

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Community Grant Panel held at Council Chamber. EDDC Blackdown House, Honiton on 28 November 2022

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 2.57 pm

94 Public Speaking

None.

95 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 31 August 2022 were agreed.

96 Declarations of Interest

None.

97 Matters of Urgency

None.

98 Confidential or exempt items

None.

99 Community Buildings Fund

The Panel were asked to consider the first round of applications under the Action on Poverty Fund, which are set out later in the minutes.

A request had been made to reconsider the requirements for the Fund. The Panel were reminded of the current requirements as:

- A minimum of 50% match funding for each project from sources other than the Action on Poverty Fund;
- Of that minimum 50% match funding, the applicant was required to have in place a minimum of 70% of that funding available or promised to the applicant.

The Panel discussed this minimum level, and agreed two votes to one that the 70% of the 50% match funding should be reduced to 50% to enable more applicants to reach the threshold for consideration for funding.

The Panel also agreed to the amendment of the second closing date to 15 February 2023 to allow more time for applicants to submit early in the new year.

Learning from the applications submitted so far, the Panel also agreed that the guidance and application form could be amended to include some improvements. This would be undertaken by the Community Engagement Officer, in liaison with the Chair.

RESOLVED:

1. That the percentage of match funding of the 50% match that must be in place for applications be amended from 70% to 50% for reasons of enabling more applications to be considered;
2. That the second closing date for the Action on Poverty Fund be amended to the 15 February 2022;
3. That the Community Engagement and Funding Officer, in discussion with the Chair of the Panel, to amend the guidance and application form for improvements as required.

100 **Seachange Devon application**

The application from Seachange Devon requested £2,065 for a project to run Let's Cook for Health, family/community sessions in Littleham in Exmouth. The match funding was fully in place.

The Panel commented on the clear links to the work of the Budleigh Hub, and the merits of the application in supporting education in a healthy lifestyle.

RESOLVED that the application by Seachange Devon for £2,065 is approved.

101 **Open Door Exmouth application**

The application from Open Door Exmouth requested £3,010.80 for a project to expand their community café to Saturdays, and to equip staff and volunteers to better support people with financial worries. The match funding was fully in place.

The Panel commented on the benefits and needs of debt and financial training to offer support.

RESOLVED that the application by Open Door Exmouth for £3,010.80 is approved.

102 **Project Food application**

The application from Project Food requested £4,276 for a project to encourage people in financial need with mental health issues to take part in farm activities and healthy eating. The match funding was fully in place.

The Panel were pleased to hear directly from the applicants on the positive work of the project. The Panel were fully supportive of the initiative and expected to see the project grow.

RESOLVED that the application by Project Food for £4,276 is approved.

103 **Exmouth Stroke Survivors application**

The application from Exmouth Stroke Survivors requested £1,750 for a project to set up a community café in Littleham in Exmouth. Stroke survivors were sometimes isolated while recovering at home, whilst also facing pressures from the cost of living. The project offered support and a warm space to meet. The match funding was fully in place.

The Panel supported the application, commenting that for such a small fund, it was money well spent for a positive initiative for this group of people.

RESOLVED that the application by Exmouth Stroke Survivors for £1,750 is approved.

104 **EX5 Alive application**

The application from EX5 Alive requested £4,950 to set up a community hub at the Younghayes Centre in Cranbrook, to help support young families and people. The hub would help signpost people to other services, as well as offer “home from home” drop in events to residents. There was a shortfall of £120 to the match funding, which they had plans in place to raise.

The Panel supported the application and welcomed the support for young families facing difficulties in that area, hearing further detail from an applicant supporter. With a small shortfall, the Panel felt that it would be beneficial to increase the amount awarded to the maximum permitted.

RESOLVED that the application by EX5 Alive is approved and increased to the maximum amount that can be provided from the fund of £5,000.

105 **Re:Store Axe Valley CIC application**

The application from Re:Store Axe Valey CIC requested £5,000 to help them deliver Christmas hampers to families in need in the Axe Valley. Over 70% of their match funding was in place.

The Panel heard from applicant supporters on some of the detail of the application. The Panel were in support of the project, and supported the application.

RESOLVED that the application by Re:Store Axe Valey CIC for £5,000 is approved.

106 **Sidmouth Rotary application**

The application from Sidmouth Rotary requested £5,000 to help deliver Christmas hampers to families in need in the Sid Valley. They have 72% of their match funding in place, and have plans in place for raising the remaining funding.

The Panel supported the application, expecting a well known and established organisation to be able to raise the shortfall.

RESOLVED that the application by Sidmouth Rotary for £5,000 is approved.

107 **Exeter Community Energy application**

The application from Exeter Community Energy requested £5,000 to help them deliver an energy, debt and money advice project to East Devon residents. They have 70% of the match funding in place. This was a reputable organisation well known to the Council, and therefore the match funding was expected to be found to enable the project.

The Panel welcomed the project and supported the application.

RESOLVED that the application by Exeter Community Energy for £5,000 is approved.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

J Rowland (Chair)

J Loudoun

H Parr

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

None

Officers in attendance:

Jamie Buckley, Community Engagement and Funding Officer

Andrew Hopkins, Communications Consultant

Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer

Councillor apologies:

J Bailey

D Key

G Pook

T Woodward

Chair

Date: