

Report to: Community Grant Panel



Date of Meeting 9 March 2022

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release n/a

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## Grant Options

### Report summary:

The report and accompanying appendices outline the draft rules and application form for a new medium sized grants scheme to be set up by East Devon District Council. This grant scheme will be set up using the underspend from Crowdfund East Devon, which we will stop providing.

The scheme would provide grants of between £500 and £5,000 to not for private profit groups for projects / activities that work towards one or more of the aims within our Poverty Strategy.

### Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes  No

Policy Framework Yes  No

### Recommendation:

**Discuss and make recommendations on the rules and application form for a medium sized community grants scheme.**

### Reason for recommendation:

On 2 February 2022 the Community Grants Panel made the recommendation to Cabinet to close the Crowdfund East Devon scheme, and put the amount remaining in the pot into a new medium sized community grants scheme. Rules and an application form for the funding needed to be drafted, and needed to be discussed and decided upon by the Community Grants Panel as soon as possible to try and make sure the scheme can be brought in when we stop providing Crowdfund East Devon.

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### Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning

- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

**Equalities impact** Low Impact

**Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk;

**Links to background information** [Community Grant Panel on Thursday, 25th November, 2021](#)  
[Agenda for Community Grant Panel on Wednesday, 2nd February, 2022, 10.00 am - East Devon](#)

**Link to [Council Plan](#)**  
[Poverty Reduction Strategy - East Devon](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
  - A greener East Devon
  - A resilient economy
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**Report in full**

## **Draft rules and application form for a medium sized community grants scheme**

At their meeting on 2 February 2022 the Community Fund Panel decided to withdraw from the Crowdfund Devon partnership, and stop providing grants through Crowdfund East Devon. They decided to set up a medium sized community grants scheme using the underspend from Crowdfund East Devon, which at the time stood at around £74,000 (however this may change as the fund is still open to applications).

This new grants scheme needs rules and an application, which have been drafted and are attached as appendices to this report for the panel to discuss and decide upon.

Technically the majority of the £74,000 is Devon County Council's money which they have allowed us to keep and distribute. It is an underspend from a previous fund called the Communities Together Fund, which only ran for one year. Therefore permission has had to be sought from Devon County Council to set up this grants scheme. Devon County Council have agreed to the setting up of a medium sized grants fund, as long as it goes towards meeting the aims of our Poverty Strategy and its associated Action Plan. The rules and application form for the funding have been drafted to meet this requirement.

A few key points:

- This is being proposed to be a competitive grants scheme, with two closing dates in the financial year. As with the Community Buildings Fund, eligible applications received by those dates will be presented to Councillors for decision at a meeting to allow for discussion. It is necessary for it to be a competitive grants scheme to ensure that the best projects / activities are achieved and grants aren't just given out on a first come first served basis.
- The new grants scheme would become live once all relevant approvals have been gained and we have stopped providing grants through Crowdfund East Devon. This will be in around the end of April 2022.

- There is a financial requirement, under our procurement rules, to ask for quotations, especially for larger projects.
- I have stated in the rules that town councils are not eligible, due to the fact that previously the panel has excluded town councils from applying for other funding streams we give out.
- The Community Grants Panel do usually prefer to be final funder in the other grants we give out. However, in this case I would suggest we ask for a minimum of 70% of the other funding to be in place. This is so that we can fund the best projects, and we aren't limited to only those that have all their other funding in place. Our grant can then be used as match funding to help the applicant raise any shortfall.

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**Financial implications:**

The financial implications are included in the report

**Legal implications:**

There are no legal implications requiring comment.