

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Notes of a Meeting of the New Homes Bonus Panel held at Knowle, Sidmouth on ~Monday 29 January 2018

Present: Councillors:
Phil Twiss (Chairman)
David Barratt
Iain Chubb
Simon Grundy
Geoff Jung
Christopher Pepper

Apologies: Councillors:
Mike Allen
Douglas Hull

Officers: Ali Eastland, Locality Development Officer, DCC
Jamie Buckley, Community Engagement and Funding Officer
Chris Lane, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting started at 11:00am and finished at 12.25pm.

*13 Minutes

The notes of the previous meeting of the New Homes Bonus Panel held on 13 December 2017 were confirmed as a true record.

*14 Declarations of interest

Councillors Phil Twiss and Councillor Iain Chubb declared personal interests in minute 16 as Devon County Councillors.

*15 Documentation

Changes to Devon County Councils Parishes Together Fund guidance principles for 2018/19 were noted. Members were particularly supportive of paragraph 7, which emphasised the need to help identify new ideas to benefit communities and stopped bids for activities such as grass cutting, ditch and drainage work and any other associated 'lengthsman' duties. This should also encourage parishes to work together on projects.

16 Options for East Devon's future Parishes Together Fund rules for 2018/19

The Community and Engagement Officer reported that Devon County Council as the main funder had changed the guidance rules for the Parishes Together Fund from 2018/19 onwards. Councillors wanted to take this opportunity to look at other options for the process of the Fund and considered possible options for the Panel to discuss.

During discussions the following points were noted:

- The scheme was a very good way to get parishes working together;
- Parishes working together across District Council boundaries was possible and should be encouraged, where appropriate;
- There was £124,000 available in this year's fund together with roughly £20,000 underspent from previous years and £15,000 predicted unallocated from this financial year. This was the last year that underspent funding could be rolled over in to subsequent years. In future year's underspend will be

returned to Devon County Council. This meant that there would be around £160,000 in total to spend in 2018/19;

- 8 February 2018 was the deadline for receipt of application for funding in 2018/19;
- Possibility of trialling a 'Dragons Den' style event in one of the larger towns;
- Small parishes did not have the resources to make application for funding for larger projects;
- All town/parish councils should be asked what they wanted;
- The Panel expressed a unanimous view in favour of change to the way the scheme was managed.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that a mixture of Options 1 and 3 as contained in the report be supported, carrying out a very limited form of Option 3 on a trail basis;
2. that the DCC Locality Officer continue discussions with one of the East Devon towns about the possibility of a 'Dragons Den' style event as a trial scheme. Their current level of funding could then be ring fenced for that purpose. If they do not take part in this trial then discussions to be held with other East Devon towns;
3. that the closing date for funding be November of each year with all the applications being considered at a meeting at the end of January;
4. that the maximum limit for individual applications limited to 20% of the fund's total;
5. that community groups be allowed to apply for funding, but only with the minuted support of a town/parish council;
6. that match funding of 20% be evidenced before a project could be supported.

*17 Date of Next Meeting
Tuesday 27 March 2018 10am.