

**Committee: Cabinet**

**Agenda Item**

**Date: 17 March 2016**

**9**

**Title: Members' New Homes Bonus Scheme**

**Portfolio Holder: Cllr Simon Howell**

Item for decision

## Summary

- 1) This report recommends changes to the rules surrounding the £3,000 Members' New Homes Bonus Scheme.

## Recommendations

- 2) The Cabinet is recommended to approve that:
  - a) Criteria b) of the scheme as set out in paragraph 5 is replaced with the wording as set out in paragraph 7.

## Financial Implications

- 3) There are no implications for the council's budget beyond those approved as part of the 2015/16 and 2016/17 budget setting process.

## Background Papers

- 4) None

## Impact

|                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Communication/Consultation      | No specific implications |
| Community Safety                | No specific implications |
| Equalities                      | No specific implications |
| Health and Safety               | No specific implications |
| Human Rights/Legal Implications | No specific implications |
| Sustainability                  | No specific implications |
| Ward-specific impacts           | No specific implications |
| Workforce/Workplace             | No specific implications |

## Background

- 5) As part of the 2015/16 budget setting process it was agreed that the criteria for the scheme would be that:
- a) It has to be spent in the Member's Ward
  - b) It has to be spent in the year of allocation and any underspends will not be carried forward into future years
  - c) It has to be for the good of the community
  - d) It must not commit the Council to expenditure in future years
  - e) The Member should be mindful of the financial status of the recipients
  - f) The Member should have no personal interest in the organisation receiving the award
  - g) In election year the money only becomes available from 1 June (i.e. to the newly elected Member)
- 6) Following a review of allocations to date, it has become apparent that due to the elections in 2015 reducing the scheme time by three months, a number of councillors are not going to have allocated their entire grant by the end of March 2016. Under the current rules this would mean that any unspent grant would be lost.
- 7) It is therefore proposed to change criteria b) in paragraph 5 above to now read:
- For 2015/16 year only, any unspent allocation can be carried forward to 2016/17. Thereafter any unspent allocation can be carried forward to the following year, providing the amount is less than 50% of the allocation for that year. If it exceeds 50% of the in year allocation only 50% shall be carried forward.
- 8) In practice for 2016/17 this means that the maximum that can be carried forward to 2017/18 will be £1,500 (half of the £3,000 in year allowance)

## Risk Analysis

| Risk | Likelihood | Impact | Mitigating actions |
|------|------------|--------|--------------------|
| None |            |        |                    |

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.