

EXETER CITY COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY
5 MARCH 2013

COMMUNITY GRANTS 2012 /13

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update on the allocation of Ward Grants and City Grants in 2012/13 and to propose a reduction in the maximum amount of a City Grant in 2013/14.

2. BACKGROUND

This is the second year where funds have been made available to support residents and community groups in building stronger and more resilient communities across Exeter. The grants support community-led initiatives that encourage volunteering. The funding also enables Members to support community initiatives in their wards.

3. ALLOCATION OF GRANTS IN 2012/13

3.1 Ward Grants

Ward Grants are awarded to community groups to deliver local projects, or as a contribution towards small capital expenditure projects. For 2012/13 a sum of £36,000 (£3,000 per ward), was made available for Community Grants from the New Homes Bonus Local Infrastructure fund. Community Groups are able to apply for a grant of up to £300. Decisions on the award of these grants are made jointly by the relevant ward councillors. The grants have been actively promoted throughout the year with information targeted directly at school, church, health, community and resident groups, they have also been promoted through social media and press releases to local media. A summary of Community Grants awarded up to February 7th 2013 is attached at Annex A.

3.2 City Grants

City Grants are awarded to community groups that are delivering a service/project to residents from a number of wards or to residents from across the city. For 2012/13 a sum of £20,000 was made available for City Grants and a maximum of £3,000 per group can be awarded. City Grants are decided by a city-wide panel which is made up of the Lead Councillor for Community Involvement and a representative from each of the other political groups on the Council. A summary of City Grants awarded up to February 7th 2013 is attached at Annex A.

4. ISSUES AND PROPOSALS

4.1 Overall the Council's grants continue to prove popular but, as in the first year of the scheme, there is inconsistency across wards in the take up of Community Grants. In 2012/13 some wards have received more applications than can be funded (Priory, Exwick, St.Thomas, Heavitree, Mincinglake, Pinhoe and Whipton) and other wards have received very few applications. Three wards carried forward more than £500 from 2011/12. It should be possible to carry forward unspent funds into 2013/14 but there is a risk of some wards developing a significant surplus. Ward Members will continue to be supported in allocating their ward grants within the financial year.

4.2 The City Grants funding was immediately popular with groups wanting to deliver services across the city. The fund was launched in June 2012 on a first come-first served basis. A significant portion of the funds were allocated in the first round with only limited funds then

being available for the remainder of the year. To deal with this situation, subsequent applicants were asked to supply information about which wards their project covered. This information was used to support multiple Ward Grants. By doing this, 20 City Grant applications were dealt with as 57 Ward Grant applications. This enabled us to continue providing support to community groups who would otherwise have been unsuccessful, but has the disadvantage of being time consuming to administer. In order to overcome this issue it is proposed that the maximum City Grant be reduced from £3,000 to £2,000. This will mean that the Council will be able to support more groups across the city.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that Scrutiny Committee notes this report and supports the proposal to reduce the maximum City Grant from £3,000 to £2,000.

BRUCE LUXTON
CORPORATE MANAGER, POLICY, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report:
None

Allocation of Ward Grants and City Grants in 2012/13

Ward grants

Applications received	Carried over from 2011/12	Total applied for	Total Awarded	Amount to be awarded	
Alphington	7	0	2,000	2,000	0
Cowick	7	255	1,736	1,736	519
Duryard	9	540	1,835	1,735	805
Exwick	9	17	2,336	2,036	-19
Heavitree	10	0	2,600	2,000	0
Mincinglake	8	0	1,700	1,700	300
Newtown	8	0	1,900	1,900	100
Pennsylvania	9	105	1,968	1,668	437
Pinhoe	12	0	2,438	1,338	662
Polsloe	8	200	1,682	1,382	818
Priory	9	0	2,600	1,700	300
St David's	12	0	2,840	2,000	0
St James	8	90	1,950	1,950	140
St Leonard's	3	137	550	550	1,587
St Loyes	6	510	1,186	1,186	1,324
St Thomas	10	0	2,300	2,036	-36
Topsham	11	538	2,728	2,418	120
Whipton Barton	9	0	2,000	2,000	0
Total	155	£2,392	£36,349	£31,335	£7,057

City Grants

Organisation	Amount applied for (£)	Amount awarded (£)
SoberLink	3,000	1,500
Home-Start Exeter	3,000	1,500
Trefoil Lodge	2,750	1,750
SOS Global	2,500	500
Carousel Project	3,000	3,000
SPACE	700	700
Hospital Radio Exeter	2,000	1,000
ISCA Wheelchair Dancers	2,400	1,000
Refugee Support Week	880	880
Devon Development Education	2,000	1,000
Exeter District Woodcraft Folk	2,600	2,600
Over 50s Social club	300	300
D&C Police Lifeskills	1,000	500
ECTA	700	700
Phonic FM	2,400	500
Chestnut Childrens Centre	1,000	250
Exeter Pride	1,500	1,000
Exeter Eagles BMX Club	3,000	500
	34,730	19,180