

EXETER BOARD

Members of Exeter City and Devon County Councils have agreed to establish a Joint Board comprising the nine County Councillors for Exeter and five members of the City Council.

Both Councils recognise the benefits that such a Board will bring: addressing issues of common interest; using the proposed community budget for projects of community benefit across the City and to help access to a wider pool of funding and supporting neighbourhood/community development.

Its terms of reference are as follows:-

- To improve information and communication about access to City and County Council services
- To advise the City and County Councils about the needs of Exeter's residents and communities
- To consider funding proposals of strategic, political or financial significance that will have an impact on the City and its communities
- To contribute to financial efficiencies through effective partnership working across the City
- To make recommendations to the City and County Councils about the quality and performance of services
- To contribute to effective partnership working across the City
- To support and engage with communities and neighbourhoods in identifying priorities and finding ways to meet local needs
- To enable groups and communities to influence and shape local public services
- To allocate community funding to projects of community or citywide relevance.

The first Board Meeting on 24 July 2012 approved the above and added the following:-

- To jointly work to contribute to financial efficiencies through effective partnership working across the City, supporting and engaging communities and neighbourhoods in identifying priorities and finding ways to meet local needs; and accordingly
- Representatives from the voluntary, business, health, police, further and Higher Education, inter-faith and cathedral communities be invited to participate in a future meeting, as appropriate, as "associate members"
- That an "open form be allowed for the public to ask questions and raise issues relevant to the work of both Councils (time limited to 15 minutes in total (and normally 3 minutes before each speaker))
- That meeting of the Board be held at 6pm (now 5.30pm) in publicly accessible venues
- That a Members Sub Group comprising the Chair, Deputy Chairman, Councillors Hannaford, Newcombe and Spence be authorised to consider and approve applications for grants from the Board's community budget fund.

The Exeter Board has a joint Community Grant fund. The joint fund will enable Councillors to respond to local needs across the City and support projects or activities for the benefit of communities they represent.