

Committee: Full Council

Agenda Item

Date: 23 February 2011

15

Title: New Homes Bonus – progress update

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Robert Chambers

Item for information

Summary

1. In April 2011 the Council received £714,365 under the Government's New Homes Bonus scheme for 2011/12.
2. On 8 September 2011 the Cabinet decide to allocate £500,000 of this funding to community projects. £456,000 was allocated to nine town and parish council and £44,000 was allocated to district councillors, £1,000 each, for each councillor to spend in their ward.
3. This report summarises the progress made in the use of the allocated funds. As at 14 February 2012:
 - Town/parish council funding bids totalling £266,432 have been approved, comprising 47 individual projects
 - Town/parish council funding bids totalling £7,000 have been received, relating to two projects, upon which further clarification has been sought
 - Town/parish council funding bids to the value of £182,568 are still awaited
 - Ward Members have spent £13,718, comprising 38 individual projects, which means that £30,282 of the original £44,000 is still to be spent.

Recommendations

4. To note the report.

Financial Implications

5. There are no implications for the District Council's budget. Allocated monies will remain earmarked until called upon.

Background Papers

6. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.
 - New Homes Bonus report to Cabinet 8 September 2011
 - Funding bids from Town/Parish councils

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Funding bids are made in consultation with the relevant communities
Community Safety	Some of the bids have community safety benefits
Equalities	No specific implications
Health and Safety	No specific implications
Human Rights/Legal Implications	No specific implications
Sustainability	No specific implications
Ward-specific impacts	All wards have received some funding with nine towns/villages receiving larger allocations
Workforce/Workplace	No specific implications

Town & Parish councils

7. Below is a summary of the progress as at 14 February:

Town/Parish	Allocation	Value of bids approved	Value of bids under query	Balance for which bids are awaited
Stansted	£97,033	£90,033	£7,000	£0
Flitch Green	£82,958	£0	£0	£82,958 No indications
Great Dunmow	£69,967	£0	£0	£69,967 expected March
Takeley	£68,014	£68,014	£0	£0
Little Canfield	£59,424	£59,424	£0	£0
Saffron Walden	£43,185	£30,275	£0	£12,910 expected February
Newport	£16,733	£0	£0	£16,733 expected February
Thaxted	£12,591	£12,591	£0	£0
Quendon & Rickling	£6,095	£6,095	£0	£0
Total	£456,000	£266,432	£7,000	£182,568

8. Bids received were considered by the members of the Cabinet on 24 January. Relevant Ward Members were consulted; no objections were received. Bids were approved by the Leader with the exception of bids from Saffron Walden Town Council which were approved by the Deputy Leader acting under delegated authority. A schedule of the approved bids is attached to this report (Appendix A).
9. Decisions on two bids from Stansted Parish Council, totalling £7,000, have been deferred pending clarification of certain aspects.
10. Where bids are awaited, the town/parish councils concerned have been requested to expedite matters to enable bids to be considered during March.

Member allocations

11. Below is a summary of the progress as at 14 February:

Members who have fully spent their allocation	Members who have partially spent their allocation	Members who have not yet started to spend their allocation
8	9	27
Amount spent: £8,000	Amount spent: £5,718 Amount still to spend: £3,282	Amount still to spend: £27,000

12. The total amount spent by Members so far is £13,718. A list of projects funded is attached to this report (Appendix B). There is £30,282 not yet spent.

2012/13 Allocation

13. The Council is to receive £1,247,927 of New Homes Bonus for 2012/13. The budget proposals, elsewhere on today's agenda, contain a proposal to allocate £708,000 of this funding to new projects.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Funds are not used for the intended purpose	1 (town & parish councils are trusted partners)	3 (reputational damage)	Monies not to be advanced up front; town/parish councils to be reimbursed for expenditure incurred.
Allocated monies are not spent in a timely way	3 (progress to date is not as rapid as had been anticipated)	1 (the funds are not time limited and remain available until they need to be called upon)	Encouragement given and reminders sent.

- 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.

APPENDIX A

TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS – SCHEDULE OF APPROVED BIDS

Town/Parish	Amount	Purpose
Little Canfield	£43,924	Village Hall refurbishment
Little Canfield	£11,000	Allotment site infrastructure
Little Canfield	£1,500	Map of footpath network
Little Canfield	£3,000	Allotments water connection
Quendon & Rickling	£2,000	Community Heartbeat - Defibrillator
Quendon & Rickling	£2,095	Street lights replacement
Quendon & Rickling	£2,000	B1383 speed reduction device
Saffron Walden	£8,000	Slide on the Common
Saffron Walden	£3,500	Repairs to St Mary's Church clock
Saffron Walden	£2,000	Cleaning of the War Memorial
Saffron Walden	£2,000	Replacement bus shelter in High St
Saffron Walden	£2,000	Market place fountain refurbishment
Saffron Walden	£2,000	Bridge End Gardens footpath improvements
Saffron Walden	£2,000	Skatepark improvements
Saffron Walden	£900	High School Farm Club
Saffron Walden	£2,000	Blue Plaque Scheme
Saffron Walden	£1,000	Dorset House Garden artwork
Saffron Walden	£875	Saffron Walden Swords
Saffron Walden	£2,000	Bridge End Gardens further footpaths work
Saffron Walden	£2,000	Walden Ladies Football Club
Stansted	£15,000	Skatepark fencing
Stansted	£7,000	Fountain refurbishment
Stansted	£10,000	Tree planting
Stansted	£3,000	Jubilee fireworks
Stansted	£10,000	Allotments works
Stansted	£2,000	Day Centre audio visual equipment
Stansted	£10,000	Stansted Cricket Club
Stansted	£3,000	Stansted Hall Cricket Club
Stansted	£2,500	Stansted Bowling Club
Stansted	£1,000	Stansted Tennis Club
Stansted	£1,000	Stansted Football Club
Stansted	£3,000	Rainbow Pre-School
Stansted	£3,000	Buffy Bus
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Town/Parish	Amount	Purpose
Stansted	£15,000	Youth Services
Stansted	£350	U3A
Stansted	£143	Free Church Pilots
Stansted	£500	Foresthall Residents Association
Stansted	£3,540	Stansted Cricket Club
Takeley	£35,000	Recreation Ground refurbishment
Takeley	£20,000	Sports Fields drainage & resurfacing
Takeley	£5,014	Sports Fields car park resurfacing
Takeley	£8,000	Little Canfield allotments toilet facility
Thaxted	£1,896	Recreation Ground perimeter fence
Thaxted	£2,850	Recreation Ground tarmac access & safety barrier
Thaxted	£4,900	Fingerposts to aid visitors find their way around the town
Thaxted	£1,953	Notice board
Thaxted	£992	Wildflower meadow
Total	£266,432	

APPENDIX B

WARD MEMBERS – PAYMENTS MADE UP TO 14 FEBRUARY 2012

Member	Recipient	Amount	Purpose
Cllr S Barker	The Rodings U3A	£400.00	Computer courses & lapel microphone
Cllr S Barker	Rodings Friendship Club	£200.00	Christmas lunch for senior citizens
Cllr S Barker	Rodings & Easter Pre-School	£200.00	Book storage & educational items
Cllr S Barker	High Roding Parent & Toddler Group	£200.00	Mats, beakers, toys
Cllr Cant	Old Friends Meeting House	£250.00	Gas heater
Cllr Cant	Stebbing Village Hall	£250.00	Electrical works
Cllr Cant	Stebbing Parish Council	£250.00	Jubilee celebrations
Cllr Cant	Lindsell Diamond Jubilee Fd.	£250.00	Jubilee celebrations
Cllr Chambers	Elmdon & Wenden Lofts PC	£407.00	For Duddenhoe End and Elmdon Village Halls
Cllrs Cheetham/ Jones	Great Canfield Parish Council	£1,000.00	Oak tree, plaques and time capsule
Cllrs Cheetham/ Jones	Little Canfield Parish Council	£500.00	Jubilee projects
Cllrs Cheetham/ Jones	Takeley Parish Council	£500.00	Jubilee projects
Cllr Godwin	Birchanger Sports & Soc Club	£1,000.00	Jubilee celebrations
Cllr Hicks	High Easter Parish Council	£500.00	Pre school seating; Jubilee; noticeboard
Cllr Hicks	Barnston Mission	£500.00	Kitchen modernisation
Cllr Howell	Sampfords Parish Council	£333.33	Jubilee celebrations
Cllr Howell	Hempstead Parish Council	£333.33	Jubilee celebrations
Cllr J Ketteridge	Saffron Walden	£895.55	Salt bins
Cllr Knight	Wimbish Parish Council	£500.00	First Aider training
Cllr Knight	Debden Parish Council	£500.00	First Aider training
Cllr Loughlin	Manuden Parish Council	£333.33	Jubilee celebrations
Cllr Loughlin	Farnham Parish Council	£333.33	Jubilee celebrations
Cllr Loughlin	Berden Parish Council	£333.33	Jubilee celebrations
Cllr Mackman	CVS Uttlesford	£500.00	To assist with funding shortfall
Cllr Menell	Littlebury Parish Council	£325.00	Dog waste bin; funds for allotments association; phone box refurbishment to create book store
Cllr Menell	Friends of Stretthall Church	£100.00	Church repairs
Cllr Menell	Arkesden Parish Council	£250.00	Noticeboard
Cllr Oliver	Clavering & Dist. Ov 60s Club	£250.00	Outings to celebrate 50 th anniversary
Cllr Oliver	Clavering Jubilee Field C'ttee	£250.00	Nature Trail
Cllr Oliver	St Margaret's Parish Church	£250.00	Crockery for community centre
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Member	Recipient	Amount	Purpose
Cllr Oliver	Royal British Leg'n Clavering	£150.00	Sports Day & Jubilee celebrations
Cllr Redfern	Great Chesterford	£196.00	Trees
Cllr Redfern	Great Chesterford PC	£278.00	Salt Spreader
Cllr Rose	Jikes Youth Centre	£120.00	Contribution towards outstanding loan
Cllr Rose	Lettice Martin Charity	£500.00	Welfare payments to widows and widowers
Cllr Rose	Newport Business Assoc.	£130.00	Landscaping & bush planting at Newport station
Cllr Smith	Gt Easton Playground Fund	£200.00	Events & equipment
Cllr Smith	Gt Easton CofE Primary Sch.	£250.00	Large play toy
	TOTAL	£13,718.20	