

Good Afternoon Cllr Lisgo,

I am responding to your understandable apprehension regarding the proposed processing by Somerset Community Foundation of the TDBC partnership grants, in the hope that I can explain the proposal in full and address your concerns regarding this matter.

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) will not manage the fund, rather they will provide admin support to the council in processing the funding proposals (applications) from our partnerships. SCF will check the monitoring returns in the same way, using the same monitoring form as I previously did. SCF will send out the same funding proposal template and assess the completed proposal (grant application) as I previously did and will make recommendations to elected members and officers again as I previously did. They will **not** make decisions regarding partners' grants. Elected members will still make the final decision on funding and an officer of the council will issue funding notices (letters of agreement) and payments. The council will benefit from the admin support provided by SCF as this will enable the authority to make better use of officer time.

Somerset Community Foundation has access to various funding streams and may boost the existing grant offered by the council to some partners with additional funding from this source; this is not guaranteed but some of our other VCS grantees have already benefitted in this way. In the current financial climate it can only be advantageous for organisations to be within the SCF radar and therefore able to be considered for additional funding. The new way of working I have described will not in itself effect or reduce the amount awarded to organisations by the council but it may increase partners' chance of receiving an additional amount if they are known to Somerset Community Foundation.

My usual working days are Mon – Weds but I did try to contact you today by telephone as I wanted to clarify the situation and hopefully allay your concerns. If you would like me to telephone you next week please let me know when you are available.

Regards,
Christine.

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