

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

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Custom and Self Build Register New Burdens Grant

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **That delegated authority be given to the Director of Housing and Communities, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to spend the Custom and Self Build New Burdens Grant set out in para 3.1 of the agenda report.**

3. Background

- 3.1. A one off payment of £5,850 of New Burdens funding was made to authorities in June 2016 towards the provision of additional resources required to set up and maintain a custom and self-build register of people who wanted to acquire serviced plots of land in their area. A further £90,000 of New Burdens funding has been allocated to authorities between 2016/17 and 2019/20 to take account of additional requirements to comply with the regulations. This involves ensuring there is sufficient permissioned and serviced land to satisfy demand. The funding is based on a FTE officer for 3 years and is not ring-fenced.
- 3.2. The custom and self-build register has been put in place using existing resources within the housing service. However, given current pressures on the service, there is an identified need for additional research and policy resources to support the housing management team over the next two years.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1. The New Burdens Grant is intended to cover the cost of additional resources required to carry out the Council's statutory duties.
- 4.2. Additional staffing resource to carry out research and policy work to support the housing management team.

5. Proposals

- 5.1. It is proposed to use the New Burdens Grant to provide the staffing resources to help deal with the additional strategy and policy work as required over the next two years. This will include:
- Monitoring the custom and self-build register as well as developing policy on self-build including supplementary planning guidance.
 - Developing both a new comprehensive housing strategy and a revised Allocations Scheme.
 - Researching alternative means of delivering affordable housing.
 - Preparing government consultations and bids for funding.
- 5.2. It is proposed that delegated powers be given to the Director of Housing and Communities following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Services, to use the funding in line with government guidance issued with the notification of the grants.

6. Resource and Legal Implications

- 6.1. The Government realises that new regulations create extra work for councils and so has provided New Burdens funding to support them to:
- i) set up and maintain a register of people who want to acquire serviced plots of land in their area; and
 - ii) ensure there is sufficient permissioned and serviced land to satisfy demand on the self-build and custom housebuilding register.
- 6.2. The Council has already received £80,850 of New Burdens funding and a further £15,000 will be received in 2019/20.
- 6.3. The New Burdens Grant is expected to adequately cover the employment costs of any additional staff.

7. Consultation

- 7.1. Discussions have been held with Divisional Managers of Planning Policy and Development Management and it has been proposed that:
- The £100k, allocated under delegated authority (approved by Cabinet on 7 February 2017), from the Community Led-housing Fund for additional planning resources is used to recruit an additional planning officer to deal with Community Land Trusts, rural affordable housing sites and self-build sites.
 - The Custom and Self-build New Burdens Grant be used to provide additional resources to deal with the register and policy work within the housing service.

8. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 8.1. The Government believes that self and custom build housing can play a crucial role in securing greater diversity in the housing market, and in helping to deliver the homes people want. Local authorities are expected to play a role in achieving these ambitions.
- 8.2. The impact of the proposal will benefit the residents of the district. Additional resources will enable the Council to develop housing policies and strategies and bid for funding which will help deliver an efficient service and meet the housing needs of the district.

9. Other Implications

Crime and Disorder	None
Climate Change	None
Human Rights and Equality Impact see para 8.2.	Yes
Safeguarding and Early Help	None
General Data Protection Regulations	None

10. Appendices

10.1 None

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 None