

Committee: Uttlesford Planning Policy Working Group

Agenda Item

Date: 30 March 2015

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Title: Neighbourhood Development Planning

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and Building Control

Summary

1. This report updates members on the Neighbourhood Development Planning process within the District and sets out how the District Council will support the process moving forward.

Recommendations

2. To note the report the support for Neighbourhood Development Planning moving forward.

Financial Implications

3. £100,000 has already been allocated from the Strategic Initiatives Fund.

Background Papers

4. None

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	This paper is published on the website. Direct email communication with Parish Councils notifying them of the support available.
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	Affects all wards equally
Workforce/Workplace	This will involve officers from the Planning Policy Team and others as necessary.

Situation

6. This report seeks to update members on the Neighbourhood Development Planning work within the District, and sets out how support will be provided in the future.

Current Neighbourhood Plan work

7. Since the Introduction of the Localism Act the Council has been working to support parishes to take forward Neighbourhood Development Plans if they wished to.
8. Three Neighbourhood Development Plan Areas have been submitted and designated by the District Council. These are Felsted, Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden. In all three cases the Plan Area is contiguous with the Parish Boundary.

Great and Little Chesterford

9. The Parish Councils have now submitted a proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan Area. This submission covers the two parishes of Great and Little Chesterford. The proposed area is now subject to formal consultation before the boundary is considered, and if appropriate, approved by Cabinet.

Stansted Mountfitchet

10. The Parish Council held a meeting for interested individuals which the Assistant Director Chaired. At the end of the meeting a good mix of people volunteered their time to form a Steering Group and someone interested in taking the Chair was also identified. A submission of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Area is expected shortly.

Future support

11. Given the importance of Neighbourhood Development Planning the District Council Cabinet has allocated £100,000 from the Strategic Initiatives Fund to support Neighbourhood Development Planning in future years. This money will be held in a ring fenced account and administered by the Planning and Housing Policy Team.
12. Groups can bid for funds from Government to help toward the costs of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan; in addition they can provide financial support from their own money.
13. Part of the allocated money will be used to procure independent professional advice from someone who has experience of supporting the Neighbourhood Development Planning process. This will be procured on the basis of about one days' time per week on a flexible basis (i.e. this could cover evening/weekend working and be split throughout the week). This would provide direct professional support to groups developing their Neighbourhood Development Plans.

14. Part of the allocated money would be set aside to provide grants to Parish/Town Councils who are pursuing Neighbourhood Development Plans and who meet the following criteria:
- a. Neighbourhood Development Area approved
 - b. Funding application to Government grant scheme (through Locality) submitted
 - c. Funding allocated from Parish/Town Council money
15. The total amount of funding allocated will depend on a number of variables but will take into account the size of settlement/area as well as the other resources available up to a maximum of £10,000 per Plan.
16. The funding will be retained by UDC as the accountable body and will be paid out on receipt of invoices to the Parish/Town Councils.

Conclusion

17. The production of Neighbourhood Development Plans is an important tool in allowing local communities to bring forward ideas and plans for their area to develop over future years. This community empowerment is an important part of the Localism Act and fits in with the Councils desire to support communities.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Failure to support the Neighbourhood Development Planning process.	1 – The Council has positively supported the Neighbourhood Development Plan processes and this financial allocation will allow this to continue.	2 – Lack of support could lead to Plans coming forward which are not consistent with National or Local policy.	Procure external professional support to assist Parish/Town Councils and ensure that officers

- 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.