



# Vale of White Horse

*District Council*

**Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities  
(Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England)  
Regulations 2000**

RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET MEMBER OR KEY DECISION OF OFFICER			
1	<b>Name of Decision maker</b>	Councillor Barber	
2	<b>Type of Decision (Please <input type="checkbox"/> as appropriate)</b>	<b>Key</b>  Yes	<b>Other</b>
3	<b>Date of Decision</b> (This should be the same as the date form signed)		
4	<b>The Decision</b>	<p>To provide financial support to towns and villages preparing neighbourhood development plans, from funding we expect to receive from government.</p> <p>This will be offered upfront to town or parish councils progressing a neighbourhood plan, provided the neighbourhood planning area has been designated and we have received the first £5000 grant from central government. Neighbourhood Plan groups must submit an acceptable project plan through to examination stage. Financial support will be offered on the understanding that if they do not proceed to examination stage, or if the plan fails at examination due to non-compliance with the draft local plan proposals, we reserve the right to recover any monies paid towards the production of the plan.</p> <p>The amount offered should be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £15,000 for town councils</li> <li>• £10,000 for larger villages</li> <li>• £5,000 for smaller villages.</li> </ul>	
5	<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood Plans will form the main policy documents for local areas, in addition to the Local Plan 2029 (and any other Development Plan Documents adopted at the time) and may allocate sites for development and set local policies for development.</li> <li>• The Vale of White Horse District Council Corporate Plan 2012-2016: Vision for the Vale states that the council will 'Encourage communities to consider developing Neighbourhood Plans as a means of shaping their local</li> </ul>	

		<p>environment'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They can contribute to the following corporate objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meeting housing need – by identifying land supply to meet future housing need</li> <li>○ Building the local economy – by supporting business growth in appropriate locations whilst protecting the character of our towns and villages, and</li> <li>○ Support for local communities – by supporting rural communities to identify local issues and needs, and solutions available to meet them.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	<b>Alternative Options Rejected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not to give any funding to town and parish councils – this does not meet the corporate plan objectives and does not encourage communities to consider development Neighbourhood Plans.</li> <li>• To give communities all of the funding received from the government – the council would not have sufficient resources to support communities in producing neighbourhood plans or to fund the examination and referendum.</li> <li>• To offer the same amount of financial support to towns, larger villages and smaller villages – the amount of money spent on producing neighbourhood plans will not be the same for each area. Larger areas have more people to consult and are more likely to have numerous and complex issues.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Resource Implications</b>	A Senior Planning Officer (Neighbourhood Planning) has been appointed to support communities in producing neighbourhood plans. There are therefore no additional resource implications arising from this decision.
8	<b>Legal implications</b>	Neighbourhood planning is part of the Government's initiative to empower local communities to take forward planning proposals at a local level (S.116 of the Localism Act). The proposal to have the chairman of the town or parish council to sign a letter accepting the conditions of grant is acceptable for this level of risk.
9	<b>Financial implications</b>	<p>A budget has been created for 2013/14 to enable payments to the NP groups. There are currently two NPs in production, one town and one larger village. One smaller village has submitted an application for designation of a NP area and a few others are in the pipeline.</p> <p>The council may have short-term cash flow problems with this budget head but the problem is not significant.</p>
10	<b>List of Consultees</b> (See guidance below)	<p>Legal – comment incorporated above</p> <p>Finance – no comment</p> <p>Communications – no comment</p>
11	<b>Reports and Background Papers Considered</b>	None
12	<b>Date of receipt of Reports</b>	N/A

13	<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	None
14	<b>Dispensations</b>	None
15	<b>Is this decision confidential and if so, under which Exempt category?</b>	No
16	<b>"Call in" Waived?</b>	No
17	<b>Signature and Date</b>	 ..... Decision maker Dated 9. IV. MMXIII.....
18	<b>This form must be physically handed to a member of the Democratic Services Team</b>	Note: The date and time at which this form is received will be recorded by the Head of Democratic Services. The decision will then be published and is subject to "call in".  ..... Date 9-4-13 Time 17:10 Head of Democratic Services Date and Time Form Received M
19	<b>Details of Publication on the Web and date of expiry of "Call In"</b> Note: This part of the Form will be completed by Democratic Services	Date of Expiry of "Call In" 16-4-13 ..... Date Published 10-4-13 ..... Date <sup>emailed</sup> hand delivered to Chair of Scrutiny 10-4-13 .....