

## Covering information

### Small Community Grants Proposal

There is currently around £70,000 left in the Crowdfund East Devon pot. Through this fund, we've helped some fantastic projects come to fruition: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/grants-and-funding/grants-available-from-us/crowdfunding/> However, £70,000 is quite a bit to be left in the pot. This is such a crucial time for some voluntary, community and social enterprise groups, so it is important to try and support them more if we can, so they can support the local community more.

After discussion with Cllr Jack Rowland, Chairman of the Panel, I would like to propose the idea of setting up a Small Community Grants Fund. This would give out grants of between £300-£500 to projects that help achieve either or both of the following:

1. One or both of the following key priorities listed in our Council Plan:
  - Better homes and communities for all.
  - A greener East Devon.

Please see our website for more details: [www.eastdevon.gov.uk/council-plan](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/council-plan)

2. One or more of the priorities / actions listed in our Poverty Strategy. Please see our website for more details about what is included: [www.eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-business/poverty-reduction-strategy/poverty-reduction-strategy-action-plan](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-business/poverty-reduction-strategy/poverty-reduction-strategy-action-plan): [www.eastdevon.gov.uk/media/3723416/poverty-strategy-action-plan-v7.pdf](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/media/3723416/poverty-strategy-action-plan-v7.pdf)

I have drafted some guidance notes and an application form, which are also within this agenda.

Key things to think about:

- Would you commit to attending decision making meetings once every 6 weeks? Or would you prefer to see if Full Council will give permission for you to make final decisions on this grant by email as with the Crowdfund East Devon monies? We do need to make fairly speedy decisions on these applications, but not as quickly as we do with Crowdfund East Devon.
- How would this work for Democratic Services in terms of the approval processes? We do have special permission for Councillors on the Panel to make instant and final decisions on Crowdfund East Devon monies.
- Do you support the two aims as listed above i.e. to help achieve the Council Plan and the actions within the Poverty Strategy?
- Due to the amount of monies available, we do need to keep the application form light touch whilst at the same time making sure our grant is financially prudent. Do you feel the application form would give you the information you need to make good decisions on the applications.