



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Planning Delivery Fund

Supporting joint working, high quality design and innovation



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Introduction

1. The Government set out in the [housing White Paper](#) its strategy for fixing the broken housing market. Subsequent measures set out in detail in [Planning for the right homes in the right places](#), and announced at Budget 2018, are taking forward the implementation of this strategy. Housing supply has increased by over 1.1 million since 2010, including more than 300,000 affordable homes, and the latest figures show that housing supply increased by 217,000 last year, up from 137,000 in 2010. But we know that if we are to achieve our target of one million new homes by 2020, we need to support and enable more and better house building and infrastructure development.
2. Local authorities have a key role to play making the right land available in the right places, but also in ensuring homes with permission get built without delay. As outlined in both our housing and Industrial Strategy White Papers, we want to support greater collaboration between local planning authorities, a more strategic approach to planning for housing and infrastructure, and more innovation and high quality design in creating new communities.
3. The Planning Delivery Fund recognises that capacity and capability to deliver the scale and quality of housing growth being sought is limited in some key areas. Funding is intended to support ambitious authorities in areas of high housing need to plan for new homes and infrastructure, equipping them with the requisite resources to deliver the agenda set out in the housing White Paper.
4. This programme of funding aims to support:
 - more and better joint working, across local authority boundaries, ensuring that there are the skills and capacity where they are needed to plan strategically for housing growth, and to manage delivery of new homes and infrastructure;
 - a step change in the design quality of new development, as well as design advice and support to local authorities delivering growth; and,
 - innovation in the planning system, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of processes and enable the delivery of more high quality homes.
5. The £25 million of resource funding announced in the housing White Paper, is available for the financial years 2017/18 to 2019/20. This prospectus opens up to £11 million of the Planning Delivery Fund for bidding, equally split over the financial years 2017/18 to 2018/19, to be administered under three dedicated funding streams: a Joint Working Fund, a Design Quality Fund, and an Innovation Fund. We expect to issue a further prospectus for the remainder of the fund in due course.

6. All local planning authorities (including Development Corporations, Mayoral areas and combined authorities) are eligible to bid into the three funding streams, whether individually or in partnership (in the latter case, where the grant would support joint working). However all should note the prioritisation criteria for each funding stream.
7. Third sector organisations (on their own or in partnership with Local Authorities) are also invited to submit proposals to the Innovation Fund.
8. The prospectus invites expressions of interest by 11 January 2018.

Joint Working Fund

Overview

9. Effective working across local authority boundaries is essential to plan for the delivery of housing, infrastructure and other strategic needs of communities; particularly where there is high housing pressure and areas are heavily constrained. Joint working is a statutory requirement under the duty to cooperate, introduced through the Localism Act in 2011, and the Government has recently consulted on the introduction of a statement of common ground to further encourage more and better joint working. Support under this section of the prospectus is offered to create additional capacity in local authorities for joint working to help achieve their ambitions for growth.
10. Funding awards will be made annually to successful local authorities via section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Department reserves the right not to pay recipients the full amount requested in either financial year (this will depend on affordability in light of the total amount of funding requested in each financial year; see paragraph 16).
11. Funding will be confirmed for 2017-18 and indicative amounts awarded for 2018/19 by end of January 2018 (see paragraph 17).

Who can apply?

12. Local planning authorities (including Development Corporations, Mayoral areas and combined authorities) cooperating to prepare plans to more effectively deliver housing need and other strategic priorities for their areas across their authority boundaries are eligible to apply for funds.

Bidding Criteria

13. Bids will need to demonstrate:
 - Scale and strength of ambition and commitment to housing growth – for example by showing that the activity funded will contribute to the area planning to meet or exceed local housing need in the future, and accelerate effective planning across authority boundaries;
 - Strength of commitment to joint working; and
 - Strength of proposal and timetable for delivery of the joint planning work.

Prioritisation criteria

14. In making awards, priority will be given to those groups of authorities with the highest housing need, where affordability is a major issue, or where funding is necessary to overcome difficult planning issues; for instance, to distribute unmet housing needs in highly constrained areas or plan for infrastructure across a wider geography.

Application process

15. Authorities wishing to access this support will need to submit a short expression of interest using the template provided in Annex A, including the following:
 - Who is party to the bid, what the role of each party is, and who should receive the award;
 - A description of the strategic planning issues to be addressed, and the timescale for joint working;
 - Provide information on how they propose to spend the money and assurance that money can be spent according to the agreed award profile (e.g. by end of March 2018 for 17/18 allocation);
 - A clear identification of risks to delivery of outcomes/benefits and how these will be managed/mitigated;
 - What the proposed impact of funding will be and how will it be measured
 - Whether the bid relies on, or anticipates, other funding from Government; and
 - Assurance that there is senior council support and commitment within each planning authority to joint working and production of statutory plans to meet local housing need and address other strategic priorities across authority boundaries.

Decision

16. We expect successful bids to be up to £250,000 per bid for expenditure in 2017-18. We will take into account whether requested funds can be realistically spent in the relevant financial year.
17. A decision by DCLG ministers on which expressions of interest to support is expected by the end of January 2018. All applicants will be informed of the outcome.

Our wider commitment to plan making

18. The Government is committed to ensuring every community has an up to date, sufficiently ambitious plan, and we will do all we can to support local authorities to produce a plan.
19. That is why, alongside the Planning Delivery Fund, we will also be investing to extend our current programme of engagement with local planning authorities, recruiting

additional DCLG staff to help resolve barriers that are preventing plans and development schemes from moving forward.

20. We are also expanding our programme of advisory visits, provided by the Planning Inspectorate, which helps authorities to identify issues with emerging plans early in the process, and provides authorities with confidence to submit their plans for examination.
21. The Government will also have access to other planning and technical experts, where necessary, to provide short term support to areas to help plans and schemes progress, by addressing difficult plan-making and local housing delivery issues with local authority planning and housing teams.
22. We have also confirmed in the housing White Paper, and more recently in the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 16 November 2017, that Government will intervene in plan making where local planning authorities fail to plan to meet the needs of local communities. The Planning Delivery Fund may also be used to support this work.

Further information

23. For further information please contact DCLG at PlanningDeliveryFund@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Design Quality Fund

Overview

24. Support under this section of the prospectus is offered to increase design skills in local authorities and enable the effective use of new technologies to ensure that new development meets the Government's ambitions for quality as well as quantity.
25. Funding awards will be made annually to successful local authorities via section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Department reserves the right not to pay recipients the full amount requested in either financial year (this will depend on affordability in light of the total amount of funding requested in each financial year; see paragraph 30).
26. Funding will be confirmed for 2017-18 and indicative amounts awarded for 2018/19 by end of January 2018 (see paragraph 31).

Bidding criteria for Design Quality Funding

27. Local authorities wishing to access this funding, on their own or in partnership with other local authorities, are invited to submit an expression of interest, using the template provided in Annex B, which will be assessed against these criteria:
 - Strength of proposal to address an identified gap in the design resource available to the local authority, that will raise the quality of new planned development, and with a clear timescale for planned activity; and
 - Strength of commitment to a step change in the design quality of new development, in particular where this will address related issues such as increasing densities in high-demand areas.

Prioritisation criteria for Design Quality Funding

28. Those authorities who can demonstrate clear proposed outcomes as a result of funding will be prioritised in making awards.

Application process

29. Authorities wishing to access this support will need to submit a short expression of interest including the following:
 - Successful bidders should be able to provide evidence of senior council support;
 - Evidence of a pipeline of schemes requiring dedicated urban design/masterplanning skills;

- Provide information on how they propose to spend the money and assurance that money can be spent according to the agreed award profile (e.g. by end of March 2018 for 17/18 allocation);
- A clear identification of risks to delivery of outcomes/benefits and how these will be managed/mitigated;
- Where the local authority area (via a related Neighbourhood Planning Group) has received specific Design Code support from the Neighbourhood Planning Support Contact, how the benefits of this support have been utilised, and how the Design Fund award would complement it where appropriate;
- What the proposed impact of funding will be and how will it be measured; and
- Whether the bid relies on, or anticipates, other funding/support from Government.

Decision

30. We expect successful bids to be up to £250,000 per bid for expenditure in 2017-18. We will take into account whether requested funds can be realistically spent in the relevant financial year.
31. A decision by DCLG ministers on which expressions of interest to support is expected by the end of January 2018. All applicants will be informed of the outcome.

Further information

32. For further information please contact DCLG at PlanningDeliveryFund@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Innovation Fund

Overview

33. Support under this section of the prospectus is offered to stimulate and support innovation in the way planning services are delivered.
34. Funding awards will be made annually to successful local authorities via section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and to Third Sector organisations via section 70 of the Charities Act 2006. The Department reserves the right not to pay recipients the full amount requested in either financial year (this will depend on affordability in light of the total amount of funding requested in each financial year; see paragraph 40).
35. Funding will be confirmed for 2017-18 and indicative amounts awarded for 2018/19 by end of January 2018 (see paragraph 41).

Bidding criteria

36. Local authorities and Third Sector organisations (in partnership with Local Authorities, or on their own) can apply to fund innovation in processes, data and digital tools, by submitting an expression of interest (using the template provided in Annex C).
37. Bids will need to demonstrate that the proposals would support authorities in meeting housing needs through:
 - Strength of the proposal in making innovative use of digital or other tools to support more effective and efficient plan-making, design quality or development management; for example, by improving access to planning information or improving engagement of communities in plan making and planning application processes.

Prioritisation criteria

38. Proposals that offer the greatest benefits, in particular where housing is most unaffordable, are scalable to other authority areas, or support the delivery of national policy will be prioritised in making awards.

Application process

39. Authorities and third sector organisations wishing to access this support will need to submit a short expression of interest including the following:
 - Evidence of innovation in the improvement of planning processes and outcomes, together with anticipated benefits and timescales for implementation

- Provide information on how they propose to spend the money and assurance that money can be spent according to the agreed award profile (e.g. by end of March 2018 for 17/18 allocation).
- A clear identification of risks to delivery of outcomes/benefits and how these will be managed/mitigated
- What the proposed impact of funding will be and how will it be measured
Other sources of funding anticipated or relied on for the bid

Decision

40. Award amounts will be made depending on the volume and quality of bids. We will take into account whether requested funds can be realistically spent in the relevant financial year.
41. A decision by DCLG ministers on which expressions of interest to support is expected by the end of January 2018. All applicants will be informed of the outcome.

Further information

42. For further information please contact DCLG at PlanningDeliveryFund@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Annex A: Joint Working Fund (Expression of Interest Template)

Lead authority		
Partners involved		
Senior sign-off		
Funding being applied for	2017-18	2018-19
	£	£
<p><u>Summary of proposal</u> (please describe the relevant geographical area, nature of joint working proposed, the strategic planning issues to be addressed, scale of ambition and how this award will help you to achieve it.)</p> <p>[max 500 words]</p>		
<p><u>Specific activities and timetables</u> (including a breakdown of activities, milestones and profile of expenditure)</p> <p>[max 500 words]</p>		
<p><u>Impacts expected from funding</u> (including description of outputs and outcomes you expect to achieve, and how they will be measured)</p> <p>[max 500 words]</p>		
<p><u>Assurance that there is strong commitment to joint working, and that any award will be spend in accordance with the award profile</u> (please outline joint working arrangements in place, or envisaged, and confirm how you will ensure the money is spend as outlined)</p> <p>[max 250 words]</p>		
<p><u>Assessment of risks to achieving the objectives of the proposal</u> (please list your top three risks and mitigating actions)</p> <p>[max 250 words]</p>		
<p><u>Does your bid rely on, or align with, other funding or initiatives from Government?</u> For example, are you part of housing deal negotiations, or have bid for Housing Infrastructure Fund money?</p> <p>[max 250 words]</p>		

Annex B: Design Quality Fund (Expression of Interest Template)

Lead authority		
Partners involved (where applicable)		
Senior sign-off		
Funding being applied for	2017-18	2018-19
	£	£
<p><u>Summary of proposal</u> (please describe how this award will help fill the identified gap in the design resource available to the local authority, and how it will raise the quality of new planned development)</p> <p>[max 250 words]</p>		
<p><u>Description of pipeline of schemes requiring dedicated urban design/masterplanning skills;</u></p> <p>[max 500 words]</p>		
<p><u>Specific activities and timetables</u> (including a breakdown of activities, milestones and profile of expenditure)</p> <p>[max 500 words]</p>		
<p><u>Impacts expected from funding</u> (including description of outputs and outcomes you expect to achieve, and how they will be measured)</p> <p>[max 250 words]</p>		
<p>Assurance that there is strong commitment to a step change in the design quality of new development, and that any award will be spend in accordance with the award profile (please outline joint working arrangements in place, or envisaged, and confirm how you will ensure the money is spend as outlined)</p> <p>[max 250 words]</p>		
<p><u>Assessment of risks to achieving the objectives of the proposal</u> (please list your top three risks and mitigating actions)</p> <p>[max 250 words]</p>		
<p><u>Does your bid rely on, or align with, other funding or initiatives from Government?</u> For example, are you part of housing deal negotiations, or have bid for Housing Infrastructure Fund money?</p> <p>[max 250 words]</p>		

Annex C: Innovation Funding (Expression of Interest Template)

Lead applicant		
Partners involved (where applicable)		
Local Senior sign-off (where applicable)		
Funding being applied for	2017-18	2018-19
	£	£
<p><u>Summary of proposal</u> (please describe the nature of the innovation, and how it will support more effective and efficient plan-making, design quality or development management;</p> <p>[max 500 words]</p>		
<p><u>Specific activities and timetables</u> (including a breakdown of activities, milestones and profile of expenditure)</p> <p>[max 500 words]</p>		
<p><u>Impacts expected from funding</u> (including description of outputs and outcomes you expect to achieve, and how they will be measured)</p> <p>[max 500 words]</p>		
<p><u>A statement of assurance that the money will be spend in accordance with the award profile?</u></p> <p>[max 250 words]</p>		
<p><u>Assessment of risks to achieving the objectives of the proposal</u> (please list your top three risks and mitigating actions)</p> <p>[max 250 words]</p>		
<p><u>Does your bid rely on, or align with, other funding or initiatives from Government?</u> For example, are you part of housing deal negotiations, or have bid for Housing Infrastructure Fund money?</p> <p>[max 250 words]</p>		