

Motions Submitted to Council**In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution****Motion 1****Submitted by Councillor Hebb**

"Council resolves to devolve further ownership to communities, by setting up a support package for communities wishing to shape their own Neighbourhood Plan. The idea would be that communities seek to shape their own Neighbourhood Plan and would lead the shaping of the plans, but would have support available to them to assist and coach them in the process."

Monitoring Officer Comments:

Neighbourhood Planning was introduced through the Localism Act 2011. From May 2013 the government has run a 2 year programme to support communities to prepare neighbourhood development plans. The Council as local planning authority has a duty to assist people draw up plans for which they can claim funding per completed plan.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

The cost to the Council of providing support to the Neighbourhood Planning process will be dependent upon the number of Neighbourhood Plans being prepared and the resources available to the community to support its production. Typically the cost to the local community of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan has ranged from £15,000 to £75,000 depending on circumstances. Government has committed support to providing up to £50million before the end of March 2015 to support local Councils in assisting the Communities prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. Under this scheme a grant of up to £20,000 can be made available towards the cost of each project. Following the cessation of this funding stream, it is not clear what funds will be made available in future to assist local authorities recoup their costs.

The direct cost to the Council associated with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan includes officer time in providing support to local community groups, the production of consultation materials, the placing of statutory advertisements in the local press, and organising both the Independent Examination and Public Referendum on the emerging Neighbourhood Local Plan. At this time it is not possible to identify the actual cost to the Council of supporting future Neighbourhood Planning initiatives. However, it is likely that the direct and indirect costs associated with the process will exceed the level of grant support being made available by Government."

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes