



DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
FINANCE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	25 NOVEMBER 2018	7
NEW HOMES BONUS: PROVISION OF GRANTS TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS 2020/21			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

This report provides a review of the effectiveness of the policy on the provision of grants to town and parish councils, funded from a portion of the New Homes Bonus, and recommends a continuation of the scheme in 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee are requested to:

1. Approve a funded revenue budget increase for 2020/21 in the sum of £75,500 for the provision of grants to town and parish councils to reflect housing growth, funded by a proportion of the overall New Homes Bonus grant that is received by Fylde Council from central government, the individual allocations being as set out at Appendix B to the report.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The policy on the provision of grants to town and parish councils, to be funded from a portion of the New Homes Bonus, was first approved by Council in December 2017 in respect of the 2018/19 financial year. Subsequently the continuation of the policy for 2019/20 was approved by Council in December 2018.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	

REPORT

1. Background

- 1.1 At the meeting of 5th December 2018, the Council approved the continuation of the policy on the provision of grants to town and parish councils funded from a portion of the New Homes Bonus, including allocation of such grants for 2019/20 in the total sum of £68,950.

2. Review of the policy on the provision of grants to town and parish councils.

- 2.1 In accordance with the grant policy a mid-year review statement has been requested from each grant recipient under the scheme in 2019/20. These are shown at Appendix A to this report.
- 2.2 Although the information provided varies considerably in the level of detail provided it is evident that the mid-year review statements generally confirm that the grants are being utilised in accordance with the terms under which they were awarded, and are consistent with the grant criteria as defined within the policy.
- 2.3 Consequently it is proposed that the scheme will continue for the 2020/21 financial year on similar terms to those for 2019/20.
- 2.4 For 2020/21 the total grant funding to be distributed will again be a figure equivalent to 5% of the latest estimate of the total New Homes Bonus income receivable by Fylde council for that year i.e. a sum of £75,500 in 2020/21. Grants will only be issued following receipt of a statement outlining how the grant is to be used. This must be in compliance with the approved scheme requirements as set out in the policy. The proposed grant allocations for 2020/21 are shown in the table at Appendix B.
- 2.5 The operation of the scheme for subsequent years will again be determined by a review of the effectiveness of the arrangements in delivering the intended outcomes. That review will be undertaken during 2020/21 and will be reported to this Committee during that year.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	Financial implications are contained within the body of the report.
Legal	None arising from this report
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer	01253 658566	November 2019

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
n/a	n/a	n/a

Attached documents

Appendix A – Mid-year Review returns from grant recipients in 2019/20

Appendix B – Proposed New Homes Bonus grant allocations for 2020/21