

EXETER CITY COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY
8 NOVEMBER 2011

COMMUNITY GRANTS 2011/12

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the dispersal of Local Area Community Grants 2011/12.

2. BACKGROUND

Some of the main drivers for this work:

- To support Members in determining and supporting the development of community initiatives in their ward.
- To promote opportunities for residents to become more actively involved in building stronger and more resilient communities across Exeter.

3. COMMUNITY GRANTS

- 3.1 A sum of £27,000, or £1,500 for each ward, has been made available in 2011/12 via ward councillors to support groups to deliver community initiatives or towards small capital - expenditure projects. Groups can apply for a grant of up to £300 from each ward. City wide groups are able to apply across a number of wards to raise larger sums of grant funding to deliver services to a wider section of residents. The grants are intended to encourage and support community led initiatives that encourage volunteering and to provide funding towards resources and initiatives identified by community groups.
- 3.2 The grants were promoted to resident and community groups in the city from June 2011. This was achieved through targeted information to community and resident groups on the city council data base, flyers distributed through Exeter CVS newsletter – which is distributed to all registered groups with ECVS, and through press releases to local media.
- Appendix I provides a breakdown of awards made in each ward (correct as of 25 October)
- 3.3 Some wards (Alphington, Priory, Newtown, Pinhoe and St. Thomas) have been active in submitting applications, predominantly because of the number of active groups in the area. In some of these wards, the amount applied for has exceeded the amount available. This situation has been eased by liaising with the relevant County Councillor who has often agreed to support the 'overflow' applications from their Devon County Council Locality Budget. These wards now have small amounts of grant money remaining (Newtown and St Thomas have none) and the councillors have been advised that they may wish to liaise with each other before encouraging more community groups to apply for what is left.
- 3.4 There is considerable disparity between wards with some areas having received more applications than can be funded (Alphington and Priory) and other wards where there are very few applications.
- 3.5 The current grant scheme runs until the end of the financial year (March 2012). Thought could now be given to how this fund might be managed over the remaining months.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 To send targeted publicity to groups in areas where grant funding is still available (this has already started). To advise members of funds still available for their wards. To set a deadline for spending based on remaining ward budgets – suggested date 31st December. After this deadline, all unspent money will be put into a single, central pot and promoted again to all groups across the city to be allocated on the basis of first come, first served regardless of which ward the application comes from. The decision making process would remain the same i.e. councillors where the project would be delivered would be asked to decide if the project should receive funding. This would effectively redistribute the available funds to areas where there is most need and ensure that the grant funding is fully utilised by the end of this financial year.

5. RECOMMENDED

That Scrutiny Committee - Community note progress on the distribution of Community Grants across Exeter.

Bindu Arjoon
Assistant Chief Executive

S:PA/LP/1111SCC13
25.10.11

CHIEF EXECUTIVES'S DEPARTMENT

APPENDIX I

Date: October 2011

	Applications Received	Declined or withdrawn	Awards Granted	Amount applied for	Amount Awarded	Cash remaining
	<i>Updated manually - as at 24/10/11</i>			Updated as live from spreadsheet		
Alphington	7	2	5	£1,525	£1,245	£255
Cowick	2		1	£495	£195	£1,305
Duryard	2		1	£360	£60	£1,440
Exwick	5		4	£1,333	£1033	£467
Heavitree	5		1	£1,258	£300	£1,200
Mincinglake	5		5	£1,440	£1,300	£200
Newtown	8		8	£1,900	£1,500	£0
Pennsylvania	4		4	£1,095	£1,095	£405
Pinhoe	6		5	£1,596	£1,296	£204
Polsloe	1		1	£300	£100	£1,400
Priory	9	4	4	£1,263	£963	£537
St David's	7		5	£1,510	£910	£590
St James	3		3	£510	£510	£990
St Leonard's	5		5	£913	£913	£587
St Loyes	4		3	£1,108	£900	£600
St Thomas	7		7	£1,845	£1,500	£0
Topsham	3		1	£603	£200	£1,300
Whipton Barton	3		3	£795	£795	£705
Total	86	6	63	£19,849	£14,215	£12,785