvantage and inequality
  - Improve health and wellbeing
  - Increase individual and community resilience (the ability to manage)

With a focus on priority activities that aim to:

1. Address inequalities
2. Improve health and wellbeing
3. Get people active
4. Support communities working together to address local needs
5. Encourage volunteering
6. Improve where we live

All grant applicants will need to confirm that they understand:

- Funds must only be spent as detailed in the project application.
- Funds cannot be allocated to individuals or private/for profit enterprises.
- Funds cannot be allocated retrospectively.
- Funds not spent must be returned to Exeter City Council.
- Repayment of the fund can be required at the sole discretion of Exeter City Fund if you supply false information or you do not spend funds within 12 months.
- Repeat funding will not be awarded unless there is a compelling business case proving transition to sustainability.

### Appendix 3: Impacts Evaluation Framework for Grant Applications

What needs to change and why: how does this change reduce the impacts of development?	Who does this affect? What issues are they/you facing? What opportunities do you see? Which of the 6 Council priorities would this change address?
What will you do to make this change?	What will you do? Who will you work with? When and at what point/how many people will you work with?
How do you know this will create the change you want?	What evidence do you have that this will work? Or what evidence makes you think this will work?
What will you look at and measure to see if your change has worked?	What 3 outcomes will you see if your change is successful? How would you measure them?
How will the outcomes of your project contribute to the Council's long term impacts?	What are the links between your outcomes and the Council's long term impacts?

Exeter Fund aims to reduce the impacts of development on the city by achieving progress towards the long term impacts that will:

- Reduce disadvantage and inequality
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Increase individual and community resilience (the ability to manage)

With a focus on priority activities that aim to:

1. Address inequalities
2. Improve health and wellbeing
3. Get people active
4. Support communities working together to address local needs
5. Encourage volunteering
6. Improve where we live



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## EXETER GRANTS PROGRAMME

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**Exeter City Council**  
**Review of Community and Arts Grants**  
**Results of formal consultation**



Report from RedQuadrant

**May 2019**

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## 1. Background to the review

In April 2018, Exeter City Council agreed to undertake a review of the current grants programme to help them develop future policy that would:

- Ensure best use is made of council funding;
- Implement a consistent approach to match funding;
- Encourage and embed sustainable ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) approaches supporting people and communities to create community solutions to local issues; and
- Better link grant funds to deliver city council priorities of:
  - Addressing Inequalities;
  - Improving Health and Wellbeing and getting people active;
  - Finding creative community-based solutions to locally defined problems; and
  - Developing of community buildings, assets and green spaces to enhance our city.

There are also financial elements to the changes. In the last decade the Council has seen a 60% reduction in its formula grant from central government. During this time the Council has continued to offer community and arts grants from its General Fund sources. The Council is now facing further reductions, including a £3.9 million revenue budget reduction for 2019/20

To protect essential front-line services, there is a need to reduce the General Fund budget for community and arts grants of £500,000 by end of 20/21. It is clear that the council need a long-term sustainable funding solution that makes better use of other funding streams such as the New Homes Bonus and Neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

RedQuadrant were contracted by the council to undertake the initial engagement and consultation exercises with elected members, community groups and organisations as well as other key stakeholders to find out about what works well now and what could improve in future. The review started in July 2018 with an engagement and listening exercise.

The report that followed the listening exercise recommended a new, more transparent model, with a clear link to council priorities and making the money go as far as possible with matched and crowd funding. A digital approach to application was suggested, with support for those who needed it. We proposed a close alignment with the ABCD approach to community development, as so successfully delivered by Wellbeing Exeter and its Community Builders.

In April 2019, the council produced a draft new grants programme that proposes to change the way that grants are administered and funded in Exeter. This report sets out the results of the consultation on the new policy.

## **2. Summary of the draft Exeter Grants Programme**

The council is proposing a new model within a transparent and purposeful strategic framework aligned to the council's objectives and priorities. The framework will:

- Enable a balance of awarding grants with a model around commissioning through contracts for more strategic service requirements;
- Support a clear 'bottom up' approach to community development;
- Establish a grant funding approach that will maximise the value of the council's spending and ensure the sustainability of community groups; and
- Ensure that the Council and community decide on priorities together but with recognition of the specific accountability of elected members.

### **2.1 Proposals for modernising the Council's approach to community and arts grant giving.**

#### **Establish a Strategic City Fund**

Create the Exeter City Fund, where all grant funding is held in a single fund, against clear priorities. Priorities being proposed for 2019-2022 are:

- Address inequalities
- Improve health and wellbeing and get people active
- Support communities working together to address local needs
- Encourage volunteering
- Improve where we live

#### **Use a digital approach**

Use a digital approach alongside a simplified grants process and provide support to ensure that everybody has a fair chance, enabling a wider audience to engage.

#### **Use a crowdfunding platform**

Use a crowdfunding platform to simplify the grants process and make the money go further by attracting match funding and by reaching new audiences.

#### **Build capacity for a sustainable community and voluntary sector**

In addition to Community Building, commission support and capacity building in the city to support community groups to manage areas such as finance, governance, funding applications, using digital platforms, marketing and building support networks.

We intend to:

- Commission a City-wide Independent Information Service;
- Commission an Exeter Infrastructure Support Service;
- Continue to support communities through the Wellbeing Exeter Community Builders;
- Continue to support Exeter Culture and encourage community cultural and art activities that underpin community engagement and celebration.

#### Adopt a commissioning approach

Where funding allows, formal contractual agreements for priority service delivery areas can be agreed. Organisations can be commissioned by the council to deliver services in line with council priorities.

#### Separate out the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs)

These grants will be separated from the grants process, funding ring-fenced and converted to contractual agreements.

#### Improve communication

Improve accessibility and enable better communication and feedback through the creation of a strategic grant fund, with a digital emphasis.

#### Improve evaluation

Simple evaluation frameworks to be built in the beginning of a project, so that communities can easily evidence the impact of their work.

#### Strengthen asset transfer

We lease a range of land and properties to voluntary and community organisations, ranging from short-term licences to long leases and this process is known as 'Community Asset Transfer' (CAT).

## 2.2 How the grants system will be funded

The Exeter City Fund (ECF) will initially consist of:

- ECF Ward Grants of up to £300, funded by New Home Bonus Funding;
- ECF Large grants of up to £30,000, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy;
- ECF Small Grants of up to £3,000, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy;
- ECF Community Buildings grants, a 3 year grant towards the annual running costs of up to £5,000 per year, will be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy; and
- ECF Move More Community Chest grants of up to £300 will be funded by the Sport England Delivery pilot

All grants except the Ward Grants and the Move More grants will require a level of matched funding.

## 2.3 How decisions will be made

All grant applications will be on-line through the *Exeter City Fund* website which will link directly to the *CrowdfundExeter* website for grants requiring match/crowd funding.

A Community Grants Panel will be set up. The aim is that the panel represents the range of community networks in the city taking into account the need to include those that may be disadvantaged or who may not have the confidence to participate in community networks. The purpose of the panel will be to make recommendations on grant applications. An annual report will be provided to Council in October each year that will include:

- Impacts from previous year's grants programmes
- Recommended priorities for the forthcoming years programme.
- Proposed budgets for the forthcoming years programme.
- Membership of Community Grants Panel for the forthcoming year.

### 3. The consultation and a summary of findings

To consult on the draft grants programme, we:

- Held four focus groups with a range of existing grant holders, community groups and other stakeholders.
- Ran an online survey (questions are attached at Appendix 1)
- Had follow up conversations with a number of stakeholders

#### 3.1 Focus groups – Summary of findings

Four focus groups were held over two days on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019: two sessions with representatives from all community groups, one with representatives from organisations who were in receipt of Core and Rent grants from the council; and one session with Community Builders.

Copies of the draft new grants policy were distributed in advance of the sessions and were also available in paper copy at the sessions. We explained that this was formal consultation following the listening exercise last summer.

The aims for these sessions were:

- To obtain consensus on the proposed new overall approach
- To identify issues and barriers to the success of the new approach
- To establish the type and levels of support needed to make the new policy work

The conversations were wide-ranging across four broad themes:

- Creating the Exeter City Fund
- Crowdfunding
- Support
- How decisions are made

Below is a summary of the comments put forward by the focus group participants. It must be noted that these are verbatim and may be the perceptions of individuals and not necessarily factually accurate.

<b>Creating the Exeter City Fund</b>
<p>There was a <b>strong consensus</b> across all four groups on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One pot for all grants across the city is a good idea</li><li>• The priorities and principles are relevant and broadly fit for purpose</li><li>• The application process should include a template, guidelines and examples</li></ul>

- Community Asset Transfers are of crucial strategic and operational importance: it is essential to have a clear policy on
- Longer leases for Community Asset Transfers would work better for some organisations than actual transfer of ownership
- The Council needs to work in partnership with charities/community groups to agree a long-term plan for premises e.g. to include longer leases with possibility of buying further along the line
- Working more closely with local businesses would strengthen the process
- The Council needs to use its influence to raise funding from local businesses for community projects (Corporate Social Responsibility)
- Forecasts for how long CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money will continue to come in to Exeter need to be taken into account
- Plans need to be put in place for the withdrawal of European Social Fund funding post Brexit
- All the grants made, including ward grants need to be listed on the council website

A **number** of participants agreed on the following points:

- *Health and wellbeing* and *getting people active* should be two separate priorities
- Some would prefer electronic applications (a form which is emailed/uploaded) than an online form.
- The grants system is still too complex
- The digital approach will cause problems at least in the short term

The following points were made by **one or two** individuals:

- Arts and culture should be included as a separate priority
- Arts may lose out under the new system and priorities. Is there a place for 'art for art's sake?'
- Talk to Exeter Culture about the priorities for grants with a view to making sure they are aligned
- Merge the third and first priorities: address inequalities and support communities
- Strengthening the Community Asset Transfer process is too zippy a term; be realistic and transparent
- Separating off National Portfolio Organisations seems unfair. Others are bringing in large funds too but not in the same category
- Will National Portfolio Organisations be brought into the new system when they lose their NPO status?
- It is important to learn the lessons of the past so that they are not replicated in the new programme

- The way things are set up is important. A lot of people don't want to go to meetings - especially not in the evenings
- Consideration should be given to limiting the number of applications by one group within a fixed time period

### Crowdfunding

There was a **strong consensus** across all four groups on the following points:

- Crowdfunding is a beauty contest. The most attractive causes always win
- It presents huge difficulties for small groups and organisations
- It is loaded against less affluent and articulate places
- It would be a false economy and create a whole new problem
- A set up pack including a step by step guide needs to be available online and in paper copy

A **number** of participants agreed on the following points

- The more you do crowdfunding the less you can do a bottom-up approach
- It is an inequitable and unattractive process
- Pilot schemes (and experience in other regions) show that it is not working.
- It cannot deliver the ABCD approach
- Imposing crowdfunding on the less able is unfair
- It is difficult for small groups
- It puts a huge overhead on time and expertise: this is a risk
- Community groups may need to start charging membership fees if crowdfunding is introduced

The following points were made by **one or two** individuals:

- It feels immoral to apply for crowdfunding as a middle-class group because we believe others will be disadvantaged
- For crowdfunding, residents need time, energy and expertise. People need these skills: marketing, create materials including design and video making
- Ensure gift aid is captured
- 'I have run a crowdfunding campaign. It took over my life. You have to be on it 24 hours a day'
- Some people are already using crowdfunding and are concerned that they will lose it when there others are encouraged into the pool of people applying
- A proportion of any funds raised through crowdfunding goes to the platform – so part of the money raised is lost
- If we could mirror the lottery process, we could save time and energy

- Could some weighting be put on commissioning for local established groups? (Building in a history of grant compliance)
- There is a risk of winning capital funding and not having enough money to run the charity

### Support Services

There was a **strong consensus** across all four groups on the following points:

- A community advice and support service like the previous CVS is needed, with advice from people who know how to apply for grants. Aspects of the old CVS should be replicated in any new support provided
- The alternative view was that the Council should enable communities to step up and provide the support
- Everyone needs to take responsibility for communicating the new policy and sharing knowledge about fundraising
- Regular training sessions should be available (not one-off)
- Putting things on the Council website isn't enough on its own.
- Lower literacy levels being taken into account in the process
- BME groups will need support
- People whose first language isn't English may need different support
- Support and advice team could link community groups and build capacity in communities
- Community Builders have a crucial role in communicating about the support available and how to access it

A **number** of individuals agreed on the following points:

- Clear and transparent communication is an ongoing issue
- Need to make more use of the Exeter Citizen
- Grassroots – go out to communities rather than expect communities to come in
- Get alongside people and communities
- Work 1:1 with people
- Play to community strengths
- The way they addressed communities
- Understood communities and their limitations
- Holding organisations could have bank accounts for each ward
- Elderly people may not have laptops
- Community Builders can advise on the application process

- Computers could be made available in community centres or libraries, or have laptops for local people to sit with Community Builders or other support workers
- Community builders to have a workshop about applying for grants to build their own knowledge in order to signpost available support and build community confidence
- List of grants available, including larger grants, which haven't previously been available to communities and signpost to other grants e

- The following points were made by **one or two** individuals:
- Exeter City Futures and Exeter City Velocities provide a good model for developing skills
- Council is not making the people who are currently providing much needed services as volunteers in Exeter feel valued. 'I want to hear the narrative to say 'we value you and the work you are doing/have done'

#### **How decisions are made**

There was a **strong consensus** on the following points

- A declaration of interests register for panel members will be essential
- Clear terms of reference need to be established
- An open and transparent recruitment process should be in place
- Clear evaluation criteria will need to be agreed and followed rigorously
- The panel should reflect the diversity of the community
- Panel members must understand the priorities and future needs *across* the city

A **number** of participants agreed on the following points:

- Include 'geographical parity' across the city
- A role description for each member of the panel
- Pay expenses for panel members
- Could councillors make the decisions but based on advice?

The following points were made by **one or two** individuals

- Panel members should be commissioned
- Panel members should be independent
- One panel member to represent each of the five priorities
- Have quarterly presentation from groups who were funded about what they did

- Elect chair by secret ballot for a defined term
- Rotate the chair
- A Community Builder should be on the panel
- Community Builders could be compromised by being on the panel – but they could provide references.
- Listen to Community Building team because you can't make a decision about a community if you don't really know the community
- Some decision making could be done electronically to help people with disabilities be involved
- Look at recruiting people outside of community sector
- We need a flow chart for the process – to see how, for example, crowdfunding fits with decision-making panel.

### **Transitional arrangements**

The first half of the focus group with core and rent grant stakeholders people were expressing their concerns about transitional arrangements and the formal consultation arrangements. These points are summarised as follows:

- There should be an opportunity to respond directly to councillors on the draft policy: that perhaps they should have attended the consultation meeting.
- Need clear and transparent communication and arrangements for the transition period.
- Core grant transition very difficult, anxiety about commissioning and competition
- The timetable needs to be agreed in partnership between the Council and the community groups.
- The timetable for commissioning won't work for commissioned services. If we have paid staff, we need to issue redundancy notices on 1 July 2019
- Transparency still not there, example of Exeter cycling club having already negotiated funding for the transition period.
- The only prospect we have of surviving is if the Council is able to grant us a peppercorn rent for the remainder of our lease. This would enable us to continue, keep our two employees and other casuals in work, and to do the important work which we believe the Council supports. We would argue that the Council loses little by this decision, since the hut we occupy is very old, in need of repair, and not attractive to the commercial market.

### 3.2 The survey

In April 2019, we ran an online survey to seek views on the new grants policy. The survey was open to all and promoted to the community and voluntary sector. The survey consisted of 23 questions; respondents were asked to rate their degree of agreement with aspects of the proposal, the reasoning behind these answers as well as demographic and organisational information. Respondents were also asked whether they would like to be updated on the progress of the grants review. 60 people completed the survey.

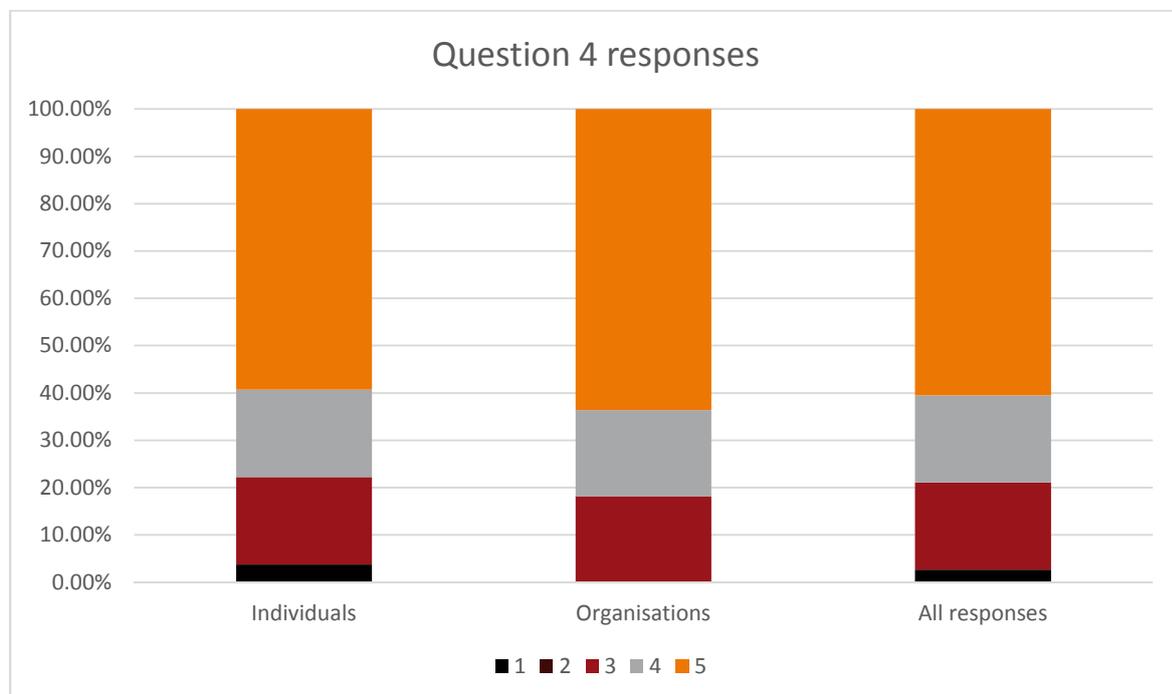
The full survey report is attached at Appendix 2, below are some highlights:

**Question 4** was: Do you agree that the grant priorities for 2019 to 2022 should be:

- Address inequalities
- Improve health and wellbeing and getting people active
- Support communities working together to address local needs
- Encourage volunteering
- Improve where we live

Respondents were asked to rate their support on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 was do not agree at all and 5 was strongly agree.

The responses received are shown in the graph below.

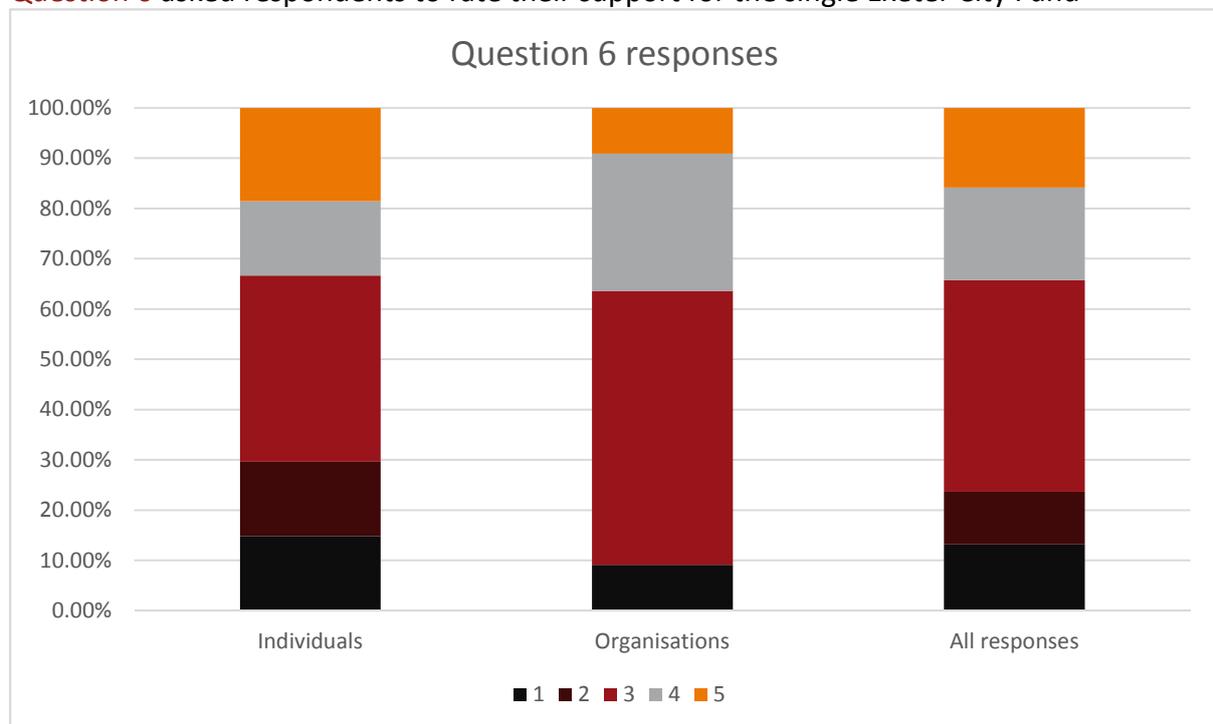


There was strong support across both individual respondents and organisations for the grant priorities, with almost 80% rating the proposal 4 or 5.

Question 5 asked respondents to comment on the proposed grant priorities. Responses included the following points:

- Culture was not referred to in the priorities and there should be a more specific commitment
- There should be more inclusive growth included in the addressing inequalities priority
- Health and wellbeing is more than encouraging activity; eating well and having good mental health also important
- The council’s priority should be supporting those services which provide help to people who cannot get support through the usual channels and not helping people ‘have a good time’
- Protecting our environment, encouraging greater biodiversity and improving air quality should also be included
- The model is likely to result in funding focussed on project work rather than long term funding for organisations which provide ongoing services
- Supporting community working together could move responsibility from the council to provide services
- There should be more emphasis on projects that engage with communities who are not usual consumers of art, theatre etc. to promote inclusivity

Question 6 asked respondents to rate their support for the single Exeter City Fund

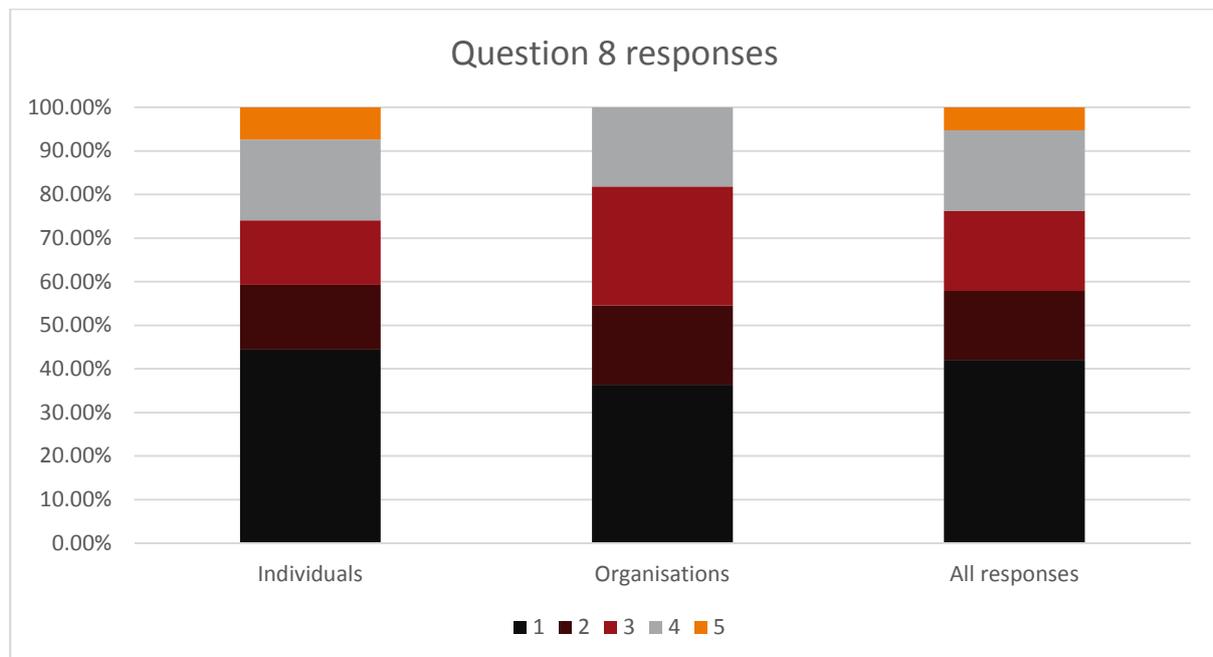


The range of responses was much greater than in question 4. Overall, 76% of respondents rated the proposal as 3 or above, but 13% gave a rating of 1. 90% of organisations gave a rating of 3 or above but were less likely than individuals to score the proposal 5.

**Question 7** asked respondents to comment on the Exeter City Fund. Responses included the following points:

- Whilst project based or capital funding is welcomed, there is a need for core (revenue) funding in order to make the capital investments sustainable, and more generally to enable organisations to carry on day to day work, especially in supporting the disadvantaged. This point was made by a number of respondents
- There is a risk that funding will be allocated to high profile projects to the detriment of more mundane but equally vital schemes
- Concern that there has been an assumption about the previous grant funding. Applications used to be published on the website along with Major Grants Panel papers. Also, grant holders were required to submit a mid-year report. There does not seem to be any mention of this in these proposals
- Concern that Arts Council grants have been excluded and whether newly designated NPOs after 2022 will be included in the policy
- Concern about transitional arrangements for organisations
- Concern that single fund might not support some current recipients of funding
- Need to be clear about funding process and decisions
- The £30,000 large grant ceiling is low for large organisations with multiple functions
- It is probably more transparent, but only if the council make ALL decisions available to the public. It does not mean it's necessarily fairer.
- Lack of clarity about arts funding

**Question 8** asked if respondents agreed that matched funding is a fair way of making the money go further.



Respondents were on generally unhappy about this proposal, with 58% giving a rating of 1 or 2. 36% of organisations, which tended to give ratings outside the extremes on other questions, rated the question 8 proposals as 1.

**Question 9** asked respondents to comment on matched funding

- Organisations which provide services for the most disadvantaged may find it harder to secure match funding than those catering for the more affluent
- Similarly, organisations which provide ongoing work rather than specific projects could find it more difficult to secure match funding
- Whilst having match funding could be an appropriate scoring criterion in the assessment of grant applications, excluding bids without match funding could be too high a bar
- Larger, better resourced organisations may find it easier to create the publicity and infrastructure to attract match funding than small organisations
- Other grant conferring bodies might concentrate on providing seed funding to attract council grants, thus removing resources from the small projects that they might otherwise have funded independently of the council
- Attempting to secure match funding could tie up a lot of volunteer time, especially if the attempt were unsuccessful
- Some organisations, such as those working with children and animals, already find it easier to attract funding. This would be the case in respect of match funding
- In a climate of reducing resources, securing match funding may be more difficult for all
- Funding should be based on need rather than the ability to secure match funding

**Question 10** asked if individuals or organisations would need support with online applications

19% of individuals and 9% of organisations indicated that they would require help. This did not demonstrate a clear need for support.

**Question 11** asked if individuals or organisations would need support with navigating the CrowdfundExeter website.

31% of individuals and 73% of organisations indicated that they would require help, indicating a clear need for support.

**Question 12** asked about other support:

*The Council currently invests in the Wellbeing Exeter Programme, which provides Community Builders and Community Connectors. In addition to this existing resource, the Council is proposing to commission:*

*A City-wide Independent Information Service; and an Exeter Infrastructure Support Service;*

*These services will support residents and community groups to manage areas such as: finance; governance; funding applications; using digital platforms; marketing; and building support networks.*

*Is there any other support you or your organisation will need?*

Two organisations and one individual listed further requirements:

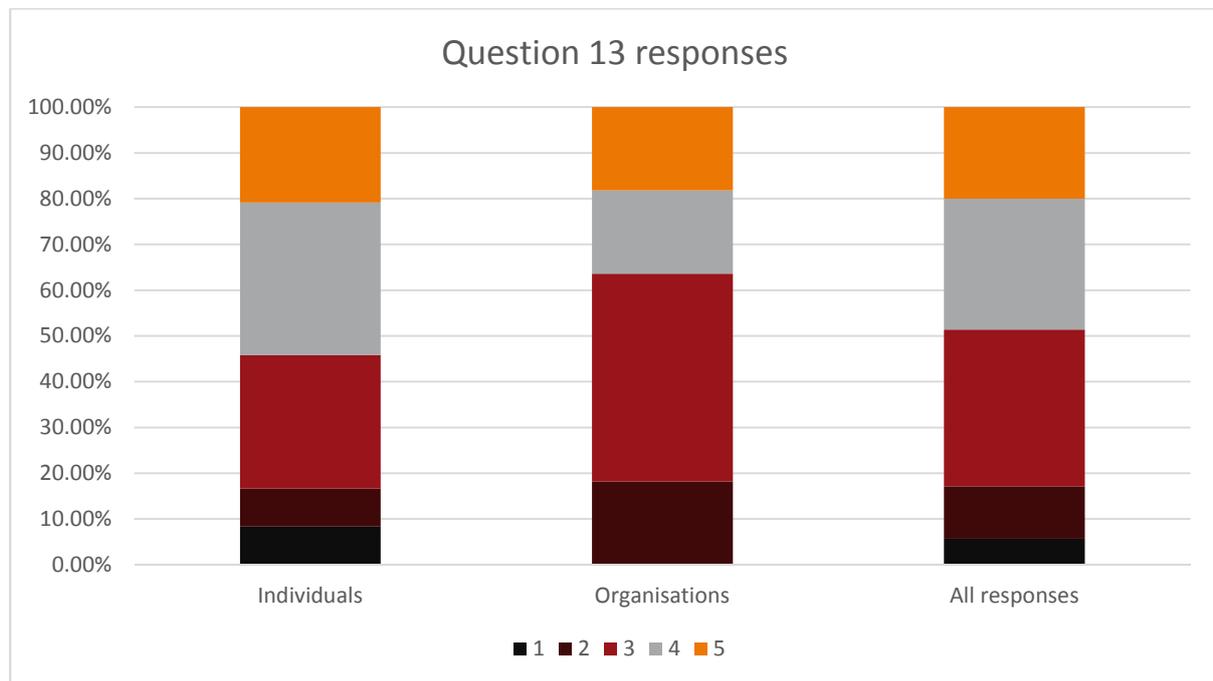
- Finance
- Funding applications
- Marketing
- Support networks
- Business planning
- Volunteer management
- Data management
- Buildings
- Meeting locations
- More face to face advice through these means rather than online
- Assistance with implementing savings to previously funded bodies which experience reduced grant funding under the new proposals

Some respondents felt that the method of delivery proposed could be improved:

- The items listed above appear to relate to the Exeter Infrastructure Support Service rather than the City-wide Independent Information Service. We strongly believe that the Independent Information Service should provide for a combined information, advice and advocacy service. It should include the need to use the assets of local communities through volunteering; the need for a social policy remit so that providers are resourced to work with the City Council on developing areas of need or difficulty; the need for quality practices and registration with the key authorities, such as the Financial Conduct Authority, is included in any tender, and an holistic approach to advice provision is essential if providers are to truly resolve the underlying issues
- Community builders and community associations could provide this function

There was also a concern that the establishment of these bodies would detract from funding of other third sector information and advice bodies.

Question 13 asked if respondents supported the idea of a grants panel that makes recommendations on grant applications.



There was broad agreement with the proposal. 82% of respondents rating this proposal as 3 or higher.

Question 14 asked respondents to comment on grants panel'

- The panel should be representative of the community
- The panel should include subject experts and people with experience of assessing grant applications
- A need to ensure a proper balance of interests and knowledge
- There is value in the contribution of local councillors with knowledge of their localities
- Councillors should not have voting rights but attend as advisors. This was mentioned in the responses from a number of individual respondents.
- This function was carried out well by the Exeter Community Forum, so why change?
- There is a risk of the panel being dominated by special interest groups or cliques
- All panel members would have equal voting rights
- There should be some form of remuneration for panel members and panels should take place outside working hours
- Limited terms of service for people serving on the panel to ensure rotation

There was a general concern that an unbalanced group would lead to disproportionate influence by some sectors.

Question 15 asked how the grants panel should select the community representatives.

Responses included:

- Community representatives should be recruited through open advert and then be selected using defined criteria
- Selection by providing a candidate statement and interview and selection
- Recruitment could be through contacting those who have received a grant in the last five years
- Selection should not be made by councillors
- The Exeter Community Forum network could ask for applications
- Groups which might find raising funds more difficult should be well represented on the panel
- There could be a public vote to decide between applicants
- The Infrastructure Support Service or another independent body could appoint the panel
- Community builders could appoint the panel
- The panel should not just consist of potential beneficiaries
- All community organisations should have the right to be on the panel
- Each community should nominate its own representative from within existing community association

### 3.3 Stakeholder conversations

In July 2018 we held telephone interviews were held with representatives from:

- Community Safety Partnership, Devon and Cornwall Police
- Health and Social Care, Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust
- Exeter Culture
- New Devon Clinical Commissioning Group,
- Arts Council England
- University of Exeter
- Devon Community Foundation
- Devon County Council, Communities directorate
- Big Lottery Fund (local office)
- Exeter City Community Trust
- Exeter Community Forum

This time we spoke to representatives from

- Devon County Council Communities Directorate
- Exeter Community Forum
- CoLab
- Exeter Citizens Advice Bureau

The conversations centred on the practicalities of the new approach and are summarised below. Again, these are the comments of individuals.

### **Crowdfunding**

- Crowdfunding can be a useful tool for specific, time-limited appeals and can be a great way of galvanising community efforts around a cause.
- However, groups have to be realistic about its place, and what prospect of total resource they have from it. The average UK crowdfunded total is just over £3000. We have encountered a lot of confusion and cynicism from organisations who – having been told about cuts to their grants by local authorities, have been signposted to us for support around crowdfunding. Crowdfunding cannot replace grant funding for salaries and other running costs.
- We have worked with 7 organisations on their approach to crowdfunding this year – some that went ahead and were successful (in terms of meeting their target); some that went ahead and were unsuccessful (did not meet their target, or pulled the campaign); and some who decided crowdfunding was not right for their requirements.
- Concerned that we are all “fishing in the same pool” for potential donors – that too many campaigns in one place at one time would create a competition between projects and charities – and that after an initial surge of interest, people would develop “giving fatigue” as their Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn feeds carry appeal after appeal.
- Crowdfunding is not the panacea for everything. It might be better to have it as an option rather than a given.
- Exeter, being a city, is in an advantageous position for crowdfunding than county and rural areas.
- There should be a range of gateways to grant funding that suit different people

### **Support Services**

- Is there evidence of demand for this? Surely if we give money to community groups, they can source their own support or use their own expertise.
- A CVS can often be a monopoly in competition with other charities. The model is blurred; money needs to get to communities and have clearer outcomes.
- There may be a need for a temporary, transitional support service but it could be reviewed after a year or two.
- Another option would be to commission CAB to deliver the support service. Not sure there is a marketplace for a procurement exercise. Devon CC had a procurement exemption for this.

### **Decision making**

- There must be transparency. All applications and decisions should be available online for all to see
- Grant application decisions should be made using a triple bottom line of sustainability: social, environmental (or ecological) and financial.
- There must be emphasis on grass roots priorities from the community associations
- Whoever is on the panel, there should be representation from all ages and backgrounds
- Grants using CIL money should be prioritised for those areas of the city affected by development

### **General**

- For what it's worth, my position is that we all know (and indeed knew in advance) what was happening to local authority finances, and that expecting grant-making to continue at previous levels was unrealistic. I think so long as the council remains clear and transparent in how it reviews and restructures its grant processes few can complain – the harsh reality up and down the country is that local authorities are being cut to the bone, and of course that has a knock-on effect to communities.
- In the digital age you need one, generic application form that can then direct you to specific grants.
- A strategic city fund approach is sensible but there are political considerations to be borne in mind if ECC want other bodies in Devon to invest. Exeter is a red island in a blue sea.
- Grants of up to £30,000 are not sufficient for anything major, for example building a community hall.
- Matched funding needs to recognise volunteer hours

## 6. Conclusions and recommendations

The draft Exeter grants programme reflects the outcomes of last year's listening exercise and our recommendations for a streamlined and more transparent process. Community stakeholders are broadly in agreement with the strategic aims and principles. However, we feel there are details that need to be clarified in the final policy document.

There is agreement that the principles and priorities in the draft programme are broadly fit for purpose. One strategic fund was also seen by most as a logical way forward for the administration of grants.

There is a concern about the loss of specific arts grants and whether these would be subsumed and lost.

The conversations were different this time; they largely centred on the practicalities of implementing the new approach. There was still a lot of confusion, so the final version of the policy needs to be clearer, with detail on the application process and the crowdfunding and matched funding will actually work. Below are our recommendations:

### Communications

Communications generally and website content will need to be improved. The new streamlined approach presents an opportunity for a review of information available; a joined up online presence that makes the grants process more accessible to a wider audience.

There is a clear wish that information on grants awarded and the subsequent success or failure of the funded projects are made public online. This approach would go a long way in rebuilding trust between the council and the community sector.

Feedback when grant applications are unsuccessful seems to be patchy and this was raised a number of times in the listening exercise. It is vital for organisations and individuals to be able to learn and improve and this must be addressed.

### Going digital

The digital application process will need to be addressed carefully. A simple and easily navigable online form is favoured, alongside an informative website.

### Matched and Crowdfunding

This was by far the most contentious element of the new policy. However, we believe that this anxiety can be overcome with clarification and some flexibility. There was genuine concern that, if not managed carefully, this could exclude smaller groups and people with less fundraising experience, thus defeating the purpose of the review.

A theme which emerged in many responses was a fear that some organisations which met the priorities for grant funding would nevertheless be excluded from the funding process

because of an inability or lack of capacity to attract match funding. This does identify a risk that, despite the intentions of the proposal, the requirement for match funding could result in a concentration of funding in fewer better resourced and higher profile organisations to the detriment of smaller or less glamorous organisations.

There is much confusion around crowdfunding and matched funding. The common points made were:

- The Crowdfunding, funding platforms and matched funding need to be defined more clearly
- Crowdfunding is seen by many as highly competitive and people believe that this has serious equality implications
- Crowdfunding is time consuming and raises sustainability and capacity issues

We recommend a review of the Crowdfunding pilot project that council has undertaken in the past year, to understand lessons learnt. Furthermore, if crowdfunding is to become the default for every applicant (bar the £300 grants), there needs to be an evaluation and review built in to measure its success. Additionally, we think there should be some flexibility built in, at least during the first year of the new policy, coupled with some training and support in this specific area.

Transitional arrangements for core and rent grant holders still seem to be unclear and needs clarification.

### Support services

It is clear that some organisations and groups will need support through the change process. What that support should be was unclear. Some favoured a traditional CVS model or simply commissioning the CAB. Others preferred a community led approach, with 1-1 support when needed and capacity building, similar to the work of the community builders.

### How decisions are made

There is a clear message that decision making on the award of grants needs to be a transparent and easy to understand. However, there was much discussion and a variety of opinions on how the grants panel should be constructed, as shown in the focus groups and survey comments above. We believe that the chief anxiety surrounding the makeup of the panel is about fairness and openness. A simple process of nomination of community representatives to serve alongside councillors will suffice as long as the decisions are there for all to see.

Welcome to Our Survey

Following the review of community and arts grants in the summer of 2018, including engagement and consultation, the Council has now developed a new draft policy: the Exeter Grants Programme.

The draft policy brings together proposals for the council's future grant investment in Exeter to ensure we focus our resource on what matters most - working together on the key challenges faced by our city. It represents an exciting and bold step forward in how the Council works with our voluntary and community sector colleagues to co-design and co-create a shared view of how to address the needs of development in our city.

We want to know what you think about the new policy and our plans for one city-wide grants programme. Please help us to do this by completing this short survey. The survey is open to everyone but we are particularly keen to hear from individuals and organisations that deliver community and arts projects in Exeter. The full draft policy and a shorter summary are available on our website [here](#)

All returns will be treated confidentially and we will share anonymised results. Your views will help us to improve the way we issue grants and ensure that they meet local needs. Thank you for participating in our survey. Your feedback is important.

1. Are you responding as:

- An individual
- An organisation

About your organisation

2. What is the name of your organisation?

3. Please tick the boxes that best describe your organisations work

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allotment holder association   | <input type="checkbox"/> Education or training  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts organisation or group     | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious group        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charity                        | <input type="checkbox"/> School                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's centre              | <input type="checkbox"/> Social group           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community association or group | <input type="checkbox"/> Special interest group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental project          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports club            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth organisation or group    | <input type="checkbox"/> Service provider       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)         |   |

Exeter City Council: Exeter Grants Programme

The new structure

4. Do you agree that the grant priorities for 2019 to 2022 should be:

- Address inequalities
- Improve health and wellbeing and getting people active
- Support communities working together to address local needs
- Encourage volunteering
- Improve where we live

Please rate from 1 star (Not at all) to 5 stars (Strongly agree)



5. Please explain your rating if you want to

6. Presently, there are nine different funding streams available. Our research last year showed a lack of clarity and transparency that needed to be addressed. The proposal is to set up a single Exeter City Fund (ECF), which will consist of five elements:

ECF Ward Grants of up to £300, funded by New Home Bonus Funding;

ECF Large grants of up to £30,000, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy;

ECF Small Grants of up to £3,000, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy;

ECF Community Buildings grants: a 3 year grant towards the annual running costs of up to £5,000 per year, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy; and

ECF Move More Community Chest grants of up to £300, funded by the Sport England Delivery pilot

Do you agree that a single Exeter City Fund is a fairer and more transparent way of administering grants?

Please rate from 1 star (Not at all) to 5 stars (Strongly agree)



7. Please explain your rating if you want to

8. With the exception of Ward Grants and Move More Grants, The new funding streams will require a level of matched funding. Do you agree that this is a fair way to ensure that the money available goes as far as possible?

Please rate from 1 star (Not at all) to 5 stars (Strongly agree)



9. Please explain your rating if you want to

10. All grant applications will be on-line through the Exeter City Fund website.

Do you think you or your organisation will need support with online applications?

Yes

No

11. Where matched funding is required, online applications will link directly to the CrowdfundExeter website.

Do you think you or your organisation will need support with navigating the CrowdfundExeter website?

Yes

No

12. The Council currently invests in the Wellbeing Exeter Programme, which provides Community Builders and Community Connectors. [link here](#)

In addition to this existing resource, the Council is proposing to commission:

- A City-wide Independent Information Service; and
- An Exeter Infrastructure Support Service;

These services will support residents and community groups to manage areas such as:

- finance;
- governance;
- funding applications;
- using digital platforms;
- marketing; and
- building support networks.

Is there any other support you or your organisation will need?

13. As part of the new structure, a grants panel will be set up. The aim is that the panel represents the range of arts and community networks in the city, taking into account the need to include those that may be disadvantaged or who may not have the confidence to participate in networks. The purpose of the panel will be to make recommendations on grant applications.

How much do you agree with this approach?  
Please rate from 1 star (Not at all) to 5 stars (Strongly agree)



14. Please explain your rating if you want to

15. The panel will consist of Exeter City Councillors and representatives of community organisations across the city. Do you have any suggestions on how the community representatives should be selected?'

Exeter City Council: Exeter Grants Programme

About you

**It helps us to know a bit more about you so that we can plan for the future. However, if you feel uncomfortable about giving any of the information requested, then please leave the question blank**

16. What is your age?

- 0-15
- 16-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- Over 65

17. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Other/non binary
- Prefer not to say

18. What is your ethnicity?

- White
- Asian or Asian British
- Black or Black British
- Mixed ethnic background
- Other ethnic background
- Prefer not to say

19. Do you have a disability?

- No
- Yes - mobility
- Yes - eyesight
- Yes - hearing
- Yes - mental
- Yes - learning difficulty
- Yes - multiple disability
- Yes - other
- Prefer not to say

20. What is your employment status?

- Student
- Full time employed
- Part time employed
- Self employed
- On a government scheme for employment training
- Other (please specify)
- Looking after family/home
- Unable to work
- Retired
- Prefer not to say

21. What is your postcode?

22. Would like us to keep in touch with you about the results of the grants review?

- Yes
- No

23. Please leave your email address

Thank you for completing the survey

## Exeter Grants Programme survey analysis

Between 20 March 2019 and 1 May 2019 RedQuadrant ran an online survey to seek views on Exeter City Council's proposal on the future of arts and community grant funding. The survey was open to community & arts groups, organisations as well as other key stakeholders. The survey consisted of 23 questions; these asked respondents to rate their degree of agreement with aspects of the proposal, the reasoning behind these answers as well as demographic and organisational information. Respondents were also asked whether they would like to be updated on the progress of the grants review.

60 responses were received in total. Of these, 21 did not have answers to any of the questions. Of the 39 that did have some answers, 12 (31%) were from community organisations and 27 (69%) were from individuals. One community organisation did not provide any responses other than the name of the organisation, and not every respondent answered every applicable question. There were fewer responses to the questions seeking to understand the reasons by the respondents' rating of the proposal but some of these were detailed in their reasoning.

In this report we have differentiated the responses from organisations and individuals so that any different perceptions between the two groups can be observed. However, it appears likely from some of the text answers submitted, that some individual respondents were closely affiliated with organisations that had also made a return to the survey.

### Questions applicable only to organisations

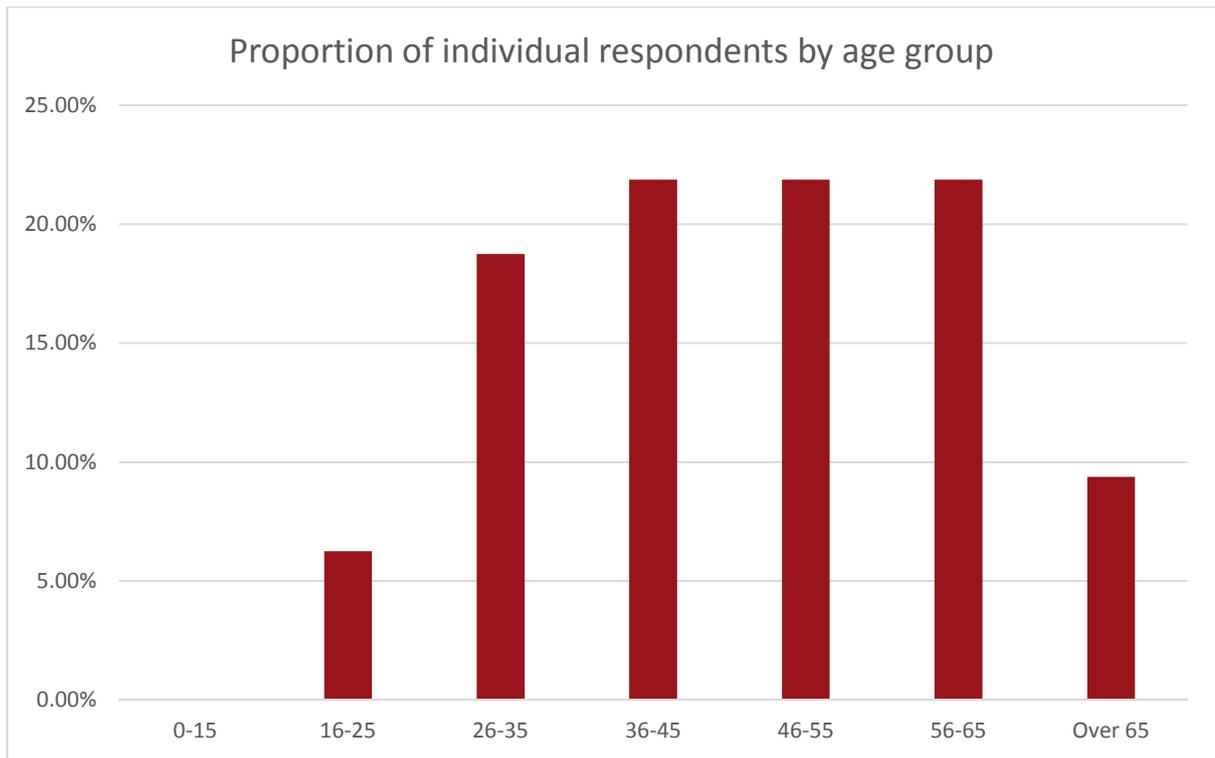
Twelve organisations provided their name, although one – an allotment holder association – did not answer any other question.

Organisations were asked to select one or more category that best described their work. Each respondent could choose more than one category. Seven organisations were charities, including one of each that said they were also in the following categories: - arts, community, education, environment and health. One respondent selected the arts and education categories, three were community associations, one a social group and one a special interest group. There were no responses from children's centres, youth organisations, schools, sports clubs or service providers.

### Questions applicable only to individuals

Individual respondents were asked about their age group, gender, ethnicity, disability status, employment status and postcode. 34 respondents gave an answer to at least one of these questions.

The distribution by age of respondents is shown in the graph below:

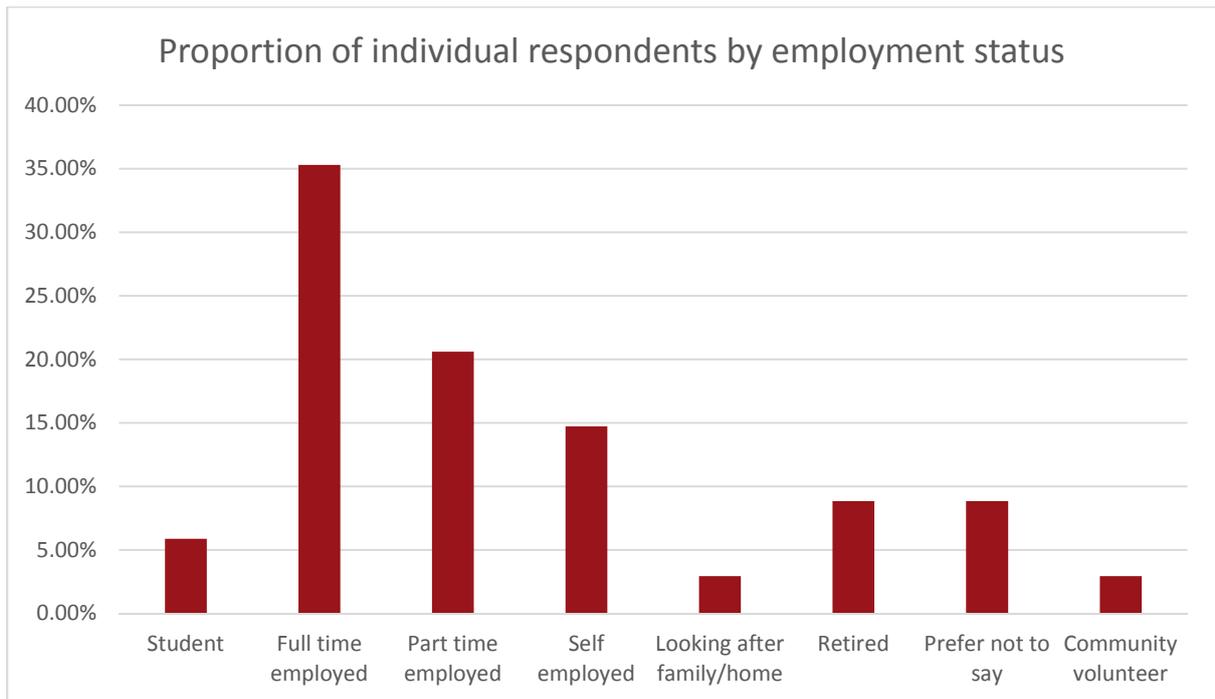


60.6% of respondents were female, 33.33% male, 3% other/non-binary and 3% preferred not to say.

79.4% of respondents were white, 11.4% preferred not to state an ethnicity and there was one respondent (2.9%) for each of the Asian, mixed ethnic and other ethnic background categories. There were no responses by anyone stating a black background.

27 respondents (79%) stated no disability, 2 (5.9%) preferred not to say, 2 (5.9%) had multiple disabilities and there was one respondent (2.9%) for each of mobility, eyesight and mental health disability categories.

The employment status of individual respondents is shown in the graph below.



19 individual respondents provided some postcode data of which 13 were complete postcodes. This is too small a number to provide a statistically significant analysis by ward. 10 responses were received from people living in the EX4 postcode, which covers north Exeter, 3 from EX1 (Exeter central and east), 4 from EX2 (Exeter south), 1 from EX3 (Topsham area) and 1 from EX12 (Seaton area).

### Survey responses

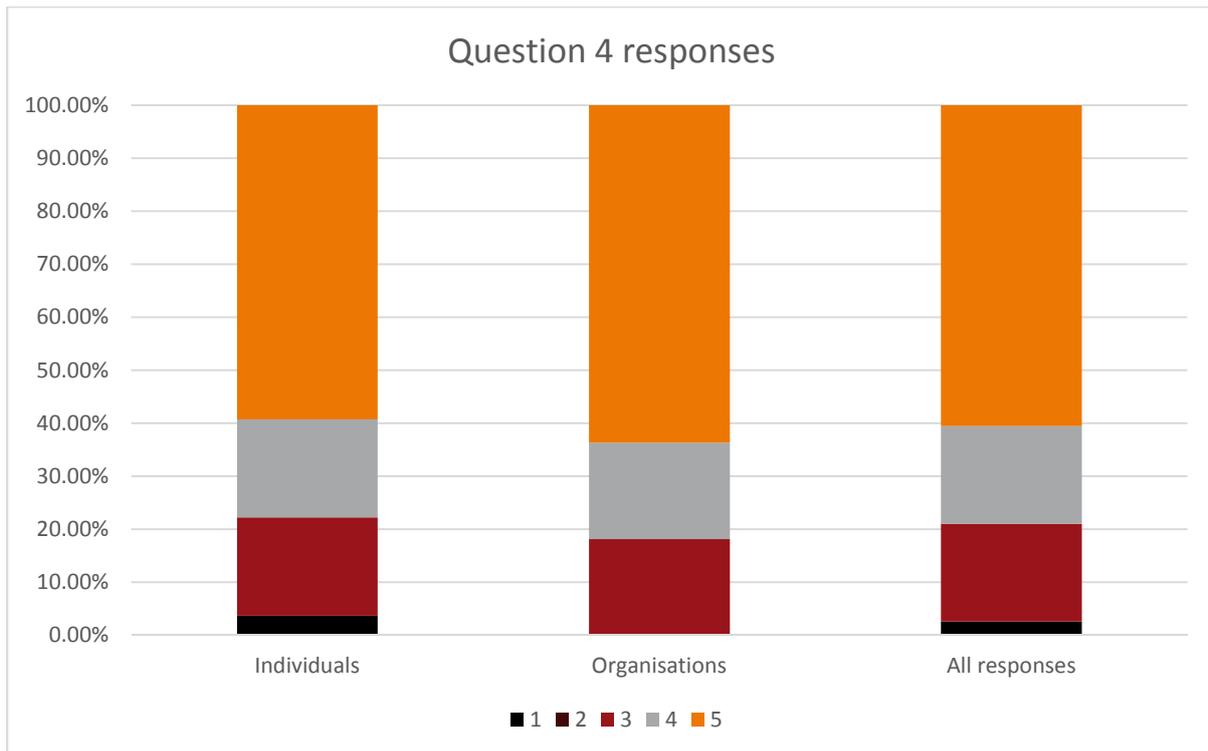
Question 4 of the survey asked

Do you agree that the grant priorities for 2019 to 2022 should be:

- Address inequalities
- Improve health and wellbeing and getting people active
- Support communities working together to address local needs
- Encourage volunteering
- Improve where we live

Respondents were asked to rate their support on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 was do not agree at all and 5 was strongly agree.

The responses received are shown in the graph below.



There was strong support across both individual respondents and organisations for the grant priorities, with almost 80% rating the proposal 4 or 5. Only 1 respondent (an individual) gave a rating of 1, and there were no ratings of 2. The average rating was 4.3, with organisations rating slightly higher (4.5) than individuals (4.3).

**Question 5** asked respondents to comment on their answer to question 4. Responses included the following points:

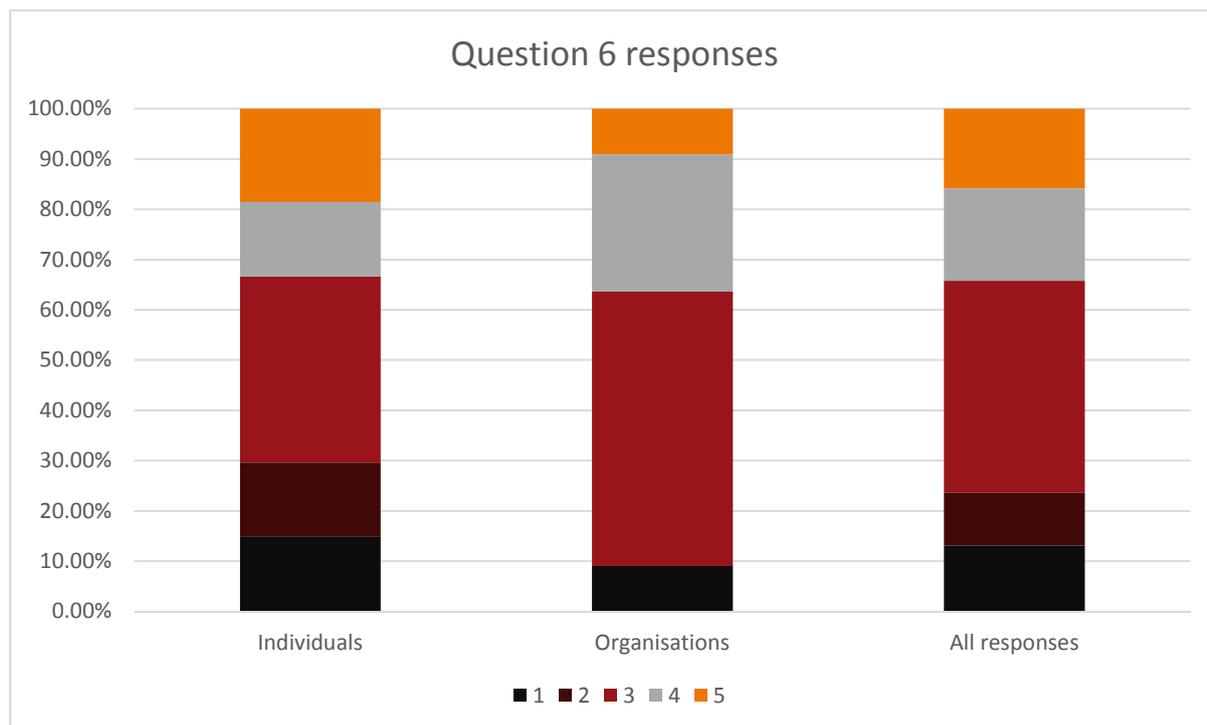
- Culture was not referred to in the priorities and there should be a more specific commitment
- There should be more inclusive growth included in the addressing inequalities priority
- Health and wellbeing is more than encouraging activity; eating well and having good mental health also important
- The council’s priority should be supporting those services which provide help to people who cannot get support through the usual channels and not helping people ‘have a good time’
- Protecting our environment, encouraging greater biodiversity and improving air quality should also be included
- The model is likely to result in funding focussed on project work rather than long term funding for organisations which provide ongoing services
- Supporting community working together could move responsibility from the council to provide services
- There should be more emphasis on projects that engage with communities who are not usual consumers of art, theatre etc to promote inclusivity

**Question 6** asked

Presently, there are nine different funding streams available. Our research last year showed a lack of clarity and transparency that needed to be addressed.

The proposal is to set up a single Exeter City Fund (ECF), which will consist of five elements: ECF Ward Grants of up to £300, funded by New Home Bonus Funding; ECF Large grants of up to £30,000, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy; ECF Small Grants of up to £3,000, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy; ECF Community Buildings grants: a 3 year grant towards the annual running costs of up to £5,000 per year, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy; and ECF Move More Community Chest grants of up to £300, funded by the Sport England Delivery pilot.

Respondents were asked to rate their support for this proposal. The responses received are shown in the graph below.



The range of responses was much greater than in question 4. Overall, 76% of respondents rated the proposal as 3 or above, but 13% gave a rating of 1. 90% of organisations gave a rating of 3 or above but were less likely than individuals to score the proposal 5. The average rating was 3.1, with organisations rating slightly higher (3.3) than individuals (3.0).

**Question 7** asked respondents to comment on their answer to question 6. Responses included the following points:

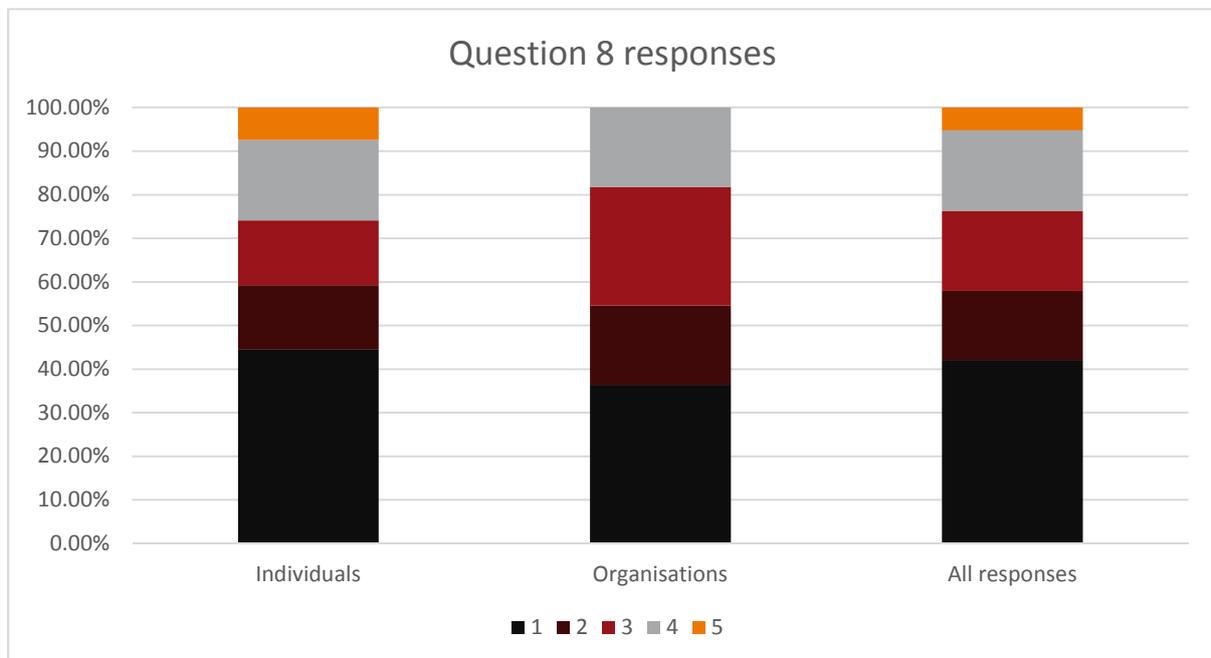
- Whilst project based or capital funding is welcomed, there is a need for core (revenue) funding in order to make the capital investments sustainable, and more generally to enable organisations to carry on day to day work, especially in supporting the disadvantaged. This point was made by a number of respondents
- There is a risk that funding will be allocated to high profile projects to the detriment of more mundane but equally vital schemes
- Concern that there has been an assumption about the previous grant funding. Applications used to be published on the website along with Major Grants Panel papers. Also, grant holders were required to submit a mid-year report. There does not seem to be any mention of this in these proposals.

- Concern that Arts Council grants have been excluded and whether newly designated NPOs after 2022 will be included in the policy
- Concern about transitional arrangements for organisations
- Concern that single fund might not support some current recipients of funding
- Need to be clear about funding process and decisions
- The £30,000 large grant ceiling is low for large organisations with multiple functions.
- It is probably more transparent, but only if the council make ALL decisions available to the public. It does not mean it's necessarily fairer.
- Lack of clarity about arts funding

#### Question 8 asked

With the exception of Ward Grants and Move More Grants, the new funding streams will require a level of matched funding. Do you agree that this is a fair way to ensure that the money available goes as far as possible?

Again, respondents were asked to rate their agreement with the results shown in the graph below.



Respondents were on generally unhappy about this proposal, with 58% giving a rating of 1 or 2. 36% of organisations, which tended to give ratings outside the extremes on other questions, rated the question 8 proposals as 1. The average rating was 2.3 for individuals and organisations.

Question 9 asked respondents to comment on their answer to question 8. Unsurprisingly, there were more comments than for questions 5, 7 or 14. Responses included the following points:

- Organisations which provide services for the most disadvantaged may find it harder to secure match funding than those catering for the more affluent
- Similarly, organisations which provide ongoing work rather than specific projects could find it more difficult to secure match funding
- Whilst having match funding could be an appropriate scoring criterion in the assessment of grant applications, excluding bids without match funding could be too high a bar

- Larger, better resourced organisations may find it easier to create the publicity and infrastructure to attract match funding than small organisations
- Other grant conferring bodies might concentrate on providing seed funding to attract council grants, thus removing resources from the small projects that they might otherwise have funded independently of the council
- Attempting to secure match funding could tie up a lot of volunteer time, especially if the attempt were unsuccessful
- Some organisations, such as those working with children and animals, already find it easier to attract funding. This would be the case in respect of match funding
- In a climate of reducing resources, securing match funding may be more difficult for all
- Funding should be based on need rather than the ability to secure match funding

A theme which emerged in many responses was a fear that some organisations which met the priorities for grant funding would nevertheless be excluded from the funding process because of an inability or lack of capacity to attract match funding. This does identify a risk that, despite the intentions of the proposal, the requirement for match funding could result in a concentration of funding in fewer better resourced and higher profile organisations to the detriment of smaller or less glamorous organisations.

#### Question 10 asked

All grant applications will be on-line through the Exeter City Fund website. Do you think you or your organisation will need support with online applications?

19% of individuals and 9% of organisations indicated that they would require help. This did not demonstrate a clear need for support.

#### Question 11 asked

Where matched funding is required, online applications will link directly to the Crowdfund Exeter website. Do you think you or your organisation will need support with navigating the Crowdfund Exeter website?

31% of individuals and 73% of organisations indicated that they would require help, indicating a clear need for support.

#### Question 12 asked

The Council currently invests in the Wellbeing Exeter Programme, which provides Community Builders and Community Connectors. In addition to this existing resource, the Council is proposing to commission:

A City-wide Independent Information Service; and An Exeter Infrastructure Support Service;

These services will support residents and community groups to manage areas such as: finance; governance; funding applications; using digital platforms; marketing; and building support networks.

Is there any other support you or your organisation will need?

Two organisations and one individual listed further requirements:

- Finance

- Funding applications
- Marketing
- Support networks
- Business planning
- Volunteer management
- Data management
- Buildings
- Meeting locations
- More face to face advice through these means rather than online
- Assistance with implementing savings to previously funded bodies which experience reduced grant funding under the new proposals

Some respondents felt that the method of delivery proposed could be improved:

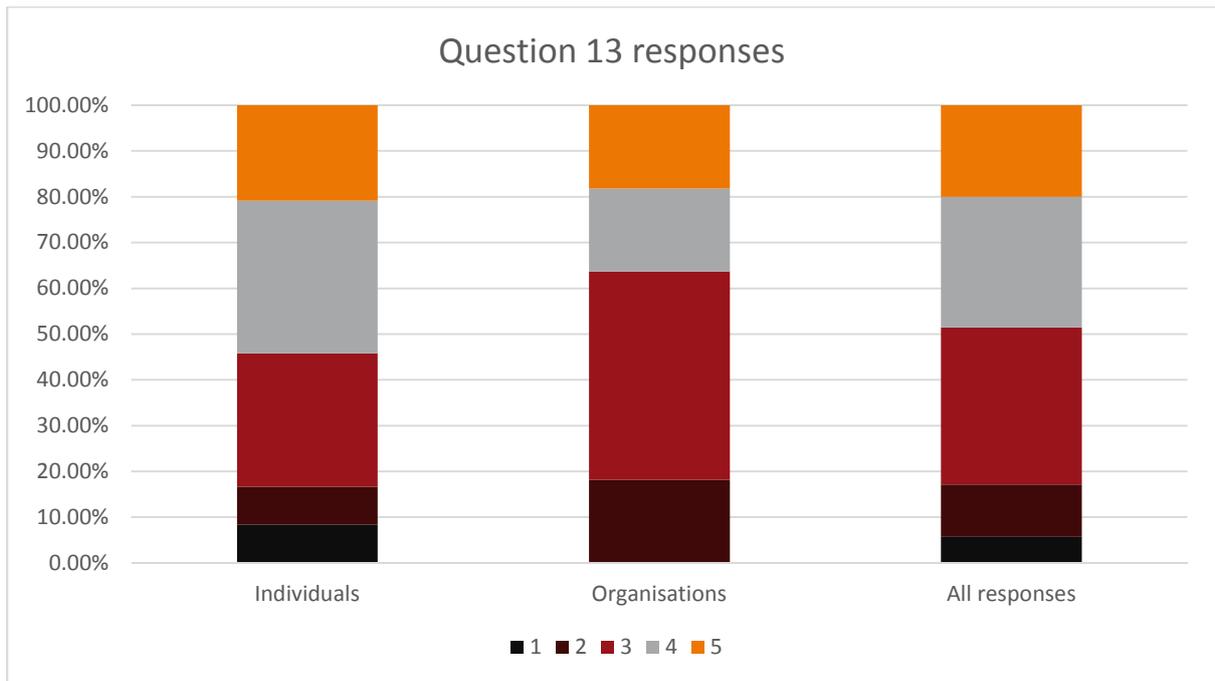
- The items listed above appear to relate to the Exeter Infrastructure Support Service rather than the City-wide Independent Information Service. We strongly believe that the Independent Information Service should provide for a combined information, advice and advocacy service. It should include the need to use the assets of local communities through volunteering; the need for a social policy remit so that providers are resourced to work with the City Council on developing areas of need or difficulty; the need for quality practices and registration with the key authorities, such as the Financial Conduct Authority, is included in any tender, and an holistic approach to advice provision is essential if providers are to truly resolve the underlying issues
- Community builders and community associations could provide this function

There was also a concern that the establishment of these bodies would detract from funding of other third sector information and advice bodies.

Question 13 asked

As part of the new structure, a grants panel will be set up. The aim is that the panel represents the range of arts and community networks in the city, taking into account the need to include those that may be disadvantaged or who may not have the confidence to participate in networks. The purpose of the panel will be to make recommendations on grant applications.

Respondents were asked to rate their support for this proposal. The responses received are shown in the graph below.



There was broad agreement with the proposal. 82% of respondents rating this proposal as 3 or higher. 8% of individuals and no organisations strongly disagreed with the proposal, and 21% of individuals and 18% of organisations gave a rating of 5. The average rating was 3.5, with organisations rating slightly lower (3.4) than individuals (3.5).

**Question 14** asked respondents to comment on their answer to question 13. Responses to question 14 included:

- The panel should be representative of the community
- The panel should include subject experts and people with experience of assessing grant applications
- A need to ensure a proper balance of interests and knowledge
- There is value in the contribution of local councillors with knowledge of their localities
- Councillors should not have voting rights but attend as advisors. This was mentioned in the responses from a number of individual respondents.
- This function was carried out well by the Exeter Community Forum, so why change?
- There is a risk of the panel being dominated by special interest groups or cliques
- All panel members would have equal voting rights
- There should be some form of remuneration for panel members and panels should take place outside working hours
- Limited terms of service for people serving on the panel to ensure rotation

Some answers to question 15 were more suited to question 14 and have been included above.

There was a general concern that an unbalanced group would lead to disproportionate influence by some sectors.

**Question 15** asked

The panel will consist of Exeter City Councillors and representatives of community organisations across the city. Do you have any suggestions on how the community representatives should be selected?

Responses to question 15 included:

- Community representatives should be recruited through open advert and then be selected using defined criteria
- Selection by providing a candidate statement and interview and selection
- Recruitment could be through contacting those who have received a grant in the last five years
- Selection should not be made by councillors
- The Exeter Community Forum network could ask for applications
- Groups which might find raising funds more difficult should be well represented on the panel
- There could be a public vote to decide between applicants
- The Infrastructure Support Service or another independent body could appoint the panel
- Community builders could appoint the panel
- The panel should not just consist of potential beneficiaries
- All community organisations should have the right to be on the panel
- Each community should nominate its own representative from within existing community association

Additional Responses to Exeter Community Programme Consultation made to the Council and not to Red Quadrant May 2019

Organisation	You said	Key points and themes	Our response
<p><b>Exeter St James Forum</b></p>	<p><b>Key points related to review of Grants Programme:</b></p> <p>Exeter St James Forum “are concerned that the grants review missed an opportunity to build on the work of Exeter Community Forum and Community Strategy and is proposing what, in effect, amounts to a centralisation of the awarding of Grants so that it is Councillor rather than Community led, particularly with regard to the Community Portion of CIL”.</p> <p>In Exeter the Community Infrastructure Levy and the New Homes Bonus have and will continue to provide significant sums and this has not been acknowledged or recognised in the introduction to the Red Quadrant report 1.10.</p> <p><b>Council Funding:</b> The Community Infrastructure Levy came into force in April 2010. Local authorities are required to work closely with neighbourhoods to decide what infrastructure they require, and balance neighbourhood funding with wider infrastructure funding that supports growth.</p> <p>“The Exeter Community Strategy will underpin community-led development in the city for ten years from 2016. It will provide a way for the community to take the lead, build its capacity to own and manage assets, work with partners, and fund and deliver initiatives and services. It is based on a</p>	<p><b>Change to councillor led rather than community led grants panel.</b></p> <p><b>Liaison with communities affected by development</b></p>	<p>The Exeter Grants Programme report July 2019 recommends that we build on our commitment to the principles in the Exeter Community Strategy with a shared aspiration to support Asset Based Community Development approaches which builds on the assets in the community and mobilises individuals, associations, and institutions to come together to realise and develop their strengths.</p> <p>The extensive listening and consultation process (2018) and follow up formal consultation (2019) facilitated by Red Quadrant has enabled the Council to seek views on spending priorities with regard to the Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).</p> <p>A key focus for the fund will be on addressing the demands that development places on the City. By utilising the CIL in this way we can</p>

	<p>statement of principles of community-led development to which partners are invited to sign up and will embody openness and accountability in all its activities.”</p> <p>From the above it is clear that contrary to the assertion of ECC as set out on Page 4 of the RQ Report there is a clear community grants programme that meets both the objectives set by national government and the objectives set in 2016 by the City Council. This erroneous conclusion with the RQ Report has enabled ECC to effectively propose the end of the role of ECF.</p> <p><b>Grass Roots Grants</b> This is the Neighbourhood Portion of CIL. The Grass Roots Grant panel until 2018 comprised a majority of members from the Exeter Community Forum together with local council representatives. This was varied by ECC to ensure that the Councillor Representatives were in a majority. This was unfortunate and has created the impression that the Council wish to control how the Community Portion of CIL should be spent. The views of the Council are clearly important and were considered within the original Committee Framework. The spending of the Community portion of CIL is not a generous handing out of funds by ECC. It is the right of the local community to determine how that small portion should be spent within the area affected by the development.</p> <p>It is worth noting that because of the way in which Exeter Community Forum was established that <b>Exeter St James Forum voluntarily gave up its 25% portion of CIL</b> and agreed</p>	<p><b>Future role of Exeter Community Forum and Exeter Community Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Changes to governance and representation of Exeter Community Forum members re. awards of grants from Neighbourhood CIL</b></p>	<p>provide a core and sustainable funding source for community groups. Where CIL funds have been used applicants will need to demonstrate that there is community support for their project and that it satisfies the provisions of Regulation 59F of the CIL Regulations 2010.</p> <p>Exeter Community Strategy was not under review, in fact meetings have recently taken place with the interim chairs of Exeter Community Forum to confirm that the council does value the Community Forum as a network for community associations in the city. We are still engaged in discussions on the best ways for the council to liaise with the forum in the future.</p> <p>The Exeter Grants Programme report stresses that a future grants programme will have good governance that recognises the specific accountability of elected members but enables the Council and community to decide on priorities together. The community</p>
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	<p>to accept the 15% to be on a par with everyone else. In the event that there is to be the fundamental alteration to the running of ECF then ESJF will be taking legal advice as to whether they should withdraw their voluntary consent and ensure that ESJF obtains the 25% portion of CIL to which it is entitled.</p> <p><b>Community Builders and Exeter City Futures</b>          Since the introduction of Exeter Community Strategy, Community Builders (CB) have been introduced in each area of the City. In many ways their role was envisaged in Exeter Community Strategy and it is unfortunate that the RQ Report has not considered ways in which the role and function of the Community Builders could be blended within a revised and enhanced Exeter Community Strategy in order to create the strong communities intended within that strategy.          Exeter St James Forum, with its own Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was not consulted over the appointment of a Community Builder which covered the NP area or the role of the Community Builder. That relationship has had to be built on an ad hoc basis. That again was an opportunity lost by ECC to utilise and enhance existing structures within Exeter.          In addition since the Strategy Document was agreed Exeter City Futures (ECF) has also been established. Their strategic objective is to create a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive place for future generations by analysing and addressing the big transport and energy challenges facing our city.</p>	<p><b>ESJF Neighbourhood Forum relinquish 25% portion of CIL</b></p> <p><b>Concern opportunity for a revised and enhanced Exeter Community Strategy was not taken</b></p>	<p>members on the grants panel will need to represent the range of community networks in the city taking into account the need to include those that may be disadvantaged or who may not have the confidence to participate in community networks. The Exeter Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service (newly commissioned) will be required to advise on and support the selection of the community representatives.</p> <p>ECC are one of a range of partners on the delivery of Wellbeing Exeter. The role of Community Builders is an essential part of the approach and their remit, and their employing organisation (ECI) are required to build strong links with the communities in which the community builders are based.</p>
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	<p>Again it is not clear why at the earliest opportunity their work, where relevant, was not properly blended with Exeter Community Strategy.</p> <p>ESJF consider that it was these missed opportunities with ECF and CB to be properly integrated within Exeter Community Strategy and the Exeter Community Forum that has caused any confusion that existed within the minds of the public. It does not require wholesale change it required properly joined up thinking.</p> <p><b>Current Grant Streams</b> The ability of Ward Councillors to make small grants of up to £300 to local community groups is a valuable way in which communities and their councillors can be seen to be working together. It is therefore of concern that part of this report indicates that Councillors want a “clear link to Council priorities” (Page 23 RQ report). The valuable work being undertaken by a local community group may not directly be in line with a council priority as set out from time to time, it may very well have a remarkably beneficial impact upon a small community group. ESJF believe that the ability of Local Councillors to make small ward grants should be enhanced and should continue.</p> <p>This has been a missed opportunity to build on what already exists within Exeter – to improve and to modernise the existing Community Strategy.</p>	<p><b>Concern re Ward grants links to council priorities</b></p>	<p>ECC are one of the partners with Exeter City Futures, your points should be raised with the directors of Exeter City Futures.</p> <p>Feedback from the consultation with a wide range of community and art groups and key stakeholders demonstrated a strong consensus for the proposed principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Address inequalities</li> <li>2.Improve health and wellbeing</li> <li>3.Get people active</li> <li>4.Support communities working together to address local needs</li> <li>5.Encourage volunteering</li> <li>6.Improve where we live</li> </ol> <p>The ward grants have increased to £500 (subject to agreement )</p> <p>We consider these to be wide ranging and likely to cover most initiatives and priorities identified by communities. The proposals for the Exeter city Fund is in line with CIL Regulations 2010 (Regulation 59F) and the</p>
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	<p>The creation of Exeter City Fund as a global title for all funding streams is simply not taking into proper account from where the grants came: New Homes Bonus: Community Infrastructure Levy: Central Government; Arts Council: Devon County Council: Exeter City Council. Each funding stream needs appropriate recognition.</p> <p>Again looking at the proposed priorities with the EGP for the current year. No-one can argue that they are not laudable objectives, but again the 15% Neighbourhood CIL is not properly recognised and the wording used is the somewhat bland “Improve where we live”. There should be a proper definition within the annual objectives requiring that in any particular year the local neighbourhood affected by CIL will be encouraged to put forward projects that will improve the neighbourhood that has generated the CIL.</p>	<p><b>Concern re recognition of nature of funding from CIL</b></p>	<p>use of <b>digital approaches</b> to making grant applications.  Re <b>matchfunding</b> – no all funds will require match funding e.g. ward grants do not require match funding. The Small grants fund where groups can apply for grants up to £3,000 need a minimum of 20% match funding. Volunteering hours may count as match funding.</p> <p>The different funding streams that make up the new Exeter City fund will be recognised in any policy and promotion of the fund.</p>
<p><b>ECF Steering Group</b></p>	<p>On behalf of Exeter Community Forum (ECF) the following proposal is offered with specific regard to the proposed Infrastructure Delivery Service. It is understood that Exeter City Council is seeking to commission an Infrastructure Support Service and will be developing a brief inviting organisations to tender for the service delivery.</p>	<p><b>Proposed Infrastructure Support Service</b></p>	<p>This service will be tendered in line with Council Policy.</p> <p>Collaboration with community networks in the city will be included in the specification for the tender.</p>

	<p>Exeter Community Forum is keen to play a role in providing these services for the benefit of community associations and groups across the city. As part of the service ECF could provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*connection to Community Associations through the ECF network</li> <li>*a voice for the network of CAs and ECF members</li> <li>*input to strategy and policy development</li> <li>*support for residents and community groups looking to develop an approach towards forming a community association</li> <li>*seek to become more inclusive and engage a wider range of community groups and organisations across Exeter</li> </ul> <p>This could be part of a specific arrangement within the tender specification or a collaboration with potential organisations that would wish to tender for the whole service. ECF could be commissioned to provide this service as part of the overall contract.</p>		
<p><b>ECFC City Community Trust</b></p>	<p>It is disappointing to hear that the Core and Rent Grant has now finished, as it has helped to match fund the Exeter Sports Fund in the past. I do, however, appreciate the steps the council needs to make in coming years to reduce budgets and still be able to provide opportunities for community/resident groups to access funding. I am also excited to hear more about the five new funding streams proposed in the new draft policy. For obvious reasons, the following five priorities listed in the draft policy fit nicely with the objectives of the CITY</p>	<p>Support for five identified priorities by ECC as part of consultation</p> <p>Happy to continue the partnership to support any</p>	<p>Very positive response and will be pleased to look at the opportunities for a partnership approach to help deliver the objectives of the sport England local Delivery Pilot and our aims to work with Exeter communities to improve health and wellbeing and get people active.</p>

	<p>Community Trust and other partners of the Exeter Sports Fund.</p> <p>I have discussed this with Exeter Sports Fund colleagues and we are very interested to find out how we can work in partnership to effectively distribute some of the funding streams listed in the draft policy. I feel that over the last five years, we have built up a wealth of knowledge and understanding that would be able to support you in the future.</p> <p>I am sure that colleagues from the Active Exeter working group would also be another resource to help with the distribution process, which could be the subject of future discussion.</p>	<p>future distribution of funding</p>	
<p><b>Age UK Exeter</b></p>	<p>We completely understand the financial pressure the public sector is under and also your desire to have a more open and transparent grants process. I suppose the difficulty for us is to lose the surety of a rent support grant that has contributed enormously to our sustainability over the years for the uncertainty of one-off grants via CIL funding that can only be used for refurbishment purposes.</p> <p>We are pleased to see that a Community Buildings fund is being proposed to help with running costs and I hope our centre in Cowick Street, which is a community resource, would qualify for such support. I would also hope that the unrestricted funds we put towards these running costs would count as matched funding rather than having to go down the crowd-funding route.</p>	<p>Concerns over loss of rent grant</p> <p>Community buildings Fund to support centre in future?</p> <p>Support for older people to claim benefits – links with Citizens Advice.</p>	<p>We will shortly be opening the tender for the information and advice service and I will let you know how to access this information.</p> <p>The Leader is keen to see community buildings used more comprehensively and in an integrated way. If you haven't already you may want to link up with the St Thomas community association to look for partnership/joint working</p>

	<p>We are particularly interested in your plan to commission a city-wide independent information service. Our Information and Advice Service responds to over 2,500 enquiries each year and every year supports older people in the city to claim over £1m in additional benefits. We work closely with Exeter Citizens Advice and I would see our two organisations as being well placed to take on such a role.</p> <p>Finally, while this process introduces more uncertainty, in an already uncertain world, my board and all of us at Age UK Exeter are committed to working constructively with the council to ensure that Exeter can be a great place to live for everyone, whatever their circumstances.</p>		<p>opportunities in relation to the sharing of community spaces.</p>
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<b>Red Quadrant Listening Exercise and Consulation Participants</b>		
<b>Organisations which responded to survey:</b>		
Citizens Advice Exeter Barnfield Theatre Ltd Double Elephant Print Workshop Food Exeter	Pinhoe Community Club Merry Go Round Toy Library Trews Weir Reach Field 1 Allotments (didn't make any responses) Devon Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Services	STCA Park Life Heavitree Turntable Plus one social group which didn't give their name.
<b>Organisations that booked a place to attend Focus groups:</b>		
Wellbeing Exeter - Community builders Estuary League of friends Countess Wear 100 Club Short Mat Bowls club Be the Change Newtown Community Association America Hall Wood for Good Newcourt Community Association St Thomas Community Association St James Vegetable Garden Exeter Communities Together Wonford Planters Words, Theatre, Music, Dreams	Substance and Shadow Theatre St David Neighbourhood Partnership Heavitree Running Group Exeter Literary Festival Stoke Hill Community Association Sylvania Environment and Community Project. The Palace Gate The Club Eager Spark Blind ditch Make Tank Exeter Community Transport Association Exeter Citizens Advice	Daisi Exeter Water Sports Association Age UK Exeter Barnfield Theatre Double Elephant Wonford Community and Learning Centre Magic Carpet Topsham Community Association Exeter St James Community Trust Ltd Exeter Scrapstore Alphington Community Association Turntable

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### Equalities Impact Assessment: Exeter Community Grants Programme

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

#### Introduction

In 2018 the Council identified a need to modernise the current community and arts grants programmes. An independent review was commissioned and completed with a report published on the findings in October 2018. In February 2019 the Executive approved in principle proposals for future policy and mandated the Directors, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Communities and Culture, to draft policy for public consultation to commence in March with a final report to be presented to Council in July 2019.

A key aim is to achieve a new policy and approach that will provide a sustainable funding pipeline for community and arts grants through the Neighbourhood Proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the New Homes Bonus and funds other than General Fund. Executive Committee are now being asked to consider the report and recommend that Council adopts and mobilises the new Exeter Grants Programme and established the Exeter City Grant Fund to address the demands that development places on the city.

**Stakeholders:** Residents, Elected Members, Community and Voluntary Sector

**Main beneficiaries of the new programme are::** Residents and community groups across the city who will be supported to create community solutions to local issues and better link grant funds to deliver city council priorities of addressing inequalities, improving health and wellbeing, getting people active, finding creative community-based solutions to locally defined problems and developing community buildings, assets and green spaces to enhance our city.

### **Consultation**

Extensive listening exercise was undertaken in 2018 to review the current grant programme and a formal public consultation on the proposal was completed in 2019 and amendments made. No specific actives were targeted at people with protected characteristic within the consultation programme but a wide range of community and voluntary organisations were invited and encouraged to participate with focus groups and discussions independently facilitated. Online questions were made available through council website and social media channels.

For each of the areas below, an assessment has been made on whether the programme will have a **positive, negative or neutral impact**, and brief details of why this conclusion has been reached and notes of any mitigation are included. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

**High impact** – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

**Medium impact** –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

**Low impact** – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

Protected characteristic/ area of interest		Impact
<b>Race and ethnicity</b> (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers asylum seekers etc.)	The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future.	Positive
<b>Disability:</b> as defined by the Equality Act - a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.	The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future.	Positive
<b>Sex/Gender</b>	The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future.	Positive
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future.	Positive
<b>Religion and belief</b> (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such as Buddhism and sects within religions)	The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future	Positive
<b>Sexual orientation</b> (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual)	The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future.	Positive
<b>Age</b> (children and young people aged 0 – 24, adults aged 25 – 50, younger older people aged 51 – 75/80; older people 81+; frail older people; people living with age related conditions. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).	The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future	Positive

**Actions identified that will mitigate any future negative impacts and/or promote inclusion**

Concerns put forward during the consultation in relation to equalities are

- Some groups being more able than others to benefit from crowdfunding using digital platforms or other means
- Some groups having more opportunity and resources to find match funding for their projects
- Literacy, numeracy, language and other skills impacting on the ability and confidence of some groups to put in applications for funding
- Older people potentially being disadvantaged in the use of digital platforms
- Younger people being potentially disadvantaged in not having knowledge and awareness of the grants programme

These actions will assist in mitigation

- Not all grants will require match funding
- Application process will be simple and easy to use and opportunities will be widely promoted through community and other networks
- Wellbeing Exeter Community Builders in each ward will be available to support community groups
- The introduction of a commissioning approach for strategic service provision within the new system is a particularly positive benefit for reducing inequality, as these services will be specifically targeted at people with greatest needs including those with protected characteristics.
- As mobilisation takes place officers will monitor the impact of the new programme on people with protected characteristics as set out in the Disability Act (2010) and seek opportunities to promote the new programme to these and other potentially disadvantaged groups in particular.

**Officer:** Dawn Rivers Communities Programme Manager  
June 2019

## APPENDIX 4

### Equality Impact Assessment - Exeter Community Grants Programme Transition Impacts on previous grant receiving organisations

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

#### Introduction

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In 2018 the Council identified a need to modernise the current community and arts grants programmes. An independent review was commissioned and completed with a report published on the findings in October 2018. In February 2019 the Executive approved in principle proposals for future policy and mandated the Directors, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Communities and Culture, to draft policy for public consultation to commence in March with a final report to be presented to Council in July 2019.

A key aim is to achieve a new policy and approach that will provide a sustainable funding pipeline for community and arts grants through the Neighbourhood Proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the New Homes Bonus and funds other than General Fund. Executive Committee are now being asked to consider the report and recommend that Council adopts and mobilises the new Exeter Grants Programme

and established the Exeter City Grant Fund to address the demands that development places on the city.

Interim arrangements were agreed in March 2019 to provide some grant funding to organisation who have traditionally had annual core and rent grants under the old system. This was to provide some security of funding to these organisations whilst formal consultation took place on the proposed future arrangements.

**Stakeholders:** Residents, Elected Members, Community and Voluntary Sector

**Main beneficiaries of the new programme are:** Residents and community groups across the city who will be supported to create community solutions to local issues and better link grant funds to deliver city council priorities of addressing inequalities, improving health and wellbeing, getting people active, finding creative community-based solutions to locally defined problems and developing community buildings, assets and green spaces to enhance our city.

### Consultation

Extensive listening exercise was undertaken in 2018 to review the current grant programme and a formal public consultation on the proposal was completed in 2019 and amendments made. No specific activities were targeted at people with protected characteristic within the consultation programme but a wide range of community and voluntary organisations were invited and encouraged to participate with focus groups and discussions independently facilitated. Online questions were made available through council website and social media channels.

For each of the areas below, an assessment has been made on whether the programme will have a positive, negative or neutral impact, in relation to the services provided by specific organisations who have been in receipt of Council core and rent grants and brief details of why this conclusion has been reached and notes of any mitigation are included. Where the impact is negative, a high, medium or low assessment is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

For each of the areas below, an assessment has been made on whether the policy has a **positive, negative or neutral impact**, and brief details of why this decision was made and notes of any mitigation are included. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

**High impact** – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

**Medium impact** – some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

**Low impact** – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

Protected characteristic/ area of		Impact
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<b>interest</b>		
<b>Race and ethnicity</b> (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers asylum seekers etc.)	The council does not currently provide any grant to organisations that specifically work with, provide services for people or are led by people who have black or minority ethnic heritage. The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future.	Positive
<b>Disability</b> (as defined by the Equality Act - a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This can include mental health conditions, long term illnesses such as cancer and HIV, cognitive issues, learning disabilities and sensory impairments)	Exe Access have written to the Council to say that a reduction in grant may lead to reduced opening times which may reduce access for disabled people to community transport for shops and attractions and may restrict day to day living for some disabled people.  The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future.	High
<b>Sex/Gender</b>	Devon Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Services have written to the council to say the reduction in the rent grant may impact on service delivery.  The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up the potential for these organisations to benefit from funding opportunities in the future.	High
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	The council does not currently provide any grant to organisations that specifically work with, provide services for people or are led by people who have undergone gender reassignment. The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future	Positive
<b>Religion and belief</b> (includes no	The council does not currently provide any grant to	

belief, some philosophical beliefs such as Buddhism and sects within religions)	organisations that specifically work with, provide services for people or are led by people who have a particular religious belief or none. It cannot provide funding for proselytising however the proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future	Positive
<b>Sexual orientation</b> (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual)	The council does not currently provide any grant to organisations that specifically work with, provide services for people or are led by people who have undergone gender reassignment. The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future	Positive
<b>Age</b> (children and young people aged 0 – 24, adults aged 25 – 50, younger older people aged 51 – 75/80; older people 81+; frail older people; people living with age related conditions. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).	Age UK Exeter provides services to older adults (over 50). Age UK Exeter have written to the council to say the reduction in the grant may impact on service delivery. The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from funding in the future	Positive
<b>Community relations</b>		
<b>Human Rights</b>		
<b>Actions identified that will mitigate any future negative impacts and/or promote inclusion</b>		
<p>Council officers have responded to requests from individual organisations for advice and support and some of this is on-going in relation to individual organisations. Liaison and networking will continue with forums in the city that represent the interests of place based and special interest groups.</p> <p>The introduction of a commissioning approach for strategic service provision within the new system is a particularity positive benefit for reducing inequality, as these services will be specifically targeted at people with greatest needs including those with protected characteristics. This includes the commissioning of the Voluntary and Community Sector Support Service to provide support to community groups and organisations to focus on working sustainably to make a difference and create change.</p> <p>As mobilisation takes place officers will monitor the impact of the new programme on people with protected characteristics as set out in the Disability Act (2010) and seek opportunities to promote the new programme to these and other potentially disadvantaged</p>		

groups in particular.

**Officer:** Dawn Rivers Communities Programme Manager  
June 2019

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## APPENDIX 5

Summary of Issues Resulting from the transition from the Old to the New Grants Programme		June 2019
Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations (ACE NPO's): ECC grants are linked to 4 year contracts.	Funding agreed for 19/20	Notes regarding residual risks and issues
Exeter Phoenix	£92,000	General revenue transferred to Tourism and Culture Directorate to create a revenue budget in relation to ECC/NPO contracts.
Exeter Northcott Theatre	£65,000	
Theatre Alibi	£15,360	
Libraries Unlimited	£10,000	
Kaleider	£8,000	
<b>Core grants 50% of 2018/19 core grant in 2019/20</b>		
Exeter Citizens Advice Bureau	£42,400	Some risk remains with this organisation who will need to seek additional funding streams to make up shortfall or deuce services. CAB have indicated they will tender for the proposed Information, Advice and Advocacy Contract
ExeAccess (Exeter Community Transport Association)	£8,620	Council Leader is having discussion with Devon County Council on a one-off grant to assist Exe Access to develop a more sustainable business model
Age UK Exeter	£2,500	These organisations will be able to apply for new grants once the new Exeter Grant Programme is mobilised
Magic Carpet	£750	
Merry Go Round Toy and Leisure Library	£500	
<b>Rent Grants for Community Associations Funded from Neighbourhood CIL for 2019/20</b>		<b>Funding agreed for 19/20</b>
Topsham Community Association – Matthews Hall	£8,750	These organisations will be able to apply for new grants once the new Exeter Grant Programme is mobilised
Stoke Hill Community Association - St Katherine's Priory	£8,300	
Exeter Community Initiatives - Exwick Community Centre	£6,500	

Wonford Community and Learning Centre Ltd	£6,250	
Alphington Community Association	£6,000	
Newcourt Community Association	£6,000	
Sylvania Community Facilities Association	£1,550	
Stoke Hill Pre School Group	£833	
<b>All other rent grants funded at 50% of 2018/19 grant for 19/20 with the exception of Exeter Phoenix due to ACE NPO 4 year contract</b>	<b>Funding agreed for 19/20</b>	
Exeter Phoenix	£51,098	General revenue transferred to Tourism and Culture Directorate to create a revenue budget in relation to ECC/NPO contracts.
Citizens Advice Bureau	£19,664	Some risk remains with this organisation who will need to seek additional funding streams to make up shortfall or reduce services. CAB will need to liaise with City Council Corporate property Services with any issues in relation to their current lease agreements as their rent grants will not be renewed. CAB have indicated they will tender for the proposed Information, Advice and Advocacy Contract
Exeter BMX Racing Club	£9,870	Council has renegotiated terms of the lease due to the nature of the property rented
Exeter Cycle Speedway Club	£6,509	
Age UK Exeter	£8,700	These organisation will need to liaise with City Council Corporate property Services with any issues in relation to their current lease agreements as their rent grants will not be renewed.
Exeter Relate	£3,460	
Barnfield Theatre	£6,053	
Exeter Water Sports Association	£4,080	
Devon Rape Crisis Service Ltd	£2,900	
The Scrapstore (Hut 2 Belmont Park)	£3,100	These organisation will need to liaise with City Council Corporate property Services with any issues in relation to their current lease agreements as their rent grants will not be renewed. However council willing to explore Asset Transfer options as requested
The Scrapstore (Gatehouse and 2 storage containers at CH)	£1,000	
Topsham Museum	£2,779	