

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
GRANTS ASSESSMENT PANEL COMMITTEE – GRANTS BUDGETS.****Date Monday 9th December 2013.****1. Introduction.**

- 1.1 The Council has been looking at a number of budget areas in response to national cuts in funding for local government generally, with a view to finding the necessary savings with effect from 2014/15.
- 1.2 Budgets for grants have been included within this review.
- 1.3 A proposal has been produced, as outlined below.

2. Grants budgets.

- 2.1 Budgets for the grants that fall under the remit of the Grants Assessment Panel have been proposed for reductions of 20%:-

	Current budgets.	No. of maximum grants.	Proposed 2014/15.	No. of maximum grants.	Reduction.
Community Chest.	£60,000.	60.	£48,000.	48.	£12,000.
Cultural Grants.	£14,000.	9.3.	£11,200.	7.5.	£2,800.
Green Grants.	£4,000.	16.	£3,200.	12.8.	£800.
Homelessness Grants.	£17,500.	3.5.	£14,000.	2.8.	£3,500.
Small Grants.	£22,000.	8.8.	£17,600.	7.	£4,400.
Total.	£117,500.	97.6.	£94,000.	78.1	£23,500.

- 2.2 Budgets for other areas outside the Panel's remit have had equivalent reductions.

3. Implications.

- 3.1 A 20% reduction in the amount of funding available for grants to voluntary & community organisations working in the Borough, and a potential reduction in the services they provide.
- 3.2 Potentially, some activities/projects might not take place.
- 3.3 Pressure on other grant funders.
- 3.4 Potentially, reputational damage to the Council.

4. Possible actions to ameliorate the impact.

- 4.1. Reduce the maximum grant level, enabling more grants to be issued than if they stay as at present. As far as perceptions are concerned, this may be very significant.
- 4.2 The apportionment of the overall budget between the different grants could be reviewed, with the potential to move funds between them or indeed to merge some grants.
- 4.3 Review the criteria for all grants with a view to being more rigorous in our requirements and expectations.
- 4.4 Working with voluntary & community sector partners (e.g. VAST) to provide more comprehensive & consistent funding advice & support.
- 4.5 Open and transparent discussions with the voluntary & community sector to inform and explain about the reductions.