Stroud District Council

Community Funding (Crowdfunding) Proposition
Lessons Learnt by Cotswold District Council (CDC)

A meeting was held with CDC to discuss its experience of community funding.

CDC has operated its scheme for over three years and achieved almost £800k of pledges via 36 projects (a mean of £22k per project) and approaching 3k backers.

It selected Spacehive as its partner and reported positively on its contribution.

Other key points are as summarised below:

- Council match funding typically out of Budget with small amount from its shared prosperity fund and covid recovery funding
- Maximum contribution set at 40% with the higher amounts being allocated where the project is aligned with corporate priorities
- No maximum project fund size
- Scoping: decided to avoid projects that require permissions (e.g., planning) unless pre-achieved
- Scoping: decided not to support schools, despite considerable interest as not aligned with the council's priorities for funding
- Built good relationships by participating in fund raising where requested (i.e., not just a financial contributor)
- Encourage member involvement and sponsorship as this made a positive difference
- Ensure council decision making is timely and agile
- Ensure council Finance department is bought in.

Visit the CDC community funding site at https://www.spacehive.com/movement/cc