

MAJOR GRANTS AND NEW HOMES BONUS PANEL

Thursday 13 September 2012

Present:-

Councillor Edwards (Chair)
Councillors Fullam, Hannaford and Sutton

Also Present:

Projects and Business Manager, Principal Accountant (SH), Senior Valuer (TJ),
Community Involvement and Inclusion Officer and Member Services Officer (SJS)

3 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting on 14 June 2012 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

4 **NEW HOMES BONUS LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Projects and Business Manager presented the report giving Members an overview of current and anticipated applications to the New Homes Bonus Local Infrastructure Fund, the funds allocated so far this year and future budgets.

Members discussed the other potential applications that could come forward as outlined in the report. They clarified that the fund was principally intended for one-off grants for new community projects and start up monies and not for year on year revenue costs to support organisations. Where they were minded to recommend that Executive should approve a grant application, this would normally be for one year only and should an organisation require further monies they would need to re-apply to the fund the following year.

Members noted the report.

(Report circulated)

5 **LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATIONS**

6 **APPLICATION 1 - WEAR UNITED AND COUNTESS WEAR VILLAGE HALL**

Representatives from Wear United and Countess Wear Village Hall gave a presentation on the application for funds to help towards the construction of a new community centre at Bridge Road. The presentation reflected the applicants' latest thinking, with the proposed building re-sited to avoid relocation of the existing tennis courts. The amount applied for was, in year one, £70,000, in year two, £50,000, in year three, £50,000 and £50,000 in year four, towards building costs.

Councillor Tippins spoke in support of the application.

Recommend to Executive that:-

- (a) Subject to confirmation that Parks and Open Spaces are satisfied with the revised siting of the building*, the application for £70,000 towards construction costs be approved, subject to the standard conditions and to conditions 12, 13, 14 and 15 below.
- (b) The above sum is available for three complete financial years, (ie. until March 2016).
- (c) Any grant from the allocation of Local Infrastructure Fund for future year(s) must be the subject of a separate application(s).

Additional conditions:-

- 12. The grant is conditional upon planning permission being received for the proposal.
- 13. The grant is conditional upon evidence being provided that funding has been secured to cover the entire anticipated construction costs.
- 14. The grant is conditional upon evidence being produced, in a form agreed by the Council as appropriate to the items concerned, that value for money is being achieved in relation to each element of the scheme.
- 15. The grant is conditional upon the project remaining substantially the same as that presented to the Major Homes and New Homes Bonus Panel on 13 September 2012, in terms of the location and nature of the building, although scaling down of the project to reduce costs will not in itself conflict with this condition.

*An update will be provided to Executive following discussion with Parks and Open Spaces.

(Report circulated)

(The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm and closed at 6.05 pm)