

Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods: frequently asked questions

What do you define as a neighbourhood?

The term is not strictly defined as a specific geographic area or population size. However, we would expect a neighbourhood to be smaller than a district or borough – it could be, for example, a town, parish or housing estate - and viable in terms of service delivery. We would expect the area delimited to be readily identified by the community who lives there. Some factors you may wish to consider when deciding the boundaries of a neighbourhood area can be found in the [Neighbourhood Planning Guidance](#).

Would you prefer the project to include several neighbourhoods?

Whilst there is no minimum number of neighbourhoods that the projects must involve, we would expect the work to involve more than one neighbourhood, and would like some projects to look at neighbourhood approaches across the whole authority.

Do you have a preferred neighbourhood type?

No, in making a final decision we will try to ensure that projects are distributed across a range of neighbourhood types (e.g. urban, rural, coastal) and socioeconomic settings.

Can we apply for support if the project is already under way?

The grant is not intended for the implementation of projects which are well under way; however we would help authorities to develop existing feasibility plans or to scale out an early stage pilot.

You ask what resource we are planning to put in to the project. Are you expecting us to provide match funding?

No, but we do want to see that authorities are committed to developing the new service in the timescales set out and that there is sufficient internal resource to make it viable. This might include: additional funding from the local authority; access to corporate resources (such as HR, legal, strategy etc.); senior staff time; and the use of or longer term transfer of council assets to communities.

Why have you chosen the listed priority areas?

These service areas were highlighted by stakeholders in local and central government as having particular scope for neighbourhood level delivery. We are interested in exploring this further by gathering models and evidence. Therefore we want to encourage bids in these service areas and hope to achieve some clustering.

Will I be at a disadvantage if my project falls outside of those priority areas?

No. All expressions of interest will be scored against the same criteria (as found in the prospectus), and there will be no additional weighting for those in the priority areas.

How many authorities will be invited to interview?

We expect to interview around 35-40 authorities, from which we will select around 25 to proceed with the programme.

What will the format of the interview be?

We will ask authorities to briefly set out their proposals, expanding on their expression of interest. We will then ask questions to improve our understanding, probe potential weaknesses and areas which remain unclear, and also discuss risks, including political risks. There will also be a chance to ask any questions you may have.

Can parish/town councils apply?

No. Whilst we are interested in projects that seek to devolve greater responsibility to parish/town councils - and expect that 3-4 projects funded in each of the two phases of the programme will involve parish and town councils in some way - the expression of interest must be submitted by a principal authority.

How does this programme differ from Delivering Differently for Local Authorities and Our Place?

The three programmes share a common aim: to support the transformation of local services in order to improve quality and efficiency and ensure the best outcomes for service-users.

Delivering Differently for Local Authorities and Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods both aim to support local authorities to redesign public services. Whereas the former focusses on new delivery models for specific services, the latter focusses on delivery at neighbourhood level, with the involvement of community organisations or town councils.

Our Place and Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods both support neighbourhood level service transformation with community involvement. While Our Place focusses on supporting local communities to get involved in setting priorities for and designing local services, Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods aims to support local authorities to redesign services to deliver at neighbourhood level, with the involvement of local communities.

Can Our Place areas apply for Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods?

Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods aims to support local authorities to redesign services to be delivered at neighbourhood level, with the involvement of local people and organisations. Whilst we appreciate that several local authorities are supporting this approach through Our Place projects, Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods is not designed to provide funding for the implementation of existing Our Place projects. However, should a local authority be interested in scaling out an approach from a single Our Place area across the local authority, or using lessons learned from an Our Place project as the basis for innovative approaches in other service areas, we would welcome applications.