

Tuesday 7 March 2017

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Dear Mrs Evans

### Neighbourhood Planning; grant funding

I am writing to let you know about some changes to our grant funding for neighbourhood planning and to highlight the support available from our planning policy team. I have also provided some further details regarding help you can get directly from the government for neighbourhood planning.

We have made these changes to grant funding because the government has reviewed its financial support for neighbourhood planning – it continues to offer direct funding to neighbourhood planning groups.

A summary of the support packages available are shown in the table below.

<b>Support packages available to help neighbourhood planning</b>			
<b>Neighbourhood Plan stage, when funding is available</b>	<b>District council grant available from April 1 2017</b>	<b>Government support package available now</b>	<b>Total</b>
A new neighbourhood area is formally designated by the district council.	£2,500	£9,000 is available to each neighbourhood planning group  + £6,000 and direct support from consultants for extra complexity.	£11,500  £17,500
A review of a neighbourhood plan is supported by the district council and that funding is required.	£2,500	£9,000 is available to each neighbourhood planning group  + £6,000 and direct support from consultants for certain groups	£11,500  £17,500

### District Council Grant Funding 1 April 2017

If you are preparing or intending to review a neighbourhood plan in the district you can apply for funding from us to support you. This 'start-up' funding is £2,500 per neighbourhood plan.

In each case, to receive the funding we ask for your neighbourhood area to be formally designated and a budget and project plan to be shared with us beforehand. In addition, for those of you reviewing your neighbourhood plan, a short statement as to why you wish to conduct a review will need to be agreed with us first. We are available to work with you to prepare these documents and we will continue to organise and pay for the publicity period when the plan is submitted to us, the independent examination and the referendum.

Please get in touch with the planning policy team (see below) if you have any questions.

### Government support

A Government support package is available directly to neighbourhood planning groups. Grant funding of up to £9,000 is available and in some cases a further £6,000 and technical support is also available. Applications for grants for 2017-2018 can be applied for until 1 October 2017. More details can be found on the 'My Community' website through Locality here: <http://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/neighbourhood-planning/>

### Our support

We continue to support neighbourhood planning in the district. Each neighbourhood plan is assigned a lead officer within the planning policy team, who can be used as a key point of contact. There are two dedicated and experienced officers working on neighbourhood plans in the policy team; William Sparling and Rachael Riach.

More details on neighbourhood planning are available on our website:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans>

Please also look out for bulletins on neighbourhood planning from the Planning Policy Team. Bulletins 2, 4 and 5 so far have provided updates on neighbourhood planning: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/new-local-plan-2031-part-1-strategic-sites>

### Our contact details

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Planning Policy Team:

[planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

01235 422600 (Text phone users add 18001 before you dial)

135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4SB

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

I hope my update is helpful, but if you have any question please contact Will or Rachael via the contact details above.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Roger Cox  
Cabinet Member for Planning  
Vale of White Horse District Council