

Meeting: Housing Committee

Date: 19th November 2018

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Community Housing Fund activity and expenditure update

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented?

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1. Proposal and Introduction

1.1 This Report outlines current activity and expenditure from the Community Housing Fund.

2. Background

2.1 In January 2016 the Council received a one-off payment from Government of £643,208 Community Housing Fund (CHF). Future bids for CHF have to be made to Homes England for either Revenue or Capital funding and can be made either by the Council or directly by community groups.

2.2 A proportion of this allocation has been committed to funding for two members of staff on two year contracts to carry out community housing and strategic housing functions. Funds have also been identified for capital funding for specific community led-affordable housing development. A Community Housing Grant fund that local community housing groups can apply to has been established.

2.3 Specific projects currently progressing with funding through the CHF include –

- Cultural commissioning (with Culture Board) to help bring together TESH groups to explore potential for formation of community-led housing project.
- SLA with Wessex Community Assets (a specialist organisation who provide support and legal/governance advice to community housing groups) to support urban community groups to develop housing projects – focussed on communities of interest- e.g. street homelessness/young people.
- Support for specific community projects e.g. Brixham Yes to formulate CHF projects and submit grant application.

- Brixham Yes have now identified a potential site and submitted a bid for financial assistance from the CHF to progress feasibility work.
- CHF officers are exploring potential developing for future bids for Revenue/Capital funding through the CHF for specific projects that meet both strategic housing and regeneration aims.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 For Members to note progress on community housing projects in Torbay and expenditure through the Councils' Community Housing Fund allocation.

Appendices

Background Documents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-housing-fund>