

Community Scrutiny Committee – 1 May 2018

Present: Councillor Coles (Chairman)
Councillor Ms Lisgo (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Booth, Davies, Floyd, Gage, Lees, Martin-Scott, Ryan, Townsend,
Watson and Webber.

Officers: Angela Summers (Housing and Community Project Lead), and Marcus Prouse
(Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny).

Also present: Councillors Berry, Mrs Lees and Mrs Warmington.
Andy Ridgwell (Somerset Community Foundation).

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm).

29. Apologies/Substitution

Apologies were received by Councillors Mrs Blatchford and Gunner

30. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Community Scrutiny Committee held on 3 April 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed.

31. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Coles declared a personal interest as a Member of Somerset County Council and Member of Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service. Councillor Lisgo declared a personal interest as a Trustee of North Taunton Partnership and User of Tone Leisure's Feelgood Factory. Councillor Martin-Scott declared a personal interest as a Trustee to Bishops Fox's Educational Foundation and Trustee to Trull Memorial Hall. Councillor Watson declared a personal interest as a Member of Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council.

32. Voluntary and Community Sector Small Grants Annual Fund Review.

Considered update previously circulated, concerning the Voluntary and Community Sector Small Grants Annual Fund Review.

Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC) provided financial support to a wide range of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations that help to deliver our corporate priorities consistent to community needs. VCS grants were awarded by the Council via the Economic Development Unit, Housing and Community (HRA, Project Team and Tenants Forum), Unparished Area and Community Leisure.

The focus of this report is reviewing the £19,800 funding which was awarded through the Housing & Community Directorate – Project Team via Somerset Community Foundation, following recommendations made by the TDBC Grants Panel for 2017/18.

The TDBC Voluntary & Community Sector Small Grants (VCSSG) were awarded via

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF). The maximum grant per VCS organisation is £1,000. The flow chart in Appendix A shows the timeline for the application process via SCF, the TDBC Grants Panel and Lead Member for 2017-18 applications.

Appendix B set out the VCS organisations, their projects and the amounts which were approved for funding in February 2018.

Appendix C detailed the SCF evaluation report for 2016-17 funded projects.

Appendix D (Confidential) illustrates those applications, which were unsuccessful in 2016-17 and 2017-18 and the reasons for this.

Appendix E illustrates copies of the press releases promoting the grant programme and the successful applicants for 2017-18.

All of the successful projects considered by the Grants Panel were understood to contribute towards a vibrant social, cultural and/or leisure environment in the Borough.

A total of £19,800 was made available from the TDBC VCS Small Grants Fund for recommendation by the Grants Panel in 2017-18. These funds were held by the SCF and any underspend would be awarded in the next Grants Panel funding round. SCF charge a 10% administration fee, which is covered within the budget. SCF more than cover this administration fee by securing match funding from other grant providers. For example in 2016-17 SCF managed to secure an additional £7,295 for our applicants in the Borough.

During the discussion of this item, Members made comments and statements and asked questions which included:-

- The committee commended the report and feedback from various groups.
- Grants that were awarded in March would take a year to report back with an update. It was requested if interim update reports could be provided to the committee.
- Councillors were involved with various organisations, the more information that was given on grants held would help Councillors understand the situation.
- Assistance was provided to grant applicants to help fill in applications.
- There were 83 different funds, decision making wasn't as fast as desired currently.
- Information was requested to be provided to Councillors in the weekly bulletin to promote support for grants.
- Any surplus in the small grants fund would be carried forward.
- There was still the demand for small grants.
- Additional information on the amount requested as opposed to awarded would give greater context to enable a better understanding.
- Match funding allowed larger sums of money for larger projects for organisations.
- Match funding was not a specific requirement for grant applications.
- The Somerset West Lottery was sent to good causes in both districts.

- Constructive feedback for those applications that were unsuccessful was given where possible, in addition to further guidance for other sources of funding.
- A further report would be considered in the Autumn.

Resolved that:- The Community Scrutiny Committee:-

1. Supported launching the TDBC VCSSG Fund earlier in the autumn for the 2018-19 financial year.
2. Noted the 2016-17 SCF Project Evaluation Report.

33. Community Scrutiny Forward Plan.

Submitted for information the proposed Forward Plan of the Community Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved that the Forward Plan be noted.

(The meeting ended at 7:05pm)