

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Date: 6 April 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

That it be noted that the projects being funded by Dartmoor National Park Authority from the New Homes Bonus funds allocated to them by South Hams District Council.

1. Executive summary

Eight projects totalling £18,974 were supported by DNPA in 2016/17 against a total budget (including ring-fenced underspend from 2015/16) of £30,390.

A summary of applications are available in Appendix 1.

Any underspend will be carried forward to 2017/18.

2. Background

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

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

As DNPA does not receive any direct NHB allocation, the District Council agreed to transfer a sum of £24,606 for 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 is available to fund similar capital projects as the Council's own Community Reinvestment Project Fund (i.e. capital projects that ensure the long term viability of valued existing community facilities and services, or create 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 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 annual progress in the application of, and use of the funds to the Council.

3. Outcomes/outputs

Eight projects totalling £18,974 were supported by DNPA in 2016/17. The total value of these eight projects is £55,577.

4. Proposed Way Forward

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

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 the Overview and Scrutiny Panel 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		Grants are paid in arrears of receipt of proof of expenditure. Grant offers are subject to a number of conditions which limit the potential risk to DNPA.
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 South Hams communities.
Other implications		None directly arising from this report

Appendices:

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