



Policy and Resources Committee – 10 September 2012

New Homes Bonus – Proposed Criteria for Stream 2 (Community Projects)

Purpose of report

To ask Members to consider and approve criteria for determining applications for the New Homes Bonus funding under stream 2 (Community Projects).

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 – Proposed Criteria for stream 2

Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment (initial screen)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Policy and Resources Committee previously approved a rationale for allocating New Homes Bonus (NHB) to community-based projects, across three streams (minute 506 9 May 2012 refers).
- 1.2 Under the rationale, stream 2 covers medium sized community infrastructure projects up to £50,000. The committee resolved that detailed criteria would be developed by the District Regeneration Working Party (DRWP) for stream 2 and brought back to a further meeting of the committee for approval. This is attached at appendix 1.

2.0 Proposed criteria

- 2.1 The criteria will support DRWP to assess applications for funding under stream 2. As previously reported to committee, it is expected that stream 2 will be oversubscribed. For that reason an 'Expression of Interest' stage has been created. This would consist of community groups, community partnerships and town and parish councils submitting outline proposals. A panel of three councillors drawn from the DRWP membership would shortlist applicants, from which detailed applications would be invited. DRWP would consider the detailed applications.
- 2.2 As part of developing the criteria, DRWP took into consideration the factors raised by Members in the budget setting workshops held in December 2011. These factors were:-
 1. Reflect where geographical areas of the district have experienced growth,
 2. Fund infrastructure projects to support future growth,
 3. Support small local projects as well as large infrastructure plans e.g. small sports club facilities as well as new multi-purpose community facilities,
 4. Introduce a process for community participation and bidding into the fund,
 5. Support identified needs and initiatives arising from Master Plans, Community Plans and Parish Plans,
 6. Be open to Town and Parish Councils and constituted community groups,
 7. Support initiatives that establish 'quick-wins',
 8. Ensure administrative processes for the scheme are kept lean, ensuring legitimate spending of the money available.

3.0 Next stages

- 3.1 DRWP will develop detailed application and guidance materials to support the application process for this stream. This will also include the necessary terms and

conditions of the grant award to ensure clear governance arrangements are in place. These documents will be based on other grant schemes the council provides or has provided in the past.

4.0 Equality and diversity implications

4.1 The application and guidance material and the terms and conditions will make it clear that all applicants will be required to support the Council in its duty to have due regard to:-

- eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advancing equality of opportunity between different people,
- fostering good relations between different groups.

4.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment Initial Screen has been completed and is attached at appendix 2. Members are asked to take this into account when considering the report.

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 Successful applications to this stream will require the applicants to enter into a formal grant agreement with the Council for the terms and conditions associated with the award.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 As reported to committee previously, the NHB settlement for the current financial year (2012/13) was £906,054 of which £181,000 was set aside to fund community projects. Under the current framework NHB will run up to the end of financial year 2015/16. However in terms of actual settlements for each financial beyond this current one, are this stage best estimates.

6.2 The Chief Finance Officer has advised that the Council should establish clear and robust governance processes for the release of these monies to projects and ensure commitments are not made against future years' allocations until the NHB funding source is secure. DRWP will develop the terms and conditions for the governance of funding under stream 2 as part of the next stages.

7.0 Financial implications

7.1 Policy and Resources Committee has previously approved the allocation of NHB to community projects (minute 506).

8.0 Corporate outcomes

8.1 The allocation of the NHB to community-based projects will help deliver the following corporate outcomes:-

- **A good quality of life – sustainable:** the NHB will help take forward projects and initiatives identified in community-led plans; this will help local people enjoy a better quality of life now and in the future.
- **A good quality of life – healthy:** the NHB will help support opportunities that maximise leisure and recreation throughout the district
- **Strong community leadership:** the NHB will support and develop capacity within the local communities to help them to help themselves.
- **Knowledge of our customers and communities:** the NHB will help engage local communities to understand their needs.

9.0 Recommendations

9.1 Members are asked to

1. Consider and approve the proposed criteria for allocating New Homes Bonus funding under Stream 2 (Community Projects) at appendix 1.
2. Agree that three Members nominated by the District Regeneration Working Party will shortlist expressions of interest.
3. Note the Equalities Impact Assessment – Initial Screen at appendix 2.

Reason: To ensure a transparent and effective application and governance process for allocating the New Homes Bonus to stream 2 projects.

Legal	Power: Localism Act 2011				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers: None					
Person Originating Report: Mike Greenway (Community Partnerships Manager) Tel. 01832 742244 mgreenway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
Date: 29 August 2012					
CFO		MO		CX	

DRAFT

East Northamptonshire Council

NEW HOMES BONUS (NHB) STREAM 2 – DRAFT PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING PROJECTS

Criterion 1 – Eligibility				
Factor	Description	Guidance points		
Applicant status	Constitution	Applicant needs to be a constituted community group, a community partnership or a Town or Parish Council based in East Northamptonshire.		
Planning status	Planning Consent granted	Applicant has full planning consent (where required) for the project to go ahead.		
Tenure	Status of the ownership or occupation of the site	Applicant has the freehold interest, lease or controlling interest (typically not less than 10 years) for the site on which the project is taking place or grant requested to provide acquisition.		
Criterion 2 – Deliverability				
Factor	Description	Guidance points	Weighting (1 to 5)	Max score
Project Plan	Project Plan in place	Clear and detailed programme with timeline setting out the activities and tasks for delivering the project.		
Resources	NHB as a % of the total funding being sought for	Priority given to applicants that demonstrate significant match funding is being or has been secured for the		

Factor	Description	Guidance points	Weighting (1 to 5)	Max score
	the project	project		
	Loan v Grant	Preference for those projects indicating a desire to take up a loan from the Council rather than a grant to increase the capacity of the NHB fund. Consideration needs to be given to the applicant's ability to repay the loan		
Criterion 3 – Demonstrated need				
Factor	Description	Guidance points	Weighting (1 to 5)	Max score
Local area	Level of growth experienced in the local area	Priority given to applications from areas that have experienced the most growth in the last 11 10 years.		
	Projected growth in local area	Reference to the projected growth in the next 10 years in the area where the project will take place		
	How the project supports recent or proposed growth	Clear proposals for how the project will support past or future growth expected in the area, which could include neighbouring parishes for communal facilities		
Community involvement	Participation by local people in identifying the need and developing the proposals	Priority given to applications demonstrating that local people have identified the need for the project and have been involved in the preparation of the proposals. This may have been identified in a Community or Master Plan or Parish Plan or Neighbourhood Plan. It could include infrastructure gaps created by past growth or immediate future growth (in parish or nearby		

		communities)		
Accessibility	Project provides a facility or activity that is open to all sections and groups of the local community	Priority given to applications that demonstrate equality of opportunity and can be accessed by all relevant individuals or groups locally		
Criterion 4 – Supports key plans and strategies				
Factor	Description	Guidance points	Weighting (1 to 5)	Max score
ENC Corporate Plan	How the proposals help achieve our Corporate Plan outcomes	<p>Priority given to applications that support the achievement of our outcomes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good quality of life – prosperous: regeneration and economic development • A good quality of life – sustainable: sustainable development; high quality built environment • A good quality of life – healthy: increased participation in active recreation; improved housing • A good quality of life – safe: low level of crime; reduced anti social behaviour 		



EIA Initial Screening Form – Committee decision

1. Decision being taken:	Criteria for allocating New Homes Bonus to stream 2 projects
2. Name and Job title / role of person completing Initial Screening:	Mike Greenway (Community Partnerships Manager)
3. What is the main purpose of the Service or Policy under discussion?	<p>Policy and Resources Committee has approved the allocation of New Homes Bonus (NHB) to community projects in three streams:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stream 1: Member Empowerment Fund (increasing each Member's allocation to support local community projects 2. Stream 2: Community infrastructure projects up to £50,000 3. Stream 3: Larger infrastructure projects over £50,000 <p>P&R Committee resolved that detailed criteria be developed by the District Regeneration Working Party (DRWP) for determining applications under stream 2.</p>
4. List the main activities of the Service or Policy under discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing and determining applications under stream 2 – community projects up to £50,000.
5. Who are the main beneficiaries of the Service or Policy under discussion?	The main beneficiaries of the service will be town and parish councils, community partnerships and community groups – and ultimately, the communities they serve.
6. How is the success of the Service or Policy under discussion measured?	Regular monitoring of funding awards.
7. Are equality monitoring systems for the Service or Policy under discussion in place?	No.

8. Use the following table to indicate using a ✓:

- a) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality of opportunity or improving relations within equality groups.
- b) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a negative impact on any of the equality groups i.e. it could disadvantage them.
- c) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a neutral impact on any of the equality group i.e. no impact

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Gender:				<p>Applications to the NHB stream 2 will need to demonstrate equality of opportunity for all groups. No groups would be excluded from submitting applications. As part of signing up to the terms and conditions of the grant award the successful applicants will be required to support ENC in its duty to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation advance equality of opportunity between different people foster good relations between different groups
Women/Girls			X	
Men/Boys			X	
Transgender people			X	
Sexual Orientation:				
Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals			X	
Race/Ethnicity:				
White British people			X	
White non-British people (including Irish people)			X	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Asian or Asian British people			X	
Black or Black British people			X	
People of mixed heritage			X	
Chinese people			X	
Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage)			X	
People from other ethnic groups			X	
People who do not have English as their first language			X	
Disability:				
Physical impairment, e.g mobility issues which mean using a wheelchair or crutches.			X	
Sensory impairment, e.g blind/having a serious visual impairment, deaf/having a serious hearing impairment.			X	
Mental health condition, e.g depression or schizophrenia			X	
Learning disability/difficulty, e.g. Down's syndrome or dyslexia, or cognitive impairment such as autistic spectrum disorder			X	
Long-standing illness or health condition, e.g. cancer, HIV. Diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy			X	
Other health problems or impairments (<i>please specify if appropriate</i>)			X	
Age:				
Older People (60+)			X	
Children and Young People (see guidance for definition)			X	
Religion/Belief:				

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Christian			X	
Buddhist			X	
Hindu			X	
Jewish			X	
Muslim			X	
Sikh			X	
Other religion (including holding no belief)			X	
Other Potentially Affected Groups				
Rural Isolation - People who live in rural areas e.g isolated geographically, lack of internet access			X	
Socio-economic Exclusion – e.g. people who are on benefits, have low educational attainment, single parents, people living in poor quality housing, people who have poor access to services, the unemployed or any combination of these and the other protected strands			X	
Any other potentially affected groups (<i>please specify</i>)			X	
9. If you have indicated that there is a negative impact on any group: n/a				

a) Is that impact against legislation?	Yes	No
b) What is the level of impact?	High	Low
10. Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance?	N/A	
11. Could you improve a positive impact of the decision?	N/A	
12. If there is no evidence that the decision promotes equality of opportunity or improved relations, could it be adapted so that it does?	N/A	
Head of Service signature		
Date of Initial Screening:	29 August 2012	