

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

This report contains exempt information as defined in
Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of
Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972
(applies to Appendices A and B only)

AGENDA
ITEM

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SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA
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9

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Community Life and Housing Scrutiny Panel
DATE	5 February 2015
REPORT TITLE	New Homes Bonus Allocation to Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA)
Report of	Community Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	DNPA Wards

Summary of report:

This report provides Members with information on the projects being funded by Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) from the New Homes Bonus allocated by the District Council and gives Members the opportunity to comment and make suggestions on future allocation and its use.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications from this report as funding is agreed as part of the budget setting process.

During 2014/15 budget setting Members agreed that £17,277, representing the entitlement for 2012/13 and 2013/14, be paid to DNPA from the Council's 2014/15 New Homes Bonus allocation. Budget proposals for 2015/16 recommend a further allocation of £5,779.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is RECOMMENDED that Community Life and Housing Scrutiny Panel:-

- **Note the projects being funded by Dartmoor National Park Authority from the New Homes Bonus funds allocated to them by South Hams District Council; and**
- **Make recommendations to the EXECUTIVE as to future allocation of funds and their use.**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council receives New Homes Bonus in respect of the net increase in housing stock for the District, including empty homes returned to use. Monies are payable for a period of six years and cover developments that have completed since April 2009. All funds are paid by Government to the District Council and include development that has taken place in the South Hams area that sits within the DNPA, although they are a separate Local Planning Area.
- 1.2 As DNPA does not receive any direct allocation the District Council agreed to transfer the sum of £17,277 as part of the 2014/15 budget setting process towards a Dartmoor National Park Sustainable Community Fund to fund community projects in DNPA communities where development has taken place. The funds were awarded as a one off payment to DNPA to allocate and administer the funding scheme and are the calculated entitlement for 2012/13 and 2013/14. There is a further recommendation that £5,779 be allocated for 2015/16 to be discussed by Members as part of the budget setting process.
- 1.3 The payment is made with the following conditions:
- decisions must be taken in consultation with the South Hams District Council local Ward Member(s);
 - funding can only be used for capital spending on projects in those parts of Dartmoor National Park which fall within the South Hams District Council Boundaries and enable the Dartmoor National Park to carry out its social and economic responsibilities; and
 - Dartmoor National Park reports on the progress in the application of, and use of the funds to the Community Life and Housing Panel on a six monthly basis and in time for budget decisions to be made.
- 1.4 This is the first report to the Scrutiny Panel to allow time for DNPA to develop and launch the scheme and take the first round of applications.

2. DARTMOOR COMMUNITIES GRANT FUND ALLOCATIONS FOR 2014/15

- 2.1 Appendix A is a scoring table summarising the evaluation of the projects submitted to the fund. Appendix B provides a brief description of each proposal.
- 2.2 The total pot available was £20,527 as DNPA added a further £3,250 from their own resources to the fund.
- 2.3 Five projects were submitted requesting funding of £35,668. Of these four were funded with total funding allocated of £20,522. Two projects were awarded the full sum requested and two were awarded a partial sum.
- 2.4 Local Ward Members were consulted and projects included improvements to community halls, a community shop/tearoom and a recreation ground.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A condition of approval for the funding is that regular reports be made to Community Life and Housing Scrutiny Panel on the application and use of the funds.

- 3.2 The Local Government Act 2000 gave the Council the power to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area.
- 3.3 Localism Act 2011 – General Power of Competence, a local authority has power to do anything that individuals of full legal capacity may do giving authorities the power to take reasonable action they need ‘for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area’.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report as funding is agreed as part of the budget setting process.
- 4.2 During 2014/15 budget setting Members agreed that £17,277, representing the entitlement for 2012/13 and 2013/14, be paid to DNPA from the Council's 2014/15 New Homes Bonus allocation. Budget proposals for 2015/16 recommend a further allocation of £5,779.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Risk Management implications are shown at the end of this report in the Strategic Risks Template.

Corporate priorities engaged:	Homes, Economy, Environment and Community Life
Statutory powers:	Local Government Act 2000 Localism Act 2011 – General Power of Competence
Considerations of equality and human rights:	Grants will provide funding to a wide range of community groups, therefore promoting equal opportunities
Biodiversity considerations:	None
Sustainability considerations:	Grants contribute to increasing the sustainability of communities in the South Hams
Crime and disorder implications:	None
Background papers:	23 January 2014 Executive Report and Minutes, Budget Proposals 2014/15 13 February 2014 Council Report and Minutes Budget Proposals 2014/15
Appendices attached:	<i>Appendix A – Dartmoor Communities Grant Fund Scoring Table</i> <i>Appendix B – Dartmoor Communities Grant Fund Description of Projects</i>

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status			Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership	
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Delivery of Outcomes and Value for Money	<p>Failure to deliver outcomes to the community and provide value for money for the Council's contributions.</p> <p>Opportunity for DNPA communities where development has taken place to benefit from this new Fund to support local community projects</p>	3	2	6	↔	<p>Scheme set up similar to District Council Community Reinvestment Project Fund with assessment/scoring system.</p> <p>Funds paid in arrears on submission of proof of allocation</p> <p>Regular reporting on allocation of funds to the Community Life and Housing Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>The benefits of this new Fund to communities are likely to outweigh the risks associated with its operation</p>	Community Manager

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔