

## 1. BACKGROUND

Plymouth Councillors each have an annual grant allocation of £3,500 to enable them to support a range of community groups and projects. Councillors can also use their grant procure services direct from the Council (e.g. to purchase new fencing, grit bins and vegetation clearance).

The overall fund is £199,500 and is administered by the Chief Executive's Business Support team. Detailed guidance governs its use.

Councillors may pool their grants with other Councillors, in the same or different wards, to create a larger 'pot' should they wish. The maximum within a ward of three members is therefore £10,500.

The scheme starts on the first working day of June each year and the deadline for spending of Community Grant funds is the last working day of February the following year. This is to ensure that payments are processed before financial year end and also ensures that Community Grants are not committed during any pre-election period for May elections.

Community Grants form one of three devolved budgets to Councillors. The other two funds are: 1. the Living Streets Fund (£80k), which is allocated by ward and directed to small-scale highways work; and 2. the Neighbourhood Initiative Fund (£100k). The 2017/18 Winter Works initiative is the first pilot use of the Neighbourhood Initiative Fund and involves Councillors in each ward identifying and prioritising grounds work to be undertaken by a dedicated team of operatives.

## 2. SPEND PROFILE

The spend profile for Community Grants over the past three years is as follows:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
<b>Spend</b>	£174,845	£165,132	£168,926
<b>% of total budget (£199,500)</b>	88%	85%	83%

Councillors are sent monthly updates of spend against their total grant. Details of Grants awarded are also posted to the Council's website under each Councillor's profile<sup>1</sup>.

## 3. 2018/19 BUDGET

The budget for 2018/19 and beyond remains profiled at £199,500 in total, £3,500 per Councillor.

<sup>1</sup> Councillor profiles can be accessed at:  
<http://web.plymouth.gov.uk/modgov?modgovlink=http://democracy.plymouth.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx>