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Trent & Dove Housing Supports transformational community initiatives with Idox's GrantFinder

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Tony Price

Head of Programme, Innovation, Commercial Management & Sales
Trent & Dove Housing

Background:

Providing affordable homes and a wide range of supporting services to the community

Trent & Dove Housing is a housing association that owns and manages over 6,200 homes across Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire. With over 200 employees, the housing association plays an active role in the communities in which it operates with a range of homes, services and engagement activities.

Challenge:

Identifying relevant and diverse funding for community projects

One of the housing association's main challenges is to maintain and develop investment in its communities so it can continue to deliver a range of services and activities. Some of these initiatives include running community cafes and shops with residents, maintaining a communal garden and organising a series of small grants for other community-based projects.

From a business perspective, the housing association needs to ensure rental income is collected to help fund repairs, housing management and new developments. So providing support for tenants and the communities they live in also supports the business in turn. To deliver the most valuable services, it also relies on securing necessary grants to fund these projects.

Solution:

Streamlining the search process to identify crucial funding opportunities

To access grants and funding that support current and future community engagement initiatives, Trent & Dove Housing needed to broaden its funding search to identify resources it might not have been aware of previously. To overcome this challenge, it decided to deploy Idox's GrantFinder – a leading funding and information solution in the UK covering local, national, and international funding



sources. GrantFinder provides real-time, detailed information on grants and funding opportunities from a diverse range of funders. After a positive experience using GrantFinder at a previous company, Tony Price, Head of Programme, Innovation, Commercial Management and Sales at Trent & Dove Housing, knew that the solution was ideal for what the housing association needed.

Tony comments, "Part of our mission is that we are driven to make a difference in people's lives, so the community services and schemes we offer are crucial to achieving this. But manually searching for relevant funding opportunities takes time and resources, and likely we could miss out on vital grants. GrantFinder helps streamline that process, helping us to keep track of available funds that match requirements and timescales with potential funders. The regular bulletins and email alerts we receive are helpful to make sure we don't miss out on any opportunities."

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Outcome:

Awareness of multiple funds that would have previously been missed

One example where GrantFinder has significantly benefited Trent & Dove Housing is when it alerted the housing association to a relevant fund for providing Warm Spaces in community buildings and settings. Tony explains, "Thanks to GrantFinder we were able to successfully identify and bid for the Warm Spaces funding, which means that our customers and communities have the opportunity to visit some of our community spaces when they need to keep warm this winter. The funding we've received means we can meet the energy bills required to keep Warm Spaces open."

"So far, we've been able to identify and successfully bid for around £38,000 worth of funding across two sites, and aim to open more before the end of March. The sites provide breakfast, lunch and supper to the whole community and in the two months before Christmas served a huge total of 1,277 meals. We estimate the total number of meals provided by the end of March 2023 will be more than 3,000 and rising."

Tony concludes, "We've been really happy with the level of service from the GrantFinder team who have been helpful and supportive. Overall it's been a very positive experience. With GrantFinder in place, we've been able to apply for multiple funds that we would not previously have knowledge or awareness of, and many of these funds have been transformational to the service we deliver to the community."

Call us now on 0333 011 1200 or email marketing@idoxgroup.com to find out more about Idox's GrantFinder solution.

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