

NOT FOR PUBLICATION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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WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA
ITEM

6

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Overview and Scrutiny
DATE	24 March 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 Borough 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 £18,688, representing the entitlement for 2012/13 and 2013/14, be paid to DNPA from the Council's 2014/15 New Homes Bonus allocation. A further allocation of £2,610 has been approved for 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Members:-

- **Note the projects being funded by Dartmoor National Park Authority from the New Homes Bonus funds allocated to them by West Devon Borough Council.**
- **Make recommendations 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 Borough, 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 Borough Council and include development that has taken place in the West Devon 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 Borough Council agreed to transfer the sum of £18,688 from its allocation of New Homes Bonus for 2014/15 to an Earmarked Reserve called 'Community Investment Fund – Dartmoor National Park', to be applied for and drawn down by DNPA as required. The funds were awarded as a one off payment and are the calculated entitlement for 2012/13 and 2013/14. A further £2,610 has been allocated for 2015/16.
- 1.3 The payment is made with the proviso that it is spent only within those parishes falling within the boundaries of the Borough Council.

2. DARTMOOR COMMUNITIES GRANT FUND ALLOCATIONS FOR 2014/15

- 2.1 DNPA have utilised the funding towards community projects under a "Dartmoor Communities Grant Fund", inviting local communities within the West Devon area of the National Park to submit projects for consideration.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Seven projects were submitted requesting funding of £27,612. Of these six were funded with total funding allocated of £18,357.
- 2.4 Local Ward Members and Parish Councils were consulted and projects included improvements to community halls, a playground, play equipment and an interpretation board.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 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'.
- 3.2 The appendices accompanying this report contain information relating to the financial and business affairs of another organisation and are therefore considered exempt items as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

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 £18,688, representing the entitlement for 2012/13 and 2013/14, be paid to DNPA from the Council's

2014/15 New Homes Bonus allocation. A further allocation of £2,610 has been approved for 2015/16.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 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:	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 West Devon
Crime and disorder implications:	None
Background papers:	28 January 2014 Resources Report and Minutes, Budget Proposals 2014/15 18 February 2014 Council Report and Minutes Budget Proposals 2014/15 3 February 2015 Resources Report and Minutes, Budget Proposals 2015/16 17 February 2015 Council Report and Minutes Budget Proposals 2015/16
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 by DNPA to fund community projects with assessment/ scoring system.</p> <p>Funds paid in arrears on submission of proof of allocation</p> <p>Annual reporting on allocation of funds to Overview and Scrutiny</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 ↓ ↑ ↔