



Department for
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The Chief Planning Officer
Mineral Planning Authorities in England

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Dear colleague,

Shale exploration – support for mineral planning authorities

The [Written Ministerial Statement](#) made by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on 16 September last year emphasised the importance of securing timely decisions on shale gas planning applications. Recognising the novel and technical issues that such schemes may raise for mineral planning authorities, the Statement also set out a clear expectation that authorities made full use of the shale support funding to ensure there were adequate resources to enable the timely determination locally of planning applications for shale gas.

I am writing to inform you that the Government have decided to make £800,000 available to continue the funding scheme for this 2016/17 financial year. We have today published a Shale Gas Prospectus <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shale-exploration-support-for-mineral-planning-authorities-invitation-to-bid--2> from which bids for funding can be made by mineral planning authorities to assist you in dealing with shale planning applications.

The scheme adopts a similar approach to the support provided last year, with the prospectus defining the 'trigger points' in the planning application process when mineral planning authorities can apply for funding that they could bid for at each stage. As before, bids should be made to the Department with clear justification and supporting evidence, in line with the requirements set out in the prospectus, on why a bid is being made. Should you need any further information on, or have questions about, the fund or the bidding process, please email MPABids@communities.gsi.gov.uk or contact Roger Wand tel 0303 44 41688.

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