

REPORT OF CABINET
(Meeting held on 3 May 2017)

1. COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND (MINUTE 74)

This Council has agreed the process through which to spend the money that has been secured from the government under the Community Housing Fund, in total amounting to £976,387. This is in recognition of the high proportion of second homes in the District and also that this Council has demonstrated that it has developed proposals to implement such a scheme. The Fund will provide £60 million per annum, nationally, in capital and revenue support. Initially funding is directed to local authorities who will build capacity within local groups and provide initial support for projects.

The criteria for community led housing are:

- That the community must be integrally involved in key decisions throughout the process;
- Community groups play a long term role in ownership, management or stewardship of the homes;
- Benefits to the local area and/or specified community must be clearly defined and legally protected in perpetuity.

The retention of these properties, in perpetuity, to meet the needs of local people should overcome the problems caused by concerns about rural housing schemes being subject to right to buy legislation. It is understood that, in some rural settlements, landowners are prepared to donate land for this purpose, provided the housing can be secured for local people in perpetuity.

A full time, 2 year temporary post will be funded to promote and develop community housing fund projects to parish and town councils and other community groups with an interest in community led housing. In addition, grants and loans will be available for set up costs, professional fees etc; and to provide seed corn funding for community led housing projects. An application process will need to be developed, together with assessment criteria and funding tiers. This process will assist bids to be made for further government funding, paid directly to the community based project, following the first year in which funding is directed through local authorities.

This Council will need to work closely with the National Park Authority to ensure that all communities across the District that wish to benefit from this scheme, can do so.

Members have welcomed an initiative that could secure low cost housing, for local people, in perpetuity, in settlements in the District.

2. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (MINUTE 75)

The Cabinet has decided to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to review the Members' Allowances Scheme, as required by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The Terms of Reference of the Independent Remuneration Panel are attached as Appendix 1 to Report Item 5 to the Cabinet.

The Cabinet considered whether to re-appoint the current Panel, or to amend the membership. The experience and expertise offered by each of the current Panel members is summarised in Report Item 5 to the Cabinet. It has been decided that it would be timely to bring new perspectives to this issue. An appointments process will be initiated to recruit the members of the Panel. The appointments process will be agreed by the Executive Head of Governance and Regulation in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

In addition to reviewing this Council's Members' Allowances Scheme, town and parish councils will be offered the opportunity for the Panel to review their schemes. Any local council taking advantage of that offer will be expected to meet the costs involved.

**COUNCILLOR B RICKMAN
CHAIRMAN**