

Report Template

Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny (External) Committee**

Date: **21st March 2017**

Title: **New Homes Bonus Allocation to Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA)**

Portfolio Area: **Customer First**

Wards Affected: **Dartmoor Wards**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken:
(e.g. referral on of recommendation or implementation of substantive decision)

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Recommendations:

Note the projects being funded by Dartmoor National Park Authority from the New Homes Bonus funds allocated to them by West Devon Borough Council.

1. Executive summary

Ten projects totalling £21,253 were supported by DNPA in 2016/17 against a total budget (including ring-fenced underspend from 2015/16) of £22,129.

A summary of applications are available in Appendix 1.

Any underspend will be carried forward to 2017/18.

Report Template

2. Background

The Council receive New Homes Bonus funding from Government in respect to the new increase in housing stock for the Borough.

The New Homes Bonus funding includes development that has taken place in the West Devon area that sits within the DNPA, despite it being within a separate Local Planning Authority area.

As DNPA does not receive any direct allocation, the Borough Council agreed to transfer a sum of £24,136 in 2016/17 based on actual housing completions towards a Dartmoor National Park Sustainable Community Fund to fund community projects in DNPA communities where development has taken place.

The Sustainable Community Fund supports capital projects that ensure the long term viability of valued existing community facilities and services, or creates a new community infrastructure to meet identified community needs.

In addition to the main fund in 2016/17, a small grants (max £500) 'Community Action' pot was set up to support environmental projects undertaken by local community action groups on publicly accessible land.

The payment is made with the following conditions:

- decisions must be taken in consultation with the West Devon Borough 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 West Devon Borough Council Boundaries and enable the Dartmoor National Park to carry out its social and economic responsibilities; and
- Dartmoor National Park reports on the annual progress in the application of, and use of the funds to the Council.

3. Outcomes/outputs

Ten projects totalling £21,253 were supported by DNPA in 2016/17. The total value of these projects is £112,291.

4. Proposed Way Forward

Appendix 1 provides a summary of the projects supported by DNPA.

Report Template

5. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance		<p>A condition of approval for the funding is that regular reports be made to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the application and use of the funds.</p> <p>The Local Government Act 2000 gave the Council the power to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area.</p> <p>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'.</p>
Financial		There are no direct financial implications from this report as funding is agreed as part of the budget setting process.
Risk		<p>Grants are paid in arrears of receipt of proof of expenditure.</p> <p>Grant offers are subject to a number of conditions which limit the potential risk to DNPA.</p>
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		Grants support funding to a wide range of community groups, therefore promoting equal opportunities.
Safeguarding		None directly arising from this report
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		None directly arising from this report
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		Grants contribute to supporting the social wellbeing of West Devon communities.
Other implications		None directly arising from this report

Report Template

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Dartmoor Community Fund projects supported in 2016/17

Process checklist	Completed
Portfolio Holder briefed	Yes/No
SLT Rep briefed	Yes/No
Relevant Exec Director sign off (draft)	Yes/No
Data protection issues considered	Yes/No
If exempt information, public (part 1) report also drafted. (Committee/Scrutiny)	Yes/No