

Information

For County Councillors

From:	Chris Phillips: Service Manager - Community Development
Date:	1 st October 2015
To:	All County Councillors

Funding available to you and our communities

This briefing paper is designed to give Members an overview of some of the recent funding sources which have been announced. Further information is available via the Somerset Community Funding webpage: www.somerset.gov.uk/communityfunding

1. Invest to Save:

This Fund of £500,000 supports our County Plan commitment to promote services that meet local needs. Applications are encouraged which help build community capacity and promote joint working to reduce demand for SCC services or enhance service delivery but at a lower cost. Both staff and communities are encouraged to apply. All community applications must be submitted through a sponsoring Member; SCC staff will need a relevant Director to endorse an application.

2. The Health and Wellbeing Budget Scheme:

The Health and Wellbeing Budget Scheme allocates each County Councillor a one-off sum of £5,000 to promote and support the improvement of health and wellbeing in their local area. Councillors can put forward grant proposals which support local initiatives that empower communities to take responsibility for their own health, and help people to become better integrated in their community. The fund closes for bids on 31st January 2016.

3. The Somerset Care Act Reaching Out Fund:

A £100,000 fund is available for voluntary and community sector groups for grants up to £5,000 for the financial year 2015-16. The funding provides a one off grant to organisations based on two categories:

- Putting information about the Care Act into context for local communities through offering information, advice and signposting
- Expanding or developing a new service that will meet at least one of the Care Act principles.

4. Somerset Social Enterprise Fund (SSEF):

The Social Enterprise Fund is administered by Somerset Community Foundation, on behalf of SCC, to provide loan finance to support new and established social enterprises. Loan repayments and interest will then be 'recycled' into further loans to make this fund self-sustainable. The fund is intended to:

- Improve access to finance for social enterprises in Somerset
- Increase the number of social enterprises in Somerset attaining the 'Social Enterprise Mark'

- Enable and support measurable improvement in benefits delivered to local communities through increasing social enterprise activities

Further information is available via:

<http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/Somerset-Social-Enterprise-Fund>

5. **Community Covenant Fund:**

The Government's new £10 million Covenant Fund is overseen by the Ministry of Defence. A future bidding round for small grants will run from 28 October to 17 December 2015.

Further information is available via <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covenant-fund> and to find out more about the Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant visit www.somerset.gov.uk/forcescovenant

6. **Community Council for Somerset Funding 4 Communities Portal:**

The [Community Council for Somerset](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/community-council) has recently launched a Funding 4 Communities Portal. It provides a comprehensive coverage of available funding opportunities; European, national and regional schemes and local initiatives. The portal can be accessed via: <https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/somerset/>

7. **Somerset Community Foundation:**

Grants are made available through a range of funds donated to the Foundation from local companies, individuals and trusts. The following four priority areas have been identified

- Supporting vulnerable, isolated and lonely older people and their carers
- Supporting communities affected by rural disadvantage
- Improving life opportunities for disadvantaged children, young people and their families
- Efforts to aid communities affected by flooding

Further information is available via:

<http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/foundation-grants>

8. **Big Lottery:**

The Big Lottery has a range of funding programmes and is actively promoting its Awards for All and Reaching Communities Fund. Further information on both of these funds and others can be accessed via:

<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/funding-finder?area=UK-wide>

9. **Somerset District Councils' grants for community projects are available via:**

- [Mendip Local Legacy and Community Environment Fund](#)
- [Sedgemoor small grants and community projects](#)
- [South Somerset community grants and loan schemes](#)
- [West Somerset grants and Community Impact Mitigation Fund](#)
- [Taunton Deane Voluntary and Community Organisation Grants](#)

For further Information about other community initiatives, local toolkits and general resources please visit our Local Choices page: www.somerset.gov.uk/localchoices

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