

Report to: Community Grant Panel

Date of Meeting 30 March 2026

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Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A



Community Grant Funding Awards for 2025/26

Report summary:

East Devon District Council's Community Grant Fund has £102,000 of funding available for the 2025/26 financial year to help financially support voluntary groups, charities, social enterprises and community buildings.

This report details the applications made to the fund and those which meet the criteria set out within the Community Grant policy, for the Community Grant Panel to make decisions on which applications will receive grant funding.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

That the Community Grant Panel

1. Approve the 22 applications with a total spend of £30,046 for the Small Community Grants element of the Community Grant scheme and
2. Consider the applications for the Community Building element of the fund and make decisions on whether applicants should receive the grant funding.

Reason for recommendation:

As per The Community Grant Fund Policy, Members of the Community Grant Panel (CGP) will approve officer's decisions on the small community grant element and determine applications from the community buildings element made to the Community Grant Fund.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☐ Assets and Economy
- ☐ Communications and Democracy
- ☐ Council, Corporate and External Engagement
- ☐ Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

- ☐ Environment - Nature and Climate
- ☐ Environment - Operational
- ☒ Finance
- ☐ Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning
- ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities

Equalities impact Low Impact

Not applicable

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information Click here to enter links to background information; appendices online; and previous reports. These must link to an electronic document. Do not include any confidential or exempt information.

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☒ A supported and engaged community
 - ☐ Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
 - ☐ Resilient economy that supports local business
 - ☐ Financially secure and improving quality of services
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Report in full

1. Background

- 1.1 East Devon District Council's Community Grant Fund is available to voluntary sector groups and community buildings such as village halls. The policy was agreed by Cabinet on 29 October 2025.
- 1.2 In total £204,000 has been made available for the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27. £102,000 is available for the financial year 2025/26.
- 1.3 Funding has been further split between the Small Community Grants available for small voluntary groups and Community buildings within rural areas. A maximum of £51,000 has been made available for Community buildings within rural areas for each financial year to ensure there is enough funding available for small community projects.
- 1.4 Funding available for Small Community Grants is between £300 and £1,500 with £500 to £10,000 available for Community Buildings.
- 1.4 Under East Devon District Council's Community Grant Policy, Officers will score and decide applications for the small community grant element of the fund for Members to approve. Officers will also score and present applications for community buildings to Members of the CGP to decide which applications will receive grant funding.

2. Applications

- 2.1 The grant window for the financial year 2025/26 was set for 19 January 2026 to 27 February 2026.

- 2.2 A total of 68 applications were received during the grant window. Of these applications 24 were received for Community Grant Buildings and 44 for Small Community Grants.
- 2.3 Applications have been received from across a good range of the East Devon district.
- 2.4 Applications for both the small community grants and Community Buildings have been scored against the criteria set out within the Community Grant Policy.
- 2.5 As per section 6 of the policy, applications that have not passed the scoring criteria are not included within this report.

3. Small Community Grants

- 3.1 There are 21 Small Community Grant applications that have passed the scoring criteria and are being recommended to receive an award with a total spend of £29,546.00.
- 3.2 Appendix A sets out the details of the organisations scored as meeting the criteria to receive an award from the Small Community Grant Fund.
- 3.3 The total amount to be awarded under the Small Community Grant element is £30,046.
- 3.4 There are 4 applications with a total combined spend of £5,783.40 where supporting evidence was not supplied and therefore these applications have not been recommended for an award. It is worth noting that if these applications were to provide the required evidence and thereby meet the criteria, the total grant funding paid for small community grants would rise to £35,829.40. Members may therefore wish officers to request the remaining evidence and finalise scoring of these applications before the 3 April 2026. These applications would then be scored and agreed for payment as per section 6.7 of the policy where the Chair, as Portfolio Holder for Finance will retain delegated authority to make decisions on applications for grants below £3,000 to allow for expediency.
- 3.5 Appendix A provides the breakdown of recommended awards for the Small Community Grants. The 4 applications mentioned in 3.4 above have been included under a separate heading if Members agree to allow extra time for the information to be provided.

4. Community Buildings

- 4.1 There are 13 Community building applications which meet the criteria set out in the policy however the total spend of these projects is £72,717.68. As this spend exceeds the £51,000 limit set out in the policy applications have been noted where works appear more critical if Members wish to take this into account in their decision making.
- 4.2 Appendix B sets out the details of the organisations scored as meeting the criteria to receive an award from the Community Building element of the fund.
- 4.3 Officer's observations are

- There are 5 applications for village halls, (Dunkeswell, Escot, Aylesbeare, Umborne and Netherton club – Farway) that require more substantial works totalling £50,000. All of these applications have already got funding from other sources in place, including receiving grants from other charities. This would leave a balance of £1,000 which could be carried forward to the next funding round.
- The remaining 6 applications have a combined total of £22,717.68.

4.4 As this is the first round of funding since 2023 it is likely that we will have received more applications than normal for community buildings. Members could consider carrying forward some of these applications for the next funding round. For example, one approach could be to prioritise in this round the applications where more substantial repairs are required and carry forward the remaining cases. If Members are minded to do this then a further recommendation will need to be added to the report.

4.5 Supporting documentation to assist Members in making their decision is under the attached appendices C – M.

5. Summary

5.1 Subject to any further governance and due diligence checks payments will be issued to all successful applicants as soon as contracts have been agreed, ensuring that funding gets to the voluntary groups and organisations and projects can be delivered as soon as possible.

5.2 Subject to applications from the small community grant element being approved and the full amount of £51,000 being awarded under the community building element of the fund, the total amount of grants awarded for the financial year 2025/26 will be £81,046. This could rise to £86,829 if Members agree to allow extra time for information to be provided for the four applications mentioned in section 3.4.

5.3 As per the policy any unspent funds can be rolled over to the 2026/27 financial year.

5.4 A new grant window will be set for the financial year 2026/27 once grant contracts and payments for the financial year 2025/26 have been issued to successful applicants.

5.5 As funding will be available for the whole of 2026/27, we will look to open the grant window for a longer period than the period allowed in financial year 2025/26 or open two shorter application windows.

Financial implications:

The financial implications are covered within the report

Legal implications:

The legal implications are covered within the report

Appendix A: Small Community Grants Funding

Group	Nos	Reason for funding	Area	Age	Funding Awarded
Action East Devon	15	Mental Health support services - offers a lot of support including 1-2-1 support can go further than what the NHS are able to provide locally.	Axminster and surrounding areas	5-18	£1,500
Axewoods Co-Op	150	Providing free woodland management to local farmers, charities, landowners and organisations. Addressing local fuel poverty through the East Devon Log Bank, an initiative to make dry, seasoned logs free to local people in fuel poverty and those in need of immediate help. Referrals from local agencies including EDDC, food banks, churches and informal networks to promote the Log Bank and distribute logs.	East Devon	All	£1,395
Bright Bridge Enabling SW CIC	12	Providing free individually tailored mental health support with a fully holistic approach for children and young people on the autistic spectrum. Sessions will be dependent on needs and in variety of settings including out in the community. Working with social workers and other professionals to make sure outcomes are the best and most appropriate for each child, currently a waiting list for service.	Exmouth Area	5-25	£1,500
Budleigh Salterton Information Centre	300	New 'Love Budleigh' membership scheme liaising with Seachange to organise activities to bring people together especially over the weekend when Seachange activities are not available. Aiming to work with local businesses, organisations and others to arrange outings for members to get together to enjoy activities, such as local drama performances, nights out at local restaurants and introductions to local clubs and societies. Will offer group activities in a safe space and encourage people to join in, helping to reduce social isolation, loneliness and improve mental health within the Budleigh community.	Budleigh Salterton	All	£1,320
Clyst St George and Ebford Parish Hall	50	Indoor table tennis sessions for Clyst St George and Ebford to extend current village events (community breakfasts, coffee	Clyst St George and Ebford	All	£700

		morning, quiz nights, fetes, Christmas parties etc) allowing the sport to be played throughout the year, enabling all community members to have access to a healthy activity regardless of weather.			
Devon Dig and Donate CIC	5000	provision of fresh produce to donate to food banks and community organisations supporting vulnerable people and those experiencing food poverty within East Devon and the surrounding local communities. Equipping and empowering the community with the skills needed to be able to grow, harvest and use fresh produce developing resilience to food justice challenges	East Devon	All	£1,499
Devon Healing Horsemanship	12	Equine-assisted mental health sessions with operational delivery taking place within East Devon District at established Sheldon site. Evidence-based model shows measurable improvements across key areas of resilience and engagement. Independent evaluation of The Horse Course framework shows that over 80% of participants improve across eight core psycho-social skills, and 77% increase engagement with education, training or work following intervention. Equine assisted mental health sessions, support caregivers of individuals experiencing emotional, or mental health difficulties.	Charity based in Cullompton but delivered from Sheldon covers the whole of East Devon	5-64	£1,500
Discover Your Doorstep CIC	20	Inclusive, gently challenging weekly outdoor group helping residents develop personally and socially especially those vulnerable to isolation and mental health challenges. Sessions led by a former GP with outdoor qualifications, managing the space safely for vulnerable people to be comfortable to try new things and grow. Referrals received from local charities and primary care.	Exmouth and surrounding areas	26 - 64	£1,500
East Devon All Stars	150,000	Fully inclusive majorette troupe carrying out carnival and public performances, specifically focussing on providing a positive mental health support environment with the aim to offer a 'powerful holistic way for children and adults to express	Seaton and surrounding areas	All	£1,500

		emotions and feelings through the medium of pom pom and baton twirl dancing'.			
Emma Molony Wallpaper	150	Community printmaking project for women and young children from resettled families (Afghan, Ukrainian and Syrian) and other women and children in Cranbrook, exploring the stories of the town, landscape and residents. Delivery of sessions supported by Thelma Hulbert Gallery, developing their 2022 work in the town exploring some of the archaeological finds like the Archer's Brace.	Cranbrook	All	£950
Exmouth Bosom Buddies CIC	300	New community sling library for families in Exmouth and the surrounding area to try and borrow carriers before purchasing, improving comfort, confidence, bonding and mobility while also promoting environmental sustainability through reuse. Will provide low-cost access to a range of baby carriers alongside evidence-based guidance and fitting support. helping to reduce barriers including cost, limited local provision and uncertainty around safe use.	Exmouth Area	All ages to 64	£1,482
Happi Beats	200	Provide more frequent and ongoing Taiko Drumming experiences sessions for residents with Parkinson's disease and Dementia to provide	East Devon villages	26+	£1,200
Honiton Carers Support Group	40	Craft sessions for unpaid carers helping to address isolation, depression and loneliness, bringing people together through craft and music.	Honiton, Ottery, Combe Raleigh, Collaton Raleigh, Offwell, Feniton, Sidmouth & Pinhoe	18-65+	£1,500
Inspiring Connections SW CIC	2000	Providing Christmas hampers and utility assistance for families across East Devon (Operation Rudolph)	Across East Devon	All	£1,500
Little Green Change	250	Delivering second hand books distributed to primary-aged school children across East Devon Supported by schools in East Devon who are keen to take part in project.	Axminster, Seaton, Kilminster and Honiton.	5-18	£1,499.95

Make Lunch partnered with All Saints Church	40	Working closely with three local schools through Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) partnership. Providing year-long coaching for children and resources for the Make Lunch programme. Warm inclusive space for families to gather, share a free nutritious meal and build supportive relationships reducing isolation and loneliness. Food and structured play, crafts and shared activities also provided encouraging positive parent-child interactions with volunteers modelling health engagement and building parental confidence. Also provide free lunches and additional food to take home during school holidays.	Sidmouth and surrounding areas	All	£800
North Devon Deaf Children's Society	50	Charity supporting deaf children. Currently families have to travel to North Devon so funding would allow free activities and events to be provided (including printed BSL resources for families to learn new vocabulary, food and drink) exclusively in East Devon with a BSL Interpreter or Communication support provided as necessary.	Across East Devon	All	£1,500
Ottery Help Scheme	15	Seated exercise group in Whimble to support older residents helping to reduce overall wellbeing, physical health, social isolation and additional challenges faced by those living in rural communities. Club already in place in Ottery St Mary with waiting list.	Whimble	26 - 64, 65+	£1,500
Seaton & District Hospital League of Friends	800	funding towards a carers circle group providing support skills developments for unpaid carers	Seaton District	All	£1,500
Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub CIC	2500	free community coastal celebration festival in May 2026 focusing on the marine and natural environment. The theme aims to raise awareness of the environmental challenges to our coastal location through the festival and its participatory activities, talks, dance, music, food, recycling, creativity.	Sidmouth and surrounding areas	All	£1,500
The Devon Centre of Birth	50	Small-scale pilot programme of free, community-based pregnancy and postnatal support sessions, filling gap in accessible, non-clinical spaces through informal,	Exmouth Area	18-64	£1,200

		peer-led support to complement statutory care. Project to work alongside local birth and postnatal professional and community organisations signposting into existing local services and support networks.			
Wellbeing Workshops Devon	30	Psychoeducational wellbeing workshops delivered in collaboration with Seachange and Open Door, providing participants with a practical toolkit of strategies and skills to support management and maintaining wellbeing throughout life.	Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton	24 - 64, 65+	£1,500
				Total	£30,045.95

Applications awaiting Evidence					
Group	Nos	Reasons for funding	Area	Age	Funding Requested
Net Ninjas Badminton Club	60	Badminton Club wanting to provide taster sessions in educational settings, making a more accessible sport especially for neurodivergent children who find traditional sport settings overwhelming.	Broadclyst Westclyst	0-18	£1,400
Restore Axe Valley CIC	100	Working with an NHS partner to promote healthy eating to prevent cancer with young people helping to choose food to prepare and serve. The group is also a place to share information with young people helping them to access help when needed and giving skills to stay safe in different areas of life. Provision of a 1-2-1 support worker to off load worries and anxieties	Seaton and surrounding areas	5-18	£1,500
Seachange Devon	220	Seachange's Connected Communities: Building Bonds – Beating Loneliness, brings together a range of inclusive social, wellbeing, & peer-support activities designed to reduce loneliness, improve mental & physical health, & strengthen community connections. 8 Eg, Diabetic Support, Men's Support, Chess, Bereavement, Befriending	Budleigh Salterton	18-65+	£1,383.40
Twin Tigers Community Partnership	30 residents	Project offering a 'managed safe space' for young people to work on physical and mental health in a setting free from judgement or negative peer pressure.	Honiton and surrounding rural areas	All	£1,500

		Provide physical training and life skills for young people, learning martial arts, learning conflict resolution, self-control and patience. Referrals received from schools, social care and police.			
				Total	£5,783.40
			Grand total		£35,829.35

Appendix B: Community Buildings Funding

Appendix	Building	Reasons for Funding	Total Amount of Funding Required	Amount of Funding Requested from EDDC	Difference in funding in place	Nos residents or groups benefiting
C 13-34	Dunkeswell Village Hall	Roof tiles in need of significant repair as leaking requiring removal and replacement. Would also like to insulate to reduce heating bills. Attached toilet block also in need of works to insulate to reduce damp caused by lack of appropriate insulation.	£21,053	£10,000	Yes	120
D 35-63	Netherton Club - Farway Village Hall	Significant Repairs to skittle Alley and Ladies toilets required	£15,371	£10,000	Yes	2020
E 64-80	Escot Village Hall	Repairs to external render to remedy damp and mould, due to water penetrating and disintegrating integrity of the interior walls that are starting to crumble. Replace rotten fire doors	£14,121	£10,000	Yes	40
F 81-107	Northleigh Parish Hall	Decorating works to temporarily resolve black mould on ceiling	£2,290.49	£2,000	Yes	100
G 108-135	1 st Beer Scout Group	Replacing existing worn and heavily soiled carpet flooring in scout hut, with new wipe-clean, hard wearing non-slip flooring. Originally lower quote which has now increased.	£5,849.56	£4,428.17	Yes	9
H 136 -169	Offwell Recreation Ground and Village Hall	Repairs to sprung floor, sanding, and resealing, including painting of badminton and pickle ball court on flooring to allow for indoor sports.	£3,875	£2,712	Yes	20
I 170-194	Aylesbeare Village Hall	Upgrading heating system as currently heated through 4 ageing storage heaters and 2 old infrared heaters. Flooring to be	£74,000	£10,000	Yes	900

		replaces as part of the project.				
J 195-235	Umborne Village Hall	Roof Connection between kitchen and main hall with ramp access for those with reduced mobility and to complete interior fittings, e.g new efficient wiring, lighting and kitchen equipment.	£26,735.04	£10,000	Yes, Norman Family Charitable Trust and Community Funds raised	200
K 236-251	Musbury Village Hall	Replacement front door as one side is faulty so cannot be fully opened	£1,816	£1,816	Not required	750
L 252-270	Gittisham Parish Hall	Insulated fire-retardant stage curtains and hanging rail	£2,835.81	£2,835.81	Not Required	3000
M 271-291	Awliscombe Parish Hall	Works to bar area and darts playing set up for social events.	£2,720.50	£2,720.50	Not Required	400