

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
FINANCE	COUNCIL	10 DECEMBER 2018	12
NEW HOMES BONUS: PROVISION OF GRANTS TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS 2019/20			

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 proposes an updated policy which is appended to this report. The purpose of this policy is to provide the framework for a system of grant support to town and parish areas which have experienced above-average growth in housing numbers.

This matter was considered by the Finance and Democracy Committee at the meeting of 26th November 2018. The Committee recommended that Council approve the adoption of the revised policy on the provision of grants to town and parish councils and the grant allocation for 2019/20 in the total sum of £68,950.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Finance and Democracy Committee considered this matter at the meeting of 26th November 2018.

In accordance with those deliberations it is recommended:

1. That Council approves the adoption of the updated policy on the provision of grants to town and parish councils which is appended to this report, including the allocation of such grants for 2019/20 in the total sum of £68,950.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

A new policy on the provision of grants to town and parish councils, to be funded from a portion of the New Homes Bonus, was approved by Council in December 2017 in respect of 2018/19, with a review of the effectiveness of the scheme to be undertaken during 2018/19. This matter was considered by the Finance and Democracy Committee at the meeting of 26th November 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 4th December 2017, the Council approved the adoption of a new 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 2018/19 in the total sum of £65,500.
- 1.2 The report stated that *“the operation of the scheme for subsequent years will be determined by a review of the effectiveness of the arrangements in delivering the intended outcomes. That review will be undertaken during 2018/19 and will be reported to this Committee during that year.”*

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 2018/19. These are shown at Appendix B 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 2019/20 financial year on similar terms to those for 2018/19.
- 2.4 For 2019/20 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 £68,950 in 2019/20. 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 paragraph 4.3 of the policy.
- 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 2019/20 and will be reported to this Committee during that year.
- 2.6 To ensure consistency of reporting the grant policy has been amended to provide more definitive guidance on the reporting process.
- 2.7 The proposed policy is shown in full at Appendix A.
- 2.8 The Finance and Democracy Committee considered this matter at the meeting of 26th November 2018 and recommended to Council approval to the adoption of the revised policy on the provision of grants to town and parish councils, including the allocation of such grants for 2019/20 in the total sum of £68,950.

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	October 2018

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Attached documents

Appendix A – Updated Policy on the provision of grants to town and parish councils

Appendix B – Mid-year Review returns from grant recipients in 2018/19.