

Notes of Exeter Community Grants Panel Meeting: 18/07/2024

Present: Cllr Matt Vizard (Chair of Panel) , Cllr Deborah Darling , Cllr Zoe Hughes, Cllr Peter Holland. Also present Ebbie Peters ECI/Wellbeing Exeter, James Bogue Service Lead – Active & Healthy People, Mahi Ahmed Communities Officer, Dawn Rivers Programme Manager Communities.

Apologies: CLLR Diana Moore

MEETING NOTES:

Welcome & Apologies

1. Introductions - Cllr Matt Vizard as Chair of Panel welcomed all new members including Ebbie as an advisory Member for ECI.

2. Terms of Reference – Grants panel members were briefed on the Terms of Reference document, document was discussed and agreed.

Concerns were raised for possible difficulties for some groups in priority neighbourhoods to be able to provide the 20% cash match funding for applications for city grants, though panel members agreed with the principle that groups should not be entirely reliant on city council grant funding and needed to be able to source other external funding too. This would help with longer term sustainability issues for groups. It was agreed though that the role of the grants panel is to review applications and have a greater understanding of challenges for VCS groups and organisations in the city.

It was also stressed that there is a £3k limit to any finding that groups could receive in this financial year. Panel members discussed and agreed that repeat applications from the same group would not be supported.

Dawn explained that a piece of work will be taking place over the next quarter to help develop an evaluation framework to help both understand the impact that the grant programme is making and also to help groups look at their longer term sustainability.

Terms of Reference were agreed.

City Grants to be launched in the next week.

3. Ward Grant update

Mahi presented a document showing expenditure to date on ward grants. Take up so far has been good. Only one area has not had applications agreed to date.

Discussion on organisations who have applied for more than one ward... agreed that they should be encouraged to apply through city grants, but recognised that this fund is not open until later this month. Also discussed that national organisations can not apply for funding unless they have a local branch with own constitution etc.

Also discussed that Statutory organisations including schools are not eligible for grants, applications need to be community led.

Actions:

1. Terms of Reference agreed
2. City Grant to be launched in this next week. Ensure communication goes to councillors to give information. Liaise with Comms to do press release.
3. Information for councillors on communication and process of making decisions on ward grants
4. Definition to be provided for panel members on conflict of interest.

5. Invite Gail Mistlin to next panel meeting as newly appointed Programme Manager for Wellbeing Exeter.

Next meeting 5 September 5.30pm.