

**Exeter City Council**

**Exeter Community Grants Programme Review**

**Internal Report**

**December 2023**

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# Exeter Community Grants Programme Review

December 2023

## Executive Summary

The Exeter Community Grants programme was agreed in July 2019 following extensive listening and consultation. Stakeholder and community feedback was taken into account and the following framework was implemented in December 2019.

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.

On adopting the new policy, Council agreed to a review in 3 years, this review has been postponed due to Covid and is now being undertaken to assess the impact of the programme, identify future priorities and funding strategies as part of the annual Medium Term Financial Planning (MTFP) cycle.

The total spent on grants during the period 2019/2023 was £882,979 through 599 grants.

Amount awarded Grant Type	19/20	20/21	21/2	22/23	Total	Nos
Community Building Grant	£42,000	£15,000	£15,000	£17,000	£89,000	19
Covid Community Action Fund		£118,935			£118,935	90
Large Grant			£19,600	£59,100	£78,700	12
Small Grant	£22,185	£9,700	£17,500	£44,815	£94,200	52
Strategic Grant	£180,000		£161,414		£341,414	8
Ward Grant	£40,634	£29,171	£46,074	£35,012	£150,890	398
Warm Spaces				£9,840	£9,840	20
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£284,819</b>	<b>£172,805</b>	<b>£259,588</b>	<b>£165,767</b>	<b>£882,979</b>	<b>599</b>

The ECC grants programme has injected over £880,000 into the community over the last 4 years, this is a significant sum for the Council, but it is 0.6% of all the income received by charities in the City. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) reports that in 2019/20 Exeter had 360 registered charities in the city with a combined annual income of £127.25 million. This ranks Exeter in the top quartile of all England's local authorities in terms of the amount of charitable funding secured by charities registered within the city.

## Key Findings

### Community Grants

1. The majority of all available funding has been spent on buildings and building renovations in particular. With 8 building renovation projects consuming 30% of all funding.
2. Priority Neighbourhoods are not getting a higher share of the money or even an equal share.

3. There are currently no restrictions on the number of grants an organisation can apply for. Smaller, local community groups are potentially being disadvantaged with the majority of funding being awarded to larger, better resourced organisations. 59% of all available funding was awarded to 15 organisations.
4. Ward grants arguably have greatest potential reach - 17% of all funding into 67% (398) of all grants – compared to other grants, yet some Councillors, particularly in our most disadvantaged areas are not utilising the funds which are underspent year on year.
5. There is limited financial diligence undertaken prior to larger grants being awarded and some of the organisations may be able to secure funding from sources other than the Council and the funds better directed to projects more aligned with the Councils strategic aims and objectives.
6. With limited impact data it is difficult to assess what benefit the target communities have derived from this funding. However, the independent evaluation of Wellbeing Exeter highlights the effectiveness of capacity building work in communities which should encourage the Council to re-think its grant giving on evidence based approaches in order to make best use of the available funds.
7. Professional advice from the sector reminds us how important it is for organisations to demonstrate support for their activities through crowd and match funding, the Councils reluctance to take a more rigorous approach to both match and crowdfunding is potentially acting against its own aim of helping people to help themselves.

### Contracts for Services

8. The Information Advice and Advocacy Contract has improved the working relationship between Citizen Advice Exeter (CAE), Council and other partner organisations, however it is unclear what benefits a contractual arrangement brings over the traditional grant model. The work of the CAE is of significant value and importance to the city however it's apparent that CAE is dependent on the Council for over 1/3 of its core funding: this is a high risk strategy for the CAE and the Council. Should members wish to support the work of a service provider like the CAE in future this will have to be funded from alternative sources other than the NH CIL.
9. The Council has been able to influence the development of Exeter Connect as a new service. There is activity data to indicate that there has been more collaboration across the VCSE sector in the city supported by Exeter Connects network co-ordination work and support for existing and emerging groups/organisations. This was evident by the collaboration that took place during the Covid pandemic when Exeter Connect supported the Exeter Community Wellbeing approach led by the City Council. There is also other significant VCSE co-ordination and networking taking place through Wellbeing Exeter delivered through CoLab Exeter.

### Recommendations

Based on the report finding it is recommended that consideration should be given to the following:

1. A strategic needs assessment of community buildings should take place before any further investment is made in building projects.
2. More stringent targeting should take place alongside proactive promotion of small community grants which could be more effective if linked into the work of Wellbeing Exeter's locality based Community Builders.

3. Allocating grants to addressing specific issues faced predominately in priority neighbourhoods such as digital exclusion, where there is a strong evidence based on effective approaches that deliver measureable impacts.
4. Placing a cap on the amount of grant funding that can be awarded to any one organisation over a 3 year period and also on the number of applications that can be made in any financial year. (Though it is recognised, and would need to be taken into account, that some of the larger organisations (e.g. ECI) act as an umbrella organisation for smaller grass roots groups that are not constituted and do not have their own bank account).
5. The Executive to continue to allow for grant award decisions to be made by members on the cross party Grants Panel but to consider more pro-active monitoring of the deployment of ward grants and reducing the annual allocation to better reflect average annual spend over the last 4 years: £3,000 per ward.
6. That more robust due diligence, including ensuring the receipt of impact evaluation be undertaken prior to the award any grant in excess of £5,000.
7. A re-focus of grant giving on evidence based approaches to make best use of the available funds. This could be achieved by linking ECC community grants into the work of Wellbeing Exeter's locality based Community Builders which would ensure robust impact assessment in line with Wellbeing Exeter policy and practice.
8. Adopting a more explicit and positive approach to match funding.
9. Switching from an open annual rolling grant programmes to a more structured approach opening the grant fund for limited periods 2 or 3 times a year. This would be less resource intensive for staff and members and provides flexibility in managing fluctuations in NHCIL income in year without disrupting the grants programme.
10. When the Information, Advice and Advocacy Contract comes to an end in March 2024 it is not re-tendered. There is no evidence to show that this contract met the needs of development in the area so if Council wish to continue to support the work of the work of CAE in future years this will need to be from other sources of funding than the Neighbourhood CIL. The Council could consider, if funding is available, an annual grant to support the general work of CAE. The council can then make an annual decision as to whether to continue to grant fund the CAE depending on its priorities and the funding available. This is sustainable and best value approach for the Council and also provides clarity for the Trustees of CAE who are responsible for the financial wellbeing of their organisation.
11. As the long term future of Wellbeing Exeter is also under consideration it makes sense for the Council to consider embedding key aspects of the Exeter Connect contract into Wellbeing Exeter's future role. This makes financial and system sense and avoids duplication of effort and spend. If the Council decides to discontinue funding Wellbeing Exeter it could then reconsider if it is a priority for the Council to re-establish a VCSE support organisation in the city.

## The Report

### 1. Context

- 1.1 The Community Grants Programme is now 5 years old; it was established after extensive listening, consultation and legal advice and was adopted by Council in July 2019. On adopting the policy Council agreed to a review in 3 years, this review has been postponed due to Covid and is now being undertaken to assess the impact of the programme, identify future priorities and funding strategies as part of the annual Medium Term Financial Planning (MTFP) cycle.
- 1.2 The objectives agreed for this internal review are to:
1. Complete an analysis of how all community grants have been spent; which organisations have been supported; what impacts the grants have had and in what ways have these met the Council's stated priorities.
  2. Complete an analysis of the activity, impacts and outcomes of the contract for Advice and Advocacy (Citizen Advice Exeter) and VCSE sector support (Exeter Connect) service delivered by Exeter Community Initiatives (ECI)
  3. A report on the findings will be completed to align with annual MTFP and business planning cycles.
  4. Feedback to Members the findings of the Strategic Review of Wellbeing Exeter.
  5. Work with members to assess if the principles and priorities are still relevant and if not how they need to change.
  6. Identify any need for statutory or other stakeholder engagement requirements.
- 1.3 This reports responds to objectives 1- 3 of the review and sets out how the Exeter Community Grants Programme and the underpinning fund have been used to deliver the programme agreed in 2019.
- 1.4 The review has been undertaken internally with contributions from officers within the Active and Healthy People Team. The process has consisted of analysis of internal, routine data gathered from the operation of the Community Grants Programme and contract performance reports.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Following extensive public and stakeholder consultation and an independent review of its art and community grants programmes by Red Quadrant, Council agreed a new modernised approach in July 2019. Key aims were to improve transparency of decision making, simplify the application processes, align grant giving to Council priorities and devise an approach that will provide a sustainable funding pipeline for grants through the Neighbourhood Proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (NHCIL), the New Homes Bonus and funds other than the General Fund.
- 2.2 During 2019 the Council consulted on spending priorities with regard to the NHCIL as required under CIL Regulations 2010 (Regulation 59F) and the underpinning Planning Practice Guidance (PPG Paragraph 73)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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".

- 2.3 The feedback was taken into account and the following framework was implemented in 2019.
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.

### 3. The Grants Programme April 2019 to March 2023

**3.1 Mobilisation Arrangements 2019/2020** The new policy agreed in July 2019 included specific bespoke interim arrangements for 30 organisations to give them time during 2019/20 to restructure their finances to reduce dependency on the Council. The Exeter Grant Programme and Exeter Fund were initially funded from the New Homes Bonus Community Reserve of £265,000 and the NHCIL of £800,000, creating a total fund of £1,065,000. See details of the programme and the funding in the table and chart in Appendix 1.

3.2 The policy clarified that the funding available would be reviewed annually to ensure there was sufficient income to meet commitments and create a buffer to mitigate against late CIL payments or other adjustments to the income predictions.

3.3 The policy allowed for any uncommitted but received funds, (in excess of commitments and minimum requirements for the forthcoming year), to be allocated once a year to a one off Strategic Grant Fund to support bespoke or larger projects. The policy also stipulated that where CIL funds had been used, applicants would need to demonstrate community support for their project and that it satisfies the provisions of Regulation 59F of the CIL Regulations 2010. There was an additional fund of £55,000 funded through Sport England and linked to the Delivery Pilot for 2019/2020 which has been reported on elsewhere so does not feature in this report.

**3.4 Total Grant Spend in 2019/2020** This table shows the actual spend for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. This includes transition funding and the awarding of 3 Strategic Grants totalling £180,000.

Grant Type	Nos of awards	Amount £
Community Building Grant	9	£42,000
Small Grant	10	£22,185
Strategic Grant	3	£180,000
Ward Grant	122	£40,634
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>£284,819</b>

**3.5 Total Grant Spend in 2020/2021** This table shows the actual spend for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This year the programme included a new fund. The COVID-19 Community Action Fund was set up in March 2020 at the outset of the pandemic to help community groups and organisations as they stepped up to help those people most affected.

Grant Type	Nos of awards	Amount £
Community Building Grant	3	£15,000
Covid Community Action Fund	90	£118,935
Small Grant	6	£9,700
Ward Grant	62	£29,171
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>£172,805</b>

**3.6 Total Grant Spend in 2021/2022** The table shows the actual spend for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. This includes award of 5 Strategic Grants totalling £161,414.

Grant Type	Nos of awards	Amount £
Community Building Grant	3	£15,000
Large Grant	2	£19,600
Small Grant	11	£17,500
Strategic Grant	5	£161,414
Ward Grant	103	£46,074
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>£259,588</b>

**3.7 Total Grant Spend in 2022/23** This table shows the actual spend for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. This year funds were diverted to create a new Grant: the Warm Spaces Grant in response to the global issues that led to a hike in energy prices. The majority of these grants were one off payments of £500 to support community associations to offer warm spaces in community buildings for people to meet, and socialise.

Grant Type	Nos of awards	Amount £
Community Building Grant	4	£17,000
Large Grant	10	£59,100
Small Grant	25	£44,815
Ward Grant	111	£35,012
Warm Spaces	20	£9,840
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>£165,767</b>

**3.8 Community Building Grant Spend 2019/2023** The purpose of this fund was to act as a transitional fund to wean organisations who had been become dependent on the Council for rent grants prior to the new policy in 2019. Community Associations were able to apply for a three year grant towards the annual running costs of their community centre up to £5,000 per year. Associations could only apply for a maximum of 50% of their annual rent. Full details are in the table in Appendix 2. This programme was particularly impacted during COVID as activities went on-line and organisations were awarded grants from the COVID Community Action Fund and other central government business relief grants. Over time the transitional purpose of this grant has been lost and grants continued to be given after 21/22. In addition to the above grants a further grant was awarded outside of this programme to Ex Access for both 2022/23 and 2023/24 for a total value of £30,000.

**3.9 Large Grant Spend 2021/2023** This fund was originally established in 2019/20 with £110,000. Due to COVID the grant was not deployed until 2021/22. Voluntary and community groups were

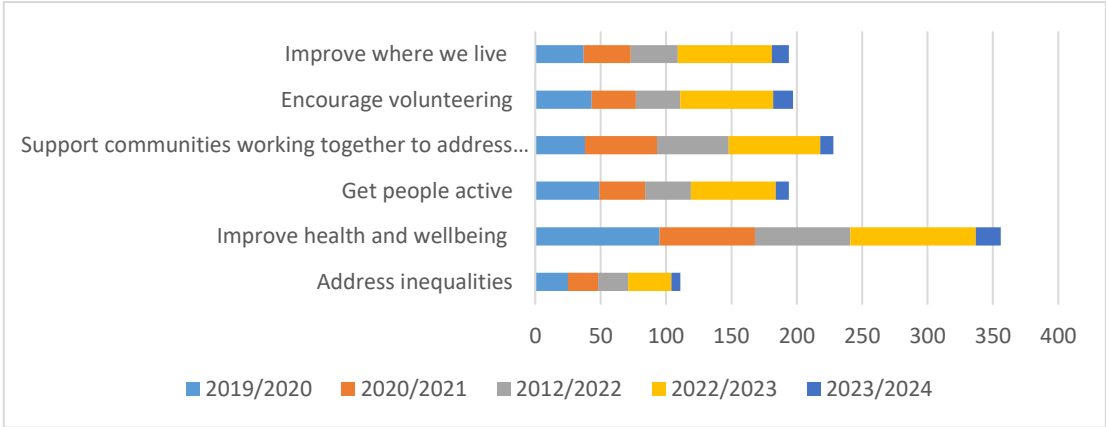


able to apply for a grant of up to £30,000 with a minimum match funding of 50%. This fund will pay towards building or refurbishment costs or the purchase of equipment but cannot be used to fund every day running costs. Applicants needed to demonstrate community support for their project. 12 grants were awarded over the 2 years a set out in the table in Appendix 3.

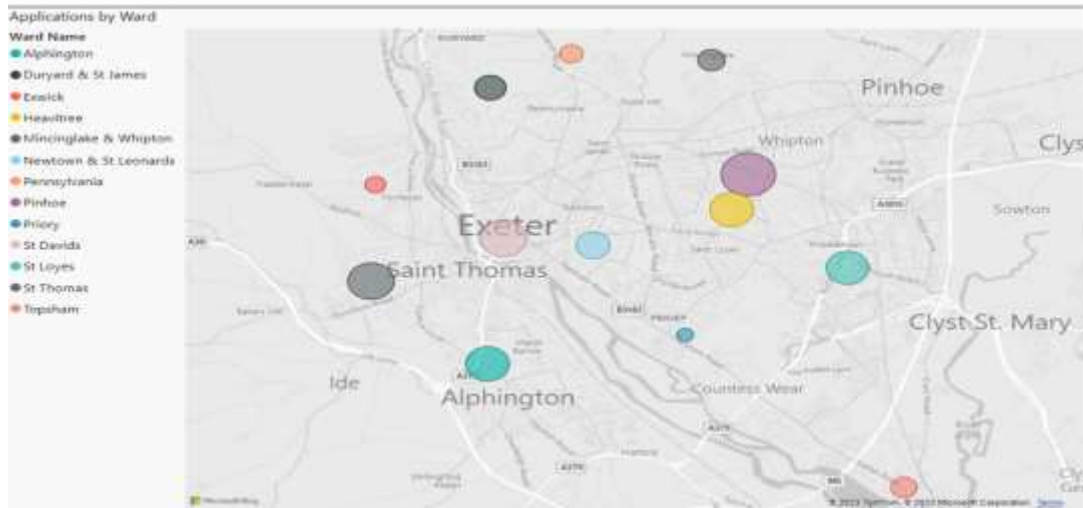
**3.10 Small Grant Fund Spend 2019/2023** The Small Grants fund started in 2019 with £100,000. Voluntary and community groups were able to apply for a grant of up to £3,000 to support any community led initiative to support locally identified needs that tie in with the Council priorities. This fund could be used for putting on or running an event, festival or celebration or for a one-off purchase or repair of equipment. The fund cannot be used to fund every day running costs and applicants needed to demonstrate community support for their project. To be awarded a small grant the applicant would need to show that they had already raised a minimum of 20% match funding which could include volunteering hours. In total over the period 2019/2023 £94,000 was spent on small grants with 46 grant awards being made. Details are in Appendix 4.

**3.11 Ward Grant Spend 2019/2023** A Ward Grant can support a community project, a local community festival, a local theatre production or a craft group. Examples of costs that could be supported include equipment or resources, publicity, materials, and refreshments. Ward grants are for one-off purchases or events and cannot be used for on-going running costs such as wages, utility bills; or rent or fees for facilitators on an ongoing basis etc. Community groups can apply for a maximum grant of £350 from their local ward Councillor. A total allocation of £230,000 was made during the period April 2019/March 2023 of which £150,000 was spent by the end of March 2023. Of the total funding allocated during this period 45% remained unspent. 398 grants were awarded and the vast majority of the 398 ward grants went to registered charities, Community Interest Companies and larger organised community groups. Groups had to be constituted to receive funds. (Some smaller groups applied under the umbrella of a larger organisation). Details in Appendix 5.

3.12 The graph below shows how the 6 Council priorities were most often addressed by applicants for ward grants. Note applicants were able to select more than one priority area within 1 grant application. Health and wellbeing was cited most often action to address inequalities least often. Improving health and wellbeing is the priority most addressed and addressing inequalities is the least.



3.13 The map shows the variation in the amount of grant across the wards: the larger the circle the higher the amount of the grant was awarded. There is widespread variation in spend in each locality despite each ward being allocated the same annual amount for ward grants



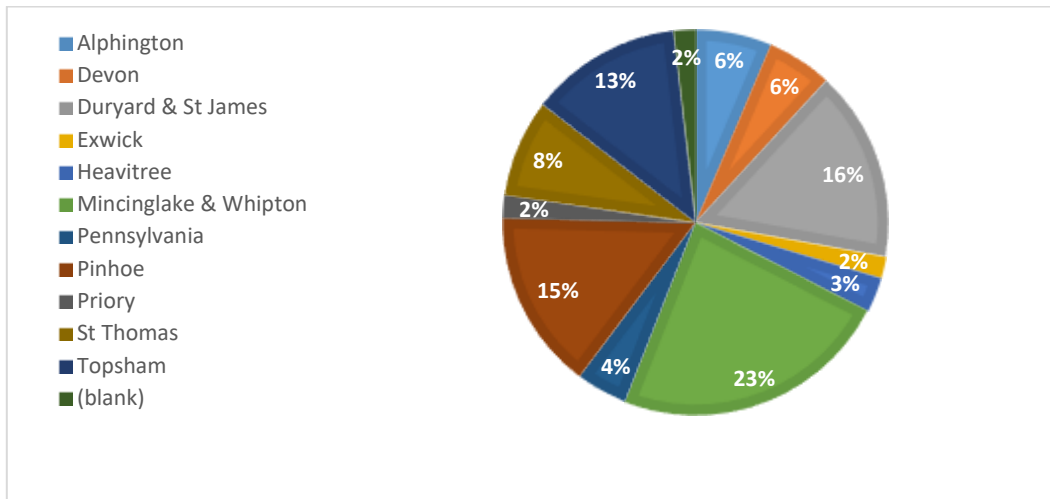
**3.15 Covid Community Action Fund Spend 2020/2021** The fund was set up in 2021 by Exeter City Council and a generous £100,000 contribution from Exeter Chiefs Foundation. The initial fund offered up to £3,000 to community organisations who were facing a loss of income as a result of lockdown. Business Grant support became available from government in May 2020 at which point these £3,000 grants were stopped. The Fund stayed open to support groups and organisations with a one-off grant of up to £1,000 to support projects for community-led activities that aimed to:

- meet urgent needs within the community;
- cover transport costs for getting vital supplies to people isolated at home;
- help people to stay connected and informed, and to
- help people maintain and support mental health and wellbeing.

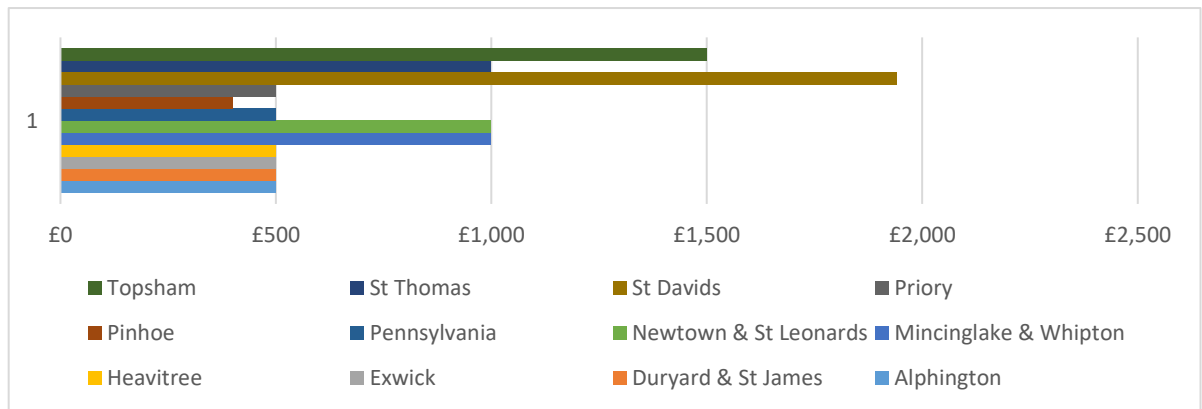
3.16 96 applications were received, of which 49 were for £1,000 or less. The remaining 47 were applications that requested between £1,000 and £3,000.

£1,000 Grant	£3,000 Grant	Overall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 49 applications received</li> <li>• 44 awarded (89.8%)</li> <li>• 5 declined (10.2%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47 applications received</li> <li>• 28 awarded (59.57%)</li> <li>• 19 declined (40.43%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 96 applications</li> <li>• 90 awards =£118,935</li> <li>• 76% of grants were for City-wide projects</li> </ul>

3.17 £118,935 was spent on 90 grants with 54% (£64,103) spent on city-wide groups/activities. The chart below show how the 46% spend on local community groups was spent across the 13 wards. This also shows that £3,000 was spent on Devon-wide projects and we did not record the data for one grant of £1,000.



**3.18 Warm Spaces Grant Spend 2022/2023** This year funds were diverted to create a new Grant: the Warm Spaces Grant in response to the global issues that led to a hike in energy prices. The majority of these grants were one off payments of £500 to support community associations to offer warm spaces in community buildings for people to meet and socialise. In total £9,840 was spent on 20 organisations. The list of these organisations is in appendix 6. The chart below shows the distribution of funding across wards.



**3.19 Strategic Fund Spend 2019/2023** The new policy allowed for any uncommitted but received funds, (in excess of commitments and minimum requirements for the forthcoming year), to be allocated once a year to a one off Strategic Grant Fund to support bespoke or larger projects. The table below shows the 8 strategic grants awarded. The amount awarded to these 8 organisations equals 39% of all available funding during the review period.

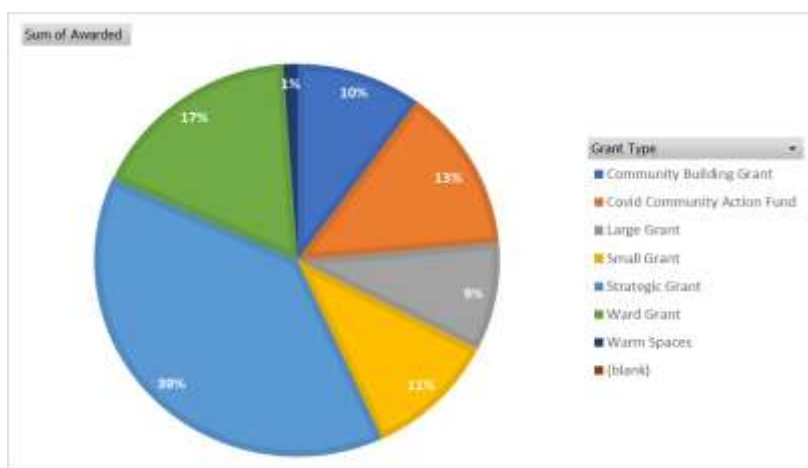
Strategic Grant	Total
Exeter Community Centre Trust Ltd (2019/2020)	80,000
Park Life Heavitree (2019/2020)	70,000
Exwick Community Association (2019/2020)	60,000
St. Boniface Church, Whipton (2021/2022)	50,000
Alphington Community Association (2021/2022)	30,000
St Sidwell Street Bakehouse and Cookery School (2021/2022)	19,826
Sylvania Community Stores and Café (2021/2022)	19,000
Positive Light Projects Creative Hub (2021/2022)	12,588
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£341,414</b>

## 4. Overview: All Grants

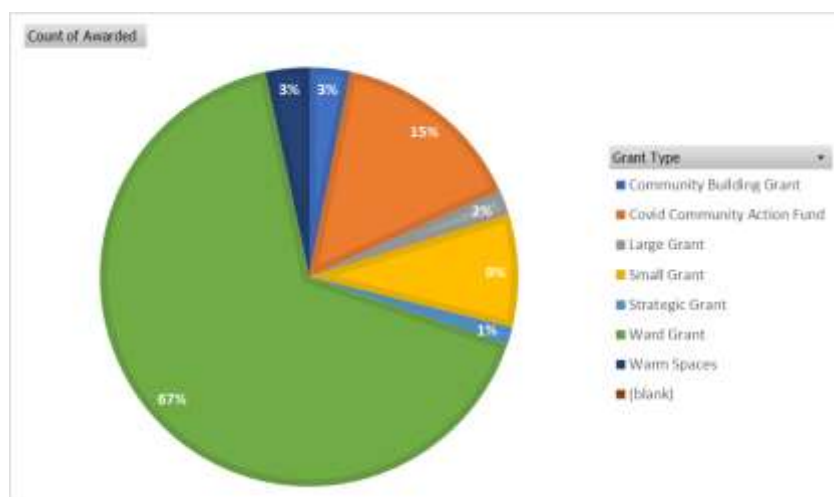
4.1 This table show the amount of grant awarded 2019 – 2023 by grant type. The total spent on grants during the period 2019/2023 was £882,979 through 599 grants.

Amount awarded Grant Type	19/20	Nos	20/21	Nos	21/2	Nos	22/23	Nos	Total	Nos
Community Building Grant	£42,000	9	£15,000	3	£15,000	3	£17,000	4	£89,000	19
Covid Community Action Fund			£118,935	90					£118,935	90
Large Grant					£19,600	2	£59,100	10	£78,700	12
Small Grant	£22,185	10	£9,700	6	£17,500	11	£44,815	25	£94,200	52
Strategic Grant	£180,000	3			£161,414	5			£341,414	8
Ward Grant	£40,634	122	£29,171	62	£46,074	103	£35,012	111	£150,890	398
Warm Spaces							£9,840	20	£9,840	20
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£284,819</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>£172,805</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>£259,588</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>£165,767</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>£882,979</b>	<b>599</b>

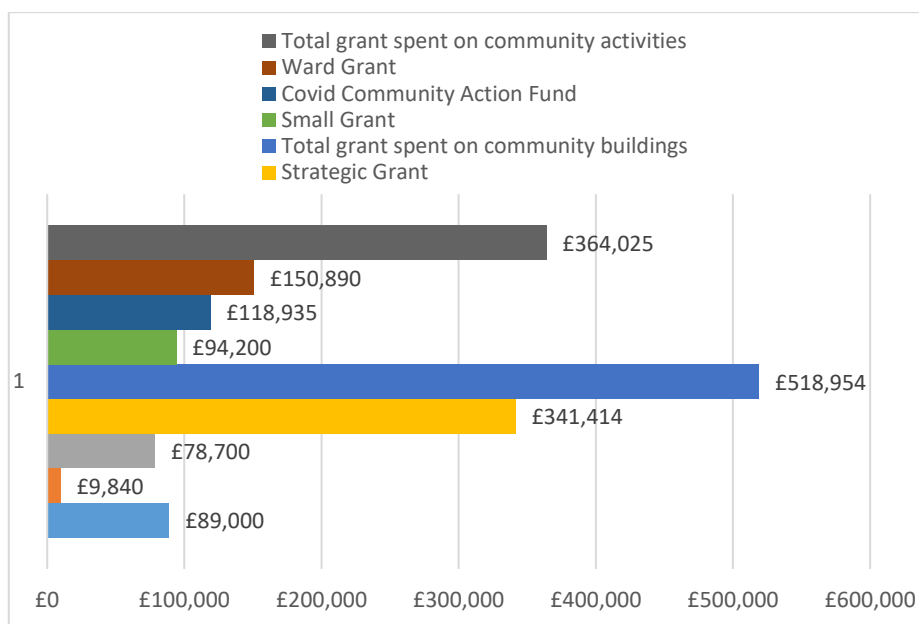
4.2 Between 2019 and 2023 39% of all available funds was spent on strategic grants and 17% of all available funds was spent on ward grants as shown in the chart below.



4.3 This next chart shows the percentage of grants by each grant type. 67% of all grants were from the ward grant fund and this consumed 17% of the money where as only 1% of all grants were supported by the Strategic Fund yet these grants consumed 39% of all the available funding.



4.4 The Strategic Fund, Large Grants Fund, Community Buildings Fund and the Warm Grants Fund awarded funding for community buildings, either for the development of buildings or their running costs. A total of £518,954 was spent on community buildings which is 59% of all available funding. The amounts are shown in the graph below.



4.5 There are no restrictions on the number of grants an organisation can apply for. This table shows the top ranking organisations in terms of the number of grants across all types they have received over the period. Some may have applied for more but been rejected: this data only relates to successful applications.

Organisation	Nos	Organisation	Nos
Newtown Community Association	15	Park Life Heavitree	6
Interwoven Productions CIC	13	Polsloe Community Association	6
SOS Global	11	Exeter St James Community Trust Ltd	6
Freemovement UK CIC	11	100 Club Community Group	6
Whipton Community Association	9	Exeter City Community Trust	5
Alphington Community Association	8	The Estuary League of Friends	5
Wonford Community & Learning Centre	8	Sylvania Community Stores and Café	5
Stoke Hill AFC	8	St Leonards Neighbourhood Assoc	5
Cowick Roots and Recreation	8	Digby Community Association	5
Inclusive Exeter CIC	8	Exeter Communities Together CIC	5
St Thomas Community Association	7	Pinhoe Community Centre	5
Heavitree Friendly Library	7	Isca Community Enterprises	5

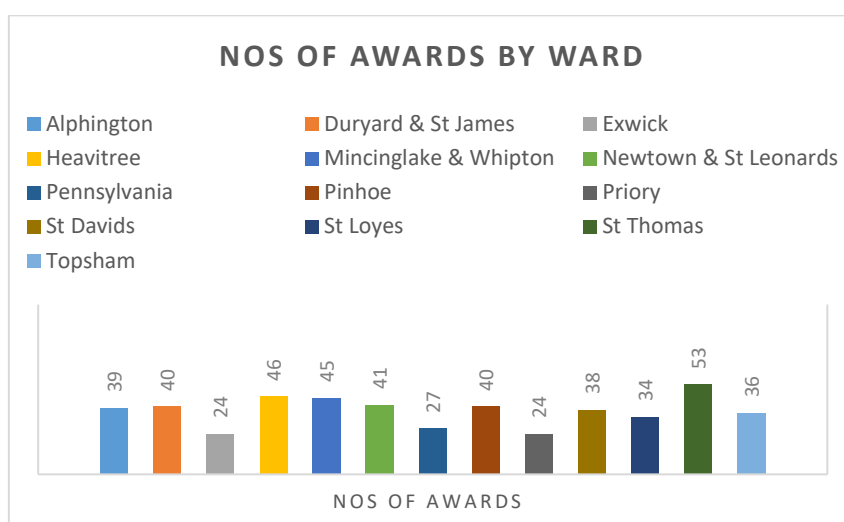
4.6 The table below lists the 15 organisation who received over £10,000 during this 4 year period. Between them, these 15 organisations had more than half of all the available funding.

Organisation	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	Grand Total
Exeter Community Centre Trust Ltd	£80,000		£500		£80,500
Park Life Heavitree	£73,500	£600		£850	£74,950
Exwick Community Centre Improvement			£60,000		£60,000

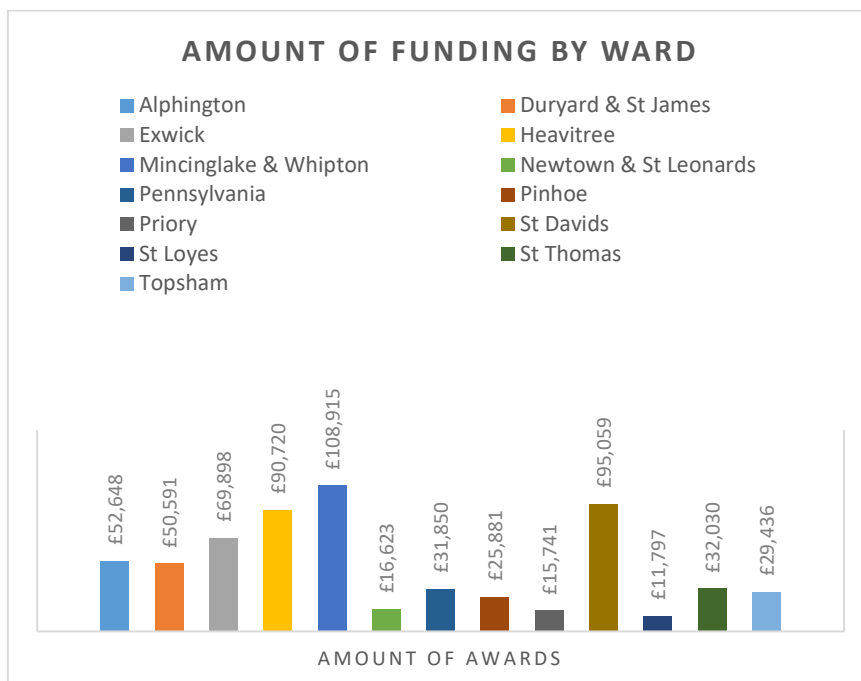
St. Boniface Church, Whipton			£50,000		£50,000
Alphington Community Association	£35,000	£1,500	£1,000	£650	£38,150
Positive Light Projects Creative Hub			£12,588	£11,500	£24,088
Sylvania Community Stores & Café		£500	£19,500	£350	£20,350
St Sidwell St Bakehouse & Cookery School			£19,826		£19,826
Whipton Community Association	£500	£3,000	£1,000	£10,350	£14,850
Isca Community Enterprises		£5,000	£5,000	£4,350	£14,350
Magic Carpet	£2,810		£9,600		£12,410
Exeter Scrapstore	£500		£10,500		£11,000
St Katherine's Priory		£6,000	£5,000		£11,000
St Sidwell's Community Centre	£5,500			£5,000	£10,500
ExeAccess		£5,000	£5,000		£10,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£197,810</b>	<b>£21,600</b>	<b>£199,514</b>	<b>£33,050</b>	<b>£451,974</b>

4.7 Of the 599 grants awarded, as far as we are able to tell from the information collected, 110 were for city wide organisations/activities and 2 (Covid Action Fund) were for Devon-wide activities. The remaining 497 were for local ward based organisations/activities. This is not an absolute number as some ward based organisation /activities will be open to those from a wider catchment area. Some data is more accurate than others about location, (e.g. ward grant data) but the intention here is to show that data by ward area as a key outcome for the policy, was to address inequalities which vary from ward to ward. It is estimated that around 80% of the grants and 60% of the available funds were awarded to local ward organisations /activities and 20% of the grants and 40% of the available funds were awarded to City Wide organisations/activities.

4.8 This graph shows the variation in the number of grants awarded to each ward with St Thomas at the top of the list with 53 and Exwick and Priory at the bottom with 24 grants. This data needs to be regarded with caution as organisations with a postcode in one ward may be using the funds for city-wide initiatives.



4.9 This graph shows the amount of money awarded to each local ward with Mincinglake and Whipton receiving the most: £108,915 and St Loyes receiving the least at £11,797. Again this data needs to be regarded with caution as organisations with a postcode in one ward may be using the funds for city-wide initiatives.



## 5. Impact Evaluation

- 5.1 The terms and conditions of receiving a grant required recipients to complete a simple impact evaluation form 6 weeks after their event had been completed and or the grant money spent, however in reality very few recipients complied.

## 6. Contracts for Services

### 6.1 The Independent Information Advice and Advocacy Contract

- 6.1.1 As set out in the 2019 policy this service was commissioned to address the demands of development by increasing access to good quality information and advice service for residents.

6.1.2 Citizens Advice Exeter (CAE) were awarded the contract in September 2019 through a competitive tendering process. The contract value was originally set at £200,000 pa and was initially awarded for the 36 month period October 2019 to September 2022 with an option for 24 month roll on. These roll on options have been taken up and the contract is due to end in March 2024 when the Council will be obliged to re-tender if it decides to continue to commission this service. As the council already had an existing contract with Homemaker SW to provide support to households referred by the Council for assistance with budgeting and money advice to maximise income, this was included in the new contract with CAE.

6.1.3 Mobilisation of the new service started in October 2020. The services offered by CAE are long standing in the City, with the Council having previously provided annual grants to support its work so the shift to a move from grants to contracts for services was intended to enable the Council to have more direct influence over the service areas provided by the CAE with this contract.

6.1.4 The Contract and Covid 19 2019/2021: with lockdown taking place in March 2020 CAE, like all service providers, shifted their model from face to face to on-line and telephone contact. CAB report that the telephone response rate increased during Covid as this was the main access

route for clients. Since the pandemic the volume of telephone calls has remained relatively high.

6.1.5 The revised model of more on-line and telephone contact are now hard wired into the post pandemic operating model. The pandemic impacted on outcomes for the contract in its first year as the service worked out the best way to deliver a service whilst protecting the wellbeing of staff and being particularly mindful of volunteer fatigue.

6.1.6 A positive outcome from Covid and the Exeter Community Wellbeing work is that CAE are working in closer partnership with other agencies in the city for example CAE now have a worker based in the Ukraine Café in Exeter one afternoon a week and the Foodbank one day per week. There is also an increased outreach presence and connectivity with other agencies such as Wellbeing Exeter, Exeter AGE UK, Inclusive Exeter and St Sidwell’s Community Centre.

6.1.7 CAE re-opened doors to drop-in in March 2022, and have remained open since this time. Post pandemic the number of calls fluctuated depending on the availability of government support for energy costs and Cost of Living payments. In 2021/22 numbers decreased as and when the government Cost of Living payments were made and Household Support Funds were available from local authorities. However CAE reported more clients in the ‘just about coping’ category, needing support with budgeting and managing finance. Calls about disability benefits and calls for income maximisation have increased, as have requests for fuel vouchers and foodbank vouchers.

6.1.8 In 2022/2023 CAE reduced its drop-in opening to 3 mornings per week as the majority of clients preferred to access the service on-line or by phone. The drop- in sessions focus on more vulnerable clients or those who are unable to access the service by other channels. Volunteer retention remains high.

6.1.9 The “Support for Ukraine Benefit worker” post started in June 2022. The post was created due to increasing demand from Ukrainian refugees attending drops in sessions. As most of the enquiries were about ‘money to live on’ and benefit entitlement there was a need to put a benefit worker in post to support them. CAE funded this post from reserves for the first few months and then ECC provided additional funding for a worker for 1 year, 1 day per week later increased to 2 days until December 2023.

6.1.10 The average annual value of the ECC Information and Advice Service contract to the CAE over the 5 years of its operation, is 41% of all its CAB running costs. This is arguably a high value contract for the CAE. The contract has not mobilised a new service or enhanced existing provision but has maintained general CAE service levels in existence at the time on the contract mobilisation, and in effect has replaced the previous grant funding received from the Council. The table below provides an overview of the contract funding.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/4
Costs	£306,042	£372,545	£448,872	£413,281	£437,957
ECC income	£162,064	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000
% of CAB costs covered by ECC contract	41	38	29	33	32

6.1.11 The intention of this contract was for the Council to be able to influence the activity of the CAE and direct it to the priorities identified by the Council and to be able to ascertain the return on investment in terms of outcomes for individuals. The contract for this service sets out the Councils requirements for the outcomes it wished to achieve through this contract.



6.1.12 The contract performance data provided is mostly focused on activity and process measures. The table in Appendix 7 sets out some detail of all the performance measures within the contract. There are no externally validated outcome measures. For example the data highlights 6,744 “advice codes issued for benefit advice and income maximisation” but this does not indicate the number of people: but the number of times this type of advice was issued: an individual could have been coded as receiving this advice on numerous occasions. In 22/23 the provider reports £4.1 million of “potential income gained” but there is no data recording actual income gains by individuals.

## 6.2 The Voluntary and Community Sector Support Contract – Exeter Connect

6.2.1 As set out in the 2019 policy this service was commissioned to “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 remit is to “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”.

6.2.3 Exeter Community Initiatives (ECI) were awarded the contract in December 2019 through a competitive tendering process. The contract value was originally set at a value £180,000 pa and was initially awarded for the 36 month period January 2020 to March 2022 with options for a 24 month roll on. Mobilisation of the new service, Exeter Connect, started in January 2020 but its launch was delayed by the Covid pandemic. In 2022 the contract was rolled on and now expires in March 2024. If the Council wishes to re-commission this type of service it will need to re-tender and for this to be a seamless transition the tendering process will need to commence in December 2023.

6.2.4 In broad term, over the lifespan of the contract, 15% of the contract value was spent on management costs and overheads, 75% on direct staff costs and 10% on programme delivery.

6.2.5 With lockdown taking place in March 2020 the mobilisation of the contract was suspended. However the available resources were used by ECI to support the City council in operating Exeter Community Wellbeing. This meant that the contract funding was instrumental in enabling the co-ordination and the delivery of several key elements of the Covid community response including:

1. Holding funds for un-constituted groups receiving grants for the Council to launch hyper local community responses to lock down.
2. Coordination of Local Area Teams providing single point of contact for any concerns, challenges or support that is needed.
3. Updating the Volunteer and Local Area Team Information Packs
4. Supporting community organisations who came to the Council for help and for those applying for Council grants
5. Daily processing of applications from volunteers and linking them with Local Area Teams or Community Builders
6. Maintaining the Knowledge Hub including pooling information into one Food Deliveries and Free Food Directory.

6.2.6 As the impact of the pandemic eased and lockdowns ended, ECI were able to extend their Exeter Connect offer, with particular emphasis on people’s confidence in re-entering community

spaces and whilst supporting training and events taking place online they also supported organisation to make a return to face to face working.

6.2.7 In 2022 the decision was made to extend the contract for an additional 12 months with the requirement to focus on:

1. Delivering 'business as usual' priorities and outcomes as specified in the contract
2. Garnering a better understanding the needs of the community and voluntary sector through the provision of events with local VCSE organisations
3. Supporting development of VCSE networks including : Community Food Network, Digital Inclusion, Community Associations/Centres, place based capacity building in target communities e.g., Beacon Heath, Wonford, St Thomas
4. Continuing to provide capacity building support to key organisations, charities and groups in the city through individual consultation, on line training and group based initiatives.
5. Assisting the Council in engaging with the VCSE on key priorities and strategic programmes, including raising awareness and engagement with the consultation for the Local Plan and supporting communities to engage with the Net Zero agenda through Exeter City Futures
6. Capacity building with key VCSE networks and organisations in Wonford to support the future management model for the Wonford Community Wellbeing Hub

6.2.8 Key deliverables of this work included the development and facilitation of community networks such as:

- Beacon Heath Working Together (9 organisations\*)
- St Thomas Working Together (11 organisations)
- Pinhoe Working Together (9 organisations)
- Community Food Network (8 organisations)
- Community Centres Network (15 organisations) incorporating Digital Inclusion
- Social Enterprise Network (13 organisations)
- Ukrainian VCSE Network (6 Organisations)

*\* More organisations are invited and receive minutes.*

6.2.9 In 2023 the focus was realigned again, in response to the war in Ukraine and the subsequent hike in global energy costs and the cost of living crisis. Much of this has been through the co-ordination of the VCSE Homes for Ukraine network and administering NHS Cost of Living Grants and through the work of the Community Centres and Community Food Networks working closely with the Council and especially Wellbeing Exeter. Exeter Connect continued to support Wonford Community Learning Centre Trustee Board within the context of the Council's proposals for developing a community Wellbeing Hub at the current Leisure Centre and community centre site. Exeter Connect commissioned Locality to produce a report for the stakeholders that looked at different options for future management of the site that had a strong community lead.

6.2.10 The Council agreed to a further roll on of a reduced contract (£60,000) to cover the financial year 2023/24. The focus in this final period is to continue to provide expert advice and support service for the organisational development needs of individual groups and VCSE organisations, information and training and access the networks and opportunities for collaboration within the sector. The Exeter Connect service will also offer support for the development of Wonford Community Learning Centre Trustee Board.

6.2.11 The value of the ECC Exeter Connect contract to ECI over the 5 years of its operation is @ £600,000. The table below provides an overview of the contract funding.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
ECC income	£58,976	£180,000	£ 180,000	£180,000	£60,000

6.2.12 The contract for this service sets out the Councils requirements for the outcomes it wished to achieve through this contract. In reality the performance data provided is mostly focused on activity and process measures. The table in Appendix 8 sets out some detail of all the performance measures within the contract. There are no externally validated outcome measures. Exeter Connect have played a key role in facilitating a number of important VCSE networks in the City but there is no independent evaluation of the effectiveness of these networks.

## 7. Commentary on Grants Programme

7.1 The ECC grants programme has injected over £850,000 of grants into the community over the last 4 years, this is a significant sum for the Council, but it is 0.6% of all the income received by charities in the City. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) reports that in 2019/20 Exeter had 360 registered charities in the city with a combined annual income of £127.25 million. This ranks Exeter in the top quartile of all England's local authorities in terms of the amount of charitable funding secured by charities registered within the city. As the table below shows, within Devon, Exeter ranks as the area with the second highest income into registered charities with Plymouth at the number one spot with 430 charities with an annual income in 2012/20 of £228.59 million. It is important to bear in mind the vast resources of the VCSE sector and the need for the council's contribution to show tangible benefits in terms of outcomes.

Local Authority Area	Number of registered charities	Millions
Plymouth	430	£128.59
Exeter	360	£127.25
East Devon	572	£88.79
North Devon	327	£57.59
Torbay	251	£53.17
Teignbridge	474	£43.89
South Hams	463	£36.97
Mid Devon	396	£19.44
Torridge	258	£18.80
Sedgemoor	338	£15.88
<i>NCVO Almanac 2019/20</i>		

7.2 As well as funding the grants programme the Council also utilises NHCIL to fund its contribution to Wellbeing Exeter (£270,000 in 23/24 towards an annual budget of @ £850,000). Over the last 10 years the Council and its strategic partners (Devon County Council, Sport England, Devon Community Foundation and NHS Primary Care Networks) have jointly invested in developing asset based community development in the city through Wellbeing Exeter. Considerable knowledge has been built up about the difference this strategic and long term approach can make. For example in 2022 Sport England's, internationally regarded annual Active Lives Survey, highlighted that Exeter showed a significant bounce back in activity levels post COVID, in comparison with the rest of England which continued to show a decline.

- 7.3 In 2023 the local Active Lives Survey shows that compared to all previous years, fewer people in our priority areas reported themselves as inactive and a larger proportion suggested they did some light activity compared to both 2019 and 2022. This is significant evidence that the targeted, asset and place based approach, delivered through the Wellbeing Exeter partners, is having a long term and positive impact on people in the city. Getting those who are inactive to start to move more is the hardest change to effect at population level and the one that is most likely to have lasting improvements in population health gain and reducing inequalities. In addition independent research undertaken by Public Health at University of Exeter shows a significant mean increases in wellbeing, the development of relationships and community engagement from baseline to post intervention for people supported in the Wellbeing Exeter Programme.
- 7.4 Within the Community Grants Programme evaluation and impact reports are not routinely being received from grant recipients and the Council has no other mechanisms (independent or otherwise) to confirm/evaluate impact of the funding. Therefore we don't know what the impacts of the funding are by any measure. The open and rolling nature of the grants programme is resource intensive for officers (and members on the Grants Panel) leaving little time available to chase impact evaluation reports from organisations who themselves may be operating on tight margins or reliant on volunteers so some thought will need to be given to how the impact of grants can be identified as the programme moves forward. One way could be to link local awards more closely to the work of Wellbeing Exeter Community builders and consequently the well embedded evaluation of Wellbeing Exeter.
- 7.5 There are currently no restrictions on the number of grants an organisation can apply for, although this is taken into account during deliberations by the grants panel. The data in section 4 shows that the majority of the larger grants available has been awarded to the larger, well established organisations in the City with 15 organisations receiving more than half of all the available funding. 30% of all the available funding was spent on 8 building renovation projects- 1% of all grants - with limited financial diligence undertaken prior to grants being awarded some of these organisations may have been well placed to secure funding from sources other than the Council and the funds better directed to projects more aligned with the Councils strategic aims and objectives.
- 7.6 The Strategic Fund, Large Grants Fund, Community Buildings Fund and the Warm Grants Fund awarded funding for community buildings, either for the renovation of buildings or their running costs. A total of £518,954 was spent on community buildings which is 59% of all available funding. Building projects in themselves will not achieve the Councils objectives and in the absence of impact data it is impossible to assess what benefit the target communities have derived from this funding. However it should be noted that, Community Associations/Centres have the potential to operate as Community Anchor Organisation (CAO). Locality<sup>2</sup> has recently published research that highlights the depth and breadth of impact that CAOs can have on reducing inequalities in their communities. The independent evaluation of Wellbeing Exeter also highlights the effectiveness of people based community development which should encourage the Council to re-focus its grant giving on evidence based approaches in order to make best use of the available funds.
- 7.8 The data shows that Ward Grants, had a relatively high reach with 67% - 398 - grants being awarded using 17% of all available funding. Despite each ward councillor having the same amount of funding available there is variation in the amounts actually being spent in each ward,

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<sup>2</sup> *The impact of community anchor organisations on the wider determinants of health' (March 2022) – <https://locality.org.uk/reports/community-anchors-and-the-wider-determinants-of-health>*

councillors have only spent 45% of the available funding. When looking at which of the 6 Council priorities the ward grant aimed to address the data tells us that improving health and wellbeing is the priority most often addressed and addressing inequalities is the least.

- 7.9 The council has identified 20 Priority Neighbourhoods (see appendix 9). These are the areas of greatest need and with the lowest comparative life expectancy and highest disparity in terms of health inequalities. A key priority for the Community Grants Programme is to address inequalities: however the data available implies that the grants programme does not reflect this priority, although the commentary above explains that the data has to be treated with some caution as the postcode of the recipient organisation may not reflect where the activity is taking place. .
- 7.10 The policy including match funding as a core part of the programme following expert advice and successful local pilots of using match funding platforms. Professional advice from the sector reminds us how important it is for organisations to demonstrate support for their activities through crowd and match funding. The council may want to consider are more positive and rigorous approach to both match and crowdfunding using evidence based and best practice approaches.
- 7.11 In 2023 the Portfolio holder for communities championed the introduction of an Exeter Lottery. By November 2023 the Lottery has sold 1685 tickets and is estimating an annual sales income of £86,000 which will generate around £57,000 of funding for community groups. Already 96 organisations in the city have benefited, including the Council as £19,000 of this annual estimated income is earmarked the Councils community fund. Given the level of support for the Lottery to date it is worth the Council continuing to pursue this route of funding for community groups.
- 7.12 During 2021/22, as a direct result of the pandemic, CIL income was lower than anticipated and this has a direct impact on the operation of the Community Grants programme as it is almost entirely funded by the NH CIL. The Council can only spend this money once it has received it as receipts were lower than planned the Community Grants programme was temporarily suspended in 2023. The income projections are now back on track with payments and plans in place for full recovery of outstanding late payments. However this is a reminder of the need to maintain a “buffer” within the NH CIL account to ensure on-going commitments can be met as set out in the 2019 policy.
- 7.13 In addition the grants programme could stop running as a rolling programme (i.e. open for applications all year) and switch to time and fund limited programmes. For example the Council could open the grant fund in April calling for bids over a 2 month period, closing the fund whilst it assessed the bids and then awarding up to a conservative sum. As the in-year receipts are banked the fund could re-open again in September and January allocating funding to the limits allowed by the actual income. This is a more efficient approach and would also make better use of officer time allowing for effective management and freeing up officer time to focus more in impact evaluation and due diligence as required. It would also make better use of member time as the Grants Panel would only need to meet 3 times a year. An added benefit to this approach would be the public relations and campaigning around the launching of 3 grant funds a year and the following celebrations of the successful receipts of the grants.
- 7.14 The grants programme has been funded almost exclusively form the Neighbourhood portion of the CIL. 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 or other use of the fund 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.

- 7.16 The listening exercise of 2018 and the consultation process in 2019 enabled the Council to demonstrate that the policy approach complied with the statutory provisions of the CIL Regulations 2010 and its underpinning Planning Practice Guidance. These requirements are built into the grant fund application and evaluation processes. However we are not able to advise on the continued use of the NH CIL funds to pay for the contracts for services as we have no evidence to show that these contracts address the demands that development places on the area. Should members wish to support the work of a service provider like the CAE in future this will have to be funded from alternative sources other than the NH CIL.

## 8. Summary of Findings

### 8.1 Community Grants

1. The majority of all available funding has been spent on buildings and building renovations in particular. With 8 building renovation projects consuming 30% of all funding.
2. Priority Neighbourhoods are not getting a higher share of the money or even an equal share.
3. There are currently no restrictions on the number of grants an organisation can apply for. Smaller, local community groups are potentially being disadvantaged with the majority of funding being awarded to larger, better resourced organisations. 59% of all available funding was awarded to 15 organisations.
4. Ward grants arguably have greatest potential reach - 17% of all funding into 67% (398) of all grants – compared to other grants, yet some Councillors, particularly in our most disadvantaged areas are not utilising the funds which are underspent year on year.
5. There is limited financial diligence undertaken prior to larger grants being awarded and some of the organisations may be able to secure funding from sources other than the Council and the funds better directed to projects more aligned with the Councils strategic aims and objectives.
6. With limited impact data it is difficult to assess what benefit the target communities have derived from this funding. However, the independent evaluation of Wellbeing Exeter highlights the effectiveness of capacity building work in communities which should encourage the Council to re-think its grant giving on evidence based approaches in order to make best use of the available funds.
7. Professional advice from the sector reminds us how important it is for organisations to demonstrate support for their activities through crowd and match funding, the Councils reluctance to take a more rigorous approach to both match and crowdfunding is potentially acting against its own aim of helping people to help themselves.

### Contracts for Services

8. The Information Advice and Advocacy Contract has improved the working relationship between Citizen Advice Exeter (CAE), Council and other partner organisations, however it is unclear what benefits a contractual arrangement brings over the traditional grant model. The work of the CAE is of significant value and importance to the city however it's apparent that CAE is dependent on the Council for over 1/3 of its core funding: this is a high risk strategy for the CAE

and the Council. Should members wish to support the work of a service provider like the CAE in future this will have to be funded from alternative sources other than the NH CIL.

9. The Council has been able to influence the development of Exeter Connect as a new service. There is activity data to indicate that there has been more collaboration across the VCSE sector in the city supported by Exeter Connects network co-ordination work and support for existing and emerging groups/organisations. This was evident by the collaboration that took place during the Covid pandemic when Exeter Connect supported the Exeter Community Wellbeing approach led by the City Council. There is also other significant VCSE co-ordination and networking taking place through Wellbeing Exeter delivered through CoLab Exeter.

## 9. Recommendations

Based on the report finding it is recommended that consideration should be given to the following:

1. A strategic needs assessment of community buildings should take place before any further investment is made in building projects.
2. More stringent targeting should take place alongside proactive promotion of small community grants which could be more effective if linked into the work of Wellbeing Exeter's locality based Community Builders.
3. Allocating grants to addressing specific issues faced predominately in priority neighbourhoods such as digital exclusion, where there is a strong evidence based on effective approaches that deliver measureable impacts.
4. Placing a cap on the amount of grant funding that can be awarded to any one organisation over a 3 year period and also on the number of applications that can be made in any financial year. (Though it is recognised, and would need to be taken into account, that some of the larger organisations (e.g. ECI) act as an umbrella organisation for smaller grass roots groups that are not constituted and do not have their own bank account).
5. The Executive to continue to allow for grant award decisions to be made by members on the cross party Grants Panel but to consider more pro-active monitoring of the deployment of ward grants and reducing the annual allocation to better reflect average annual spend over the last 4 years: £3,000 per ward.
6. That more robust due diligence, including ensuring the receipt of impact evaluation be undertaken prior to the award any grant in excess of £5,000.
7. A re-focus of grant giving on evidence based approaches to make best use of the available funds. This could be achieved by linking ECC community grants into the work of Wellbeing Exeter's locality based Community Builders which would ensure robust impact assessment in line with Wellbeing Exeter policy and practice.
8. Adopting a more explicit and positive approach to match funding.
9. Switching from an open annual rolling grant programmes to a more structured approach opening the grant fund for limited periods 2 or 3 times a year. This would be less resource intensive for staff and members and provides flexibility in managing fluctuations in NHCIL income in year without disrupting the grants programme.
10. When the Information, Advice and Advocacy Contract comes to an end in March 2024 it is not re-tendered. There is no evidence to show that this contract met the needs of development in the area so if Council wish to continue to support the work of the work of CAE in future

years this will need to be from other sources of funding than the Neighbourhood CIL. The Council could consider, if funding is available, an annual grant to support the general work of CAE. The council can then make an annual decision as to whether to continue to grant fund the CAE depending on its priorities and the funding available. This is sustainable and best value approach for the Council and also provides clarity for the Trustees of CAE who are responsible for the financial wellbeing of their organisation.

11. As the long term future of Wellbeing Exeter is also under consideration it makes sense for the Council to consider embedding key aspects of the Exeter Connect contract into Wellbeing Exeter's future role. This makes financial and system sense and avoids duplication of effort and spend. If the Council decides to discontinue funding Wellbeing Exeter it could then reconsider if it is a priority for the Council to re-establish a VCSE support organisation in the city.



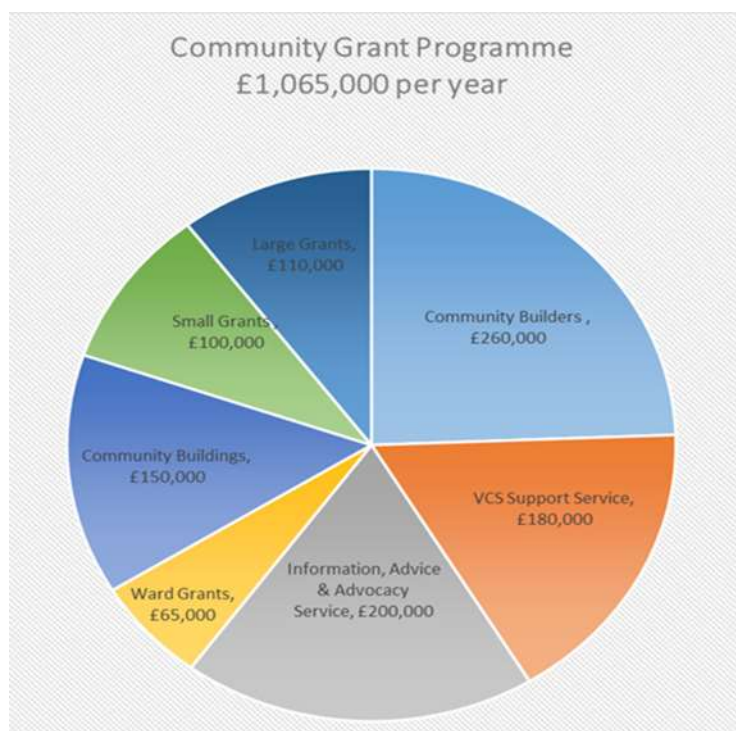
## 10. Appendices

### Appendix 1: The Exeter Grants Fund 2019/21

City Grant Fund Name	Description	Purpose	
<b>Exeter Ward Grants £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 £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>
<b>Exeter Small Grants Fund £100,000</b>  <b>Maximum grant £3,000</b> <b>*Minimum of 20% match funding</b> <b>Volunteering hours may count as the match funding</b>	<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>			
<b>Exeter Large Grants Fund £110,000</b>  <b>Maximum grant £30,000</b>	<p>Voluntary and community groups will be able to apply for a grant of up to £30,000.</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>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>*Minimum of 50% match funding</b></p>	<p>Pledges will be for a maximum of 50% of the funding target. Pledges will only be made once 25% of the project target has been met.</p>	<p><b>This fund will pay towards building or refurbishment costs or the purchase of equipment.</b></p>	
<p><b>Exeter Move More Small Grants £55,000</b></p> <p><b>Maximum grant £300</b> <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><b>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.</b></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*



## Appendix 2: Community Building Grant Spend 2019/2023

Community Building Grant Spend 2019/2023	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	Grand Total
ExeAccess		5,000	5,000		10,000
St Katherine's Prioory		5,000	5,000		10,000
Isca Community Enterprises		5,000	5,000		10,000
Exeter Communities Together CIC	5,000				5,000
Alphington Community Association	5,000				5,000
Positive Light Projects Creative Hub				5,000	5,000
Stoke Hill Community Association				5,000	5,000
St Sidwell's Community Centre	5,000				5,000
The Club	5,000				5,000
Wonford Community & Learning Centre	5,000				5,000
Topsham Community Association Ltd	5,000				5,000
Newcourt Community Association	5,000				5,000
Age UK Exeter	5,000				5,000
Pinhoe Community Centre				5,000	5,000
Devon Family History Society				2,000	2,000
Sylvania Play and Community Family Assoc.	2,000				2,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£42,000</b>	<b>£15,000</b>	<b>£15,000</b>	<b>£17,000</b>	<b>£89,000</b>

## Appendix 3: Large Grant Spend 2021/2023

Large Grant Spend 2021/2023	Award Amount
<b>21/22</b>	<b>19,600</b>
Exeter Scrapstore	10,000
Magic Carpet	9,600
<b>22/23</b>	<b>59,100</b>
Whipton Community Association	10,000
Exeter Islamic Cultural Centre	8,500
Co Create Exeter CIC (formerly Wood for Good Exeter)	7,500
Positive Light Projects Creative Hub	6,500
Exeter Community Responders	5,600
St Sidwell's Community Centre	5,000
Hospiscare	5,000
The Estuary Community Hub CIC	4,000
Exeter Food Action	3,500
Isca Community Enterprises	3,500
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£78,700</b>

## Appendix 4: Small Grant Fund Spend 2019/2023

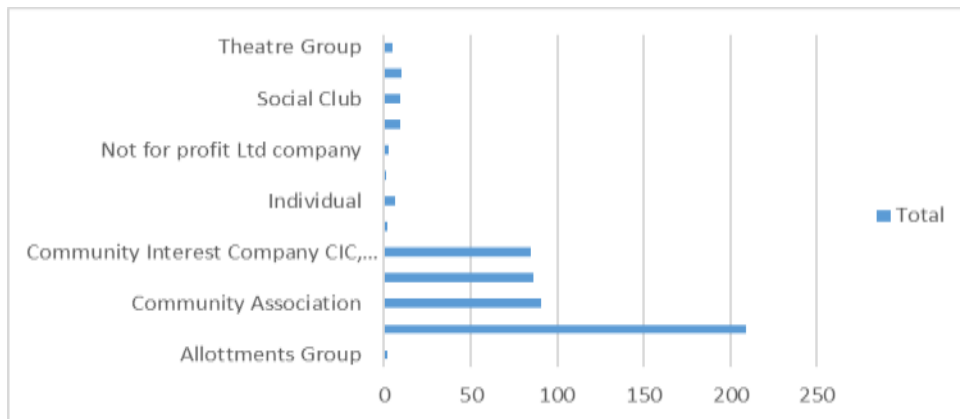
Small Grant Fund Spend 2019/2023	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	Grand Total
Exeter Respect CIC	3,000		3,000		6,000
PaddleBoat Theatre CIC	1,500		1,000	1,500	4,000
Inclusive Exeter CIC				3,900	3,900
Freemovement UK CIC	2,400		1,000		3,400
Dentaid			3,000		3,000
Park Life Heavitree	3,000				3,000
Magic Carpet	2,810				2,810
St Matt's Exeter		2,800			2,800
Wonford Planters		2,800			2,800
Wren Music	2,625				2,625
Better Health Exeter	2,450				2,450
The Pelican Project Exeter CIC				2,000	2,000
SNUG				2,000	2,000
Quirk Theatre CIC				2,000	2,000
CEDA	2,000				2,000
Sweetpea Smallholdings CIC				2,000	2,000
Home-Start Exeter, East and Mid Devon			2,000		2,000
Promenade Promotions Limited				2,000	2,000
Co Create Exeter CIC			2,000		2,000
Rediscover Church				2,000	2,000
Connections Group Exeter				2,000	2,000
DYS Space Ltd				2,000	2,000
Art Work Exeter CIC				2,000	2,000
The Olive Project				2,000	2,000
Wonford Planters				2,000	2,000
Exeter Spitfires Softball & Baseball Club				2,000	2,000
Exeter Aces Cycle Speedway Club				2,000	2,000
Polsloe Community Association				2,000	2,000
Double Elephant Print Workshop				2,000	2,000
Richard Chappell Dance CIC				1,950	1,950
Sciencedipity CIC				1,765	1,765
Exeter Kerala Community		600		1,000	1,600
Yoga for the Front Line				1,500	1,500
Exeter Fringe Festival		1,500			1,500
Phlixa Productions CIC			1,500		1,500
Hospital Radio Exeter	1,400				1,400
Maria's Books				1,200	1,200
Art Work Exeter		1,000			1,000
Food Cycle				1,000	1,000
CoLab Exeter Resilient Women			1,000		1,000
Exeter Seed Bank			1,000		1,000
St Thomas Christmas Market		1,000			1,000
Burn the Curtain			1,000		1,000

Dreadnought South West	1,000				1,000
South West Dance Hub				1,000	1,000
Age UK Exeter			1,000		1,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£22,185</b>	<b>£9,700</b>	<b>£17,500</b>	<b>£44,815</b>	<b>£94,200</b>

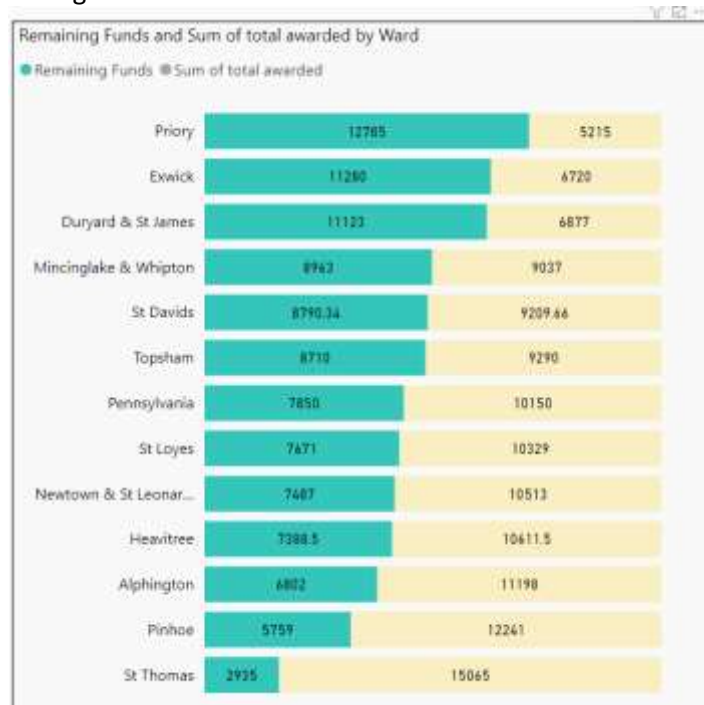
## Appendix 5: Ward Grant Spend 2019/2023

Ward Grant	Awarded	Grants
<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>£230,000</b>	
19/20	40,634	122
20/21	29,171	62
21/22	46,074	103
22/23	35,012	111
<b>Total Awarded</b>	<b>£150,890</b>	<b>398</b>

Number of ward grants by organisation type



The table shows the variation in the amount of grant across the wards: the larger the circle the higher the amount of the grant was awarded.



## Appendix 6: Warm Spaces Grant Spend 2022/2023

Organisation	Amount £	Organisation	Amount £
The Estuary League of Friends	500	Rediscover Church Exeter	500
Park Life Heavitree	500	Exeter Quakers	500
100 Club Community Group	500	Sylvania Community Stores & Café	500
Alphington Community Association	500	Headway Devon	500
St Katherine's Community Larder	500	Topsham Community Association	500
Exeter City Community Trust	500	Isca Community Enterprises	500
Wonford Methodist Church	500	Maketank	500
Exeter Community Church	500	Newtown Community Association	500
Pants Over Trousers	500	South St Baptist Church Exeter	440
Exeter Northcott Theatre	500	Pinhoe Road Baptist Church	400

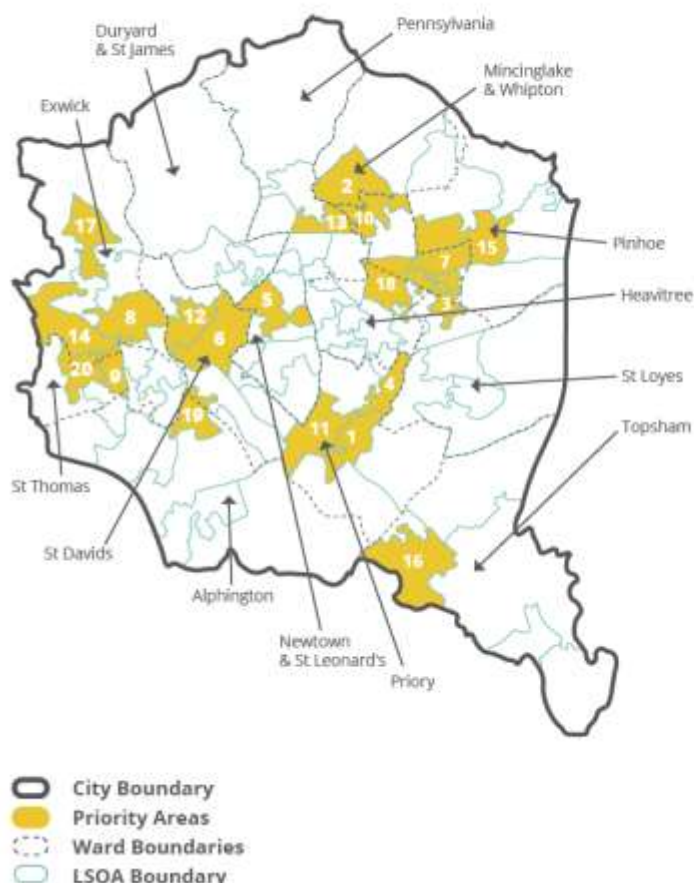
## Appendix 7: Contracts for Services: Information and Advice Contract with Exeter Citizens Advice Bureau. Contract Performance Data

Outcome	Indicator	Annual Target	Actual 20/21	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23
Benefit advice and income maximisation	Nos of cases of previously unclaimed benefits identified	9000 advice issued codes	6,744	14,819	10,538
	Potential Income gained	£3.5m	£2.6m	£3.7m	£4.1m
Housing advice and homelessness prevention	Nos cases where homelessness has been avoided	1000 advice issue codes	895	1317	1496
	Nos avoided at Court	80	0	0	0
Debt advice	Nos cases where debt advice has been given	4000 Advice issue codes	2416	2278	1718
	Amount of debt resolved	£1m of debt written off	£610,044	£588,128	£198,297
Advocacy	Number of evidence forms completed	N/A	454	464	483
To what extent did you find a way forward?	% of people who report they feel more capable of finding a way forward as a result of the service	80%	94%		
To what extent is your problem now resolved?	% of people who successfully resolve issues.	80%	79%	77.5%	71 %
Client behavioural changes	Outcome of client behavioural change where they have had a DRO more than 6-months ago	N/A	0	0	0
Housing advice and homelessness prevention	Number of clients assisted by Homemaker South West	N/A	54	46	94

## Appendix 8: Contracts for Services: Exeter Connect Contract with Exeter Community Initiatives. Contract Performance Data

Outcome	Indicator	Target 20/21	Actual 2020/21	Target 21/22	Actual 21/22	Target 22/23	Actual 22/23
Support for New & Emerging Groups	Number of new groups supported to develop governance	5	15	20	41	20	29
	No. of Groups using ECI to hold funds	0	11	0	8	0	8
	Value of funds held	0	£9,180	0	£6,081	0	£7,360
Support for Existing VCS organisations	No of groups supported	50	77	75	65	75	80
Training & Development	Events organised to support the sector	15	3	25	23	25	23
	Attendees	0	0	0	206	0	243
Influencing	No. of Consultations and other opportunities for influencing that are promoted	3	2	3	2	3	8
Widening Participation	No. of activities focussed on increasing participation	2	1	2	4	2	8
Networks & Connecting	No. of networks that bring groups & organisations together	4	3	4	6	4	8
Supporting diversity & inclusion	No. of activities / events held to widen diversity within the sector	4	0	4	3	4	2
Celebrating Achievement	Annual celebration of groups & organisations in Exeter	1	1	1	1	1	0

## Appendix 9 Exeter's 20 priority Neighbourhoods



Rank	Description
1	Burnthouse lane (Trees)
2	Lancelot Road
3	Whipton (Leypark Road & Brambley Avenue)
4	Burnthouse Lane (Rifford Road)
5	Sidwell Street & Clifton Road
6	Cathedral & City Centre (East)
7	Whipton (Hillyfield Road)
8	Exwick (Cemetery)
9	Cowick (Newman Road)
10	Beacon Heath
11	Burnthouse Lane (Poets)
12	City Centre (West)
13	Stoke Hill
14	Exwick (Redhills)
15	Summerway
16	Courtesy Wear (Lower)
17	Exwick (Farm Hill)
18	Hamilts Lane & Honeylands
19	Alphington Road (Ebrington Road)
20	Cowick (Barley Farm Road)