

Neighbourhood Development Order Guidance Note 5

Funding your Neighbourhood Development Order

August 2013 - revised September 2014



Neighbourhood Planning gives communities both the opportunity and responsibility to decide their own futures, but at present the direct financial resources available are limited.

This guidance note provides some background on the funding streams currently in operation across England and highlights the non-financial assistance available to help you prepare your Neighbourhood Development Order in the most efficient and cost effective way

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You may have thought of resources when someone mentioned the possibility of embarking on a Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) at your last meeting. Setting a budget will be an important element of the project planning for your parish council and steering group. Discovering what financial assistance and resources are available will help you set and manage this budget.

Although no direct financial support is currently available from Herefordshire Council, the Neighbourhood Planning team has been established to provide support to communities undertaking Neighbourhood Planning, which includes the preparation of NDOs. Parish councils can therefore expect to receive professional advice from a dedicated team of planners from the inception of their development orders through to completion. This will reduce the need to seek external professional advice from planning consultants thus reducing costs.

What are the costs of a Neighbourhood Development Order likely to be?

The costs of preparing a development order will vary depending on the Neighbourhood Area itself, the level of consultation undertaken and the complexity and scope of the proposed NDO. Therefore it is difficult to give a cost estimate.

The capacity of the steering group to undertake the work themselves will have an impact on the overall costs. Inevitably, this will depend on the type of order being prepared.

What will the Council pay for?

Herefordshire Council is one of only a handful of planning authorities in England to have created a dedicated team to support Neighbourhood Planning at the time of writing.

Neighbourhood Planning is a collaborative activity and the council is a partner and can provide some of the support you need to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Order.

In general, the Council will provide technical advice and support on a range of matters, and will organise the key stages of producing the order. For example, the Council will arrange and pay for the independent examination of your

order and the referendum at the end of the process.

The Council has prepared a Service Level Agreement to outline the level of guidance, support and advice each parish undertaking a Neighbourhood Development Plan can expect to receive. Once a Neighbourhood Area has been designated parish councils will be given the opportunity to sign their SLA and begin working with their dedicated officer.

Are there any sources of funding?

Most of the financial assistance on offer is geared more towards Neighbourhood Development Plans than Development Orders. However, it would still be worth seeking advice and help from the Neighbourhood Planning team as to whether any further funding streams become available and it is also conceivable that developers, landowners and local businesses may all be interested in sponsoring parish councils who are interested in Neighbourhood Planning and it would be worth exploring this possibility further.

Perhaps the best place to look for direct financial support is Awards for All, the small grants programme designed to help communities. All parish councils are eligible to apply to Awards for All provided their project does not exceed the value of £10,000. The project must also meet one of the following four outcomes:

- **People have better chances in life** - with better access to training and development to improve their life skills.
- **Stronger communities** - with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems
- **Improved rural and urban environments** - which communities are better able to access and enjoy
- **Healthier and more active communities**

There is no reason why NDOs in operation across Herefordshire would not create stronger communities and improved rural environments, so you ought to apply to this fund, which is available throughout the year.

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The current success rate for accessing this fund in the West Midlands region is 57% and it has already assisted with community planning projects in Herefordshire - the Leominster Town Plan was partly funded by Awards for All.

There could be other potential funding for NDOs available and for information and advice on any of these, including Awards for All, as well as help with completing applications please contact Dave Tristram our Project Development Officer on 01432 260636 or 343932 (email: dtristram@herefordshire.gov.uk).

How can we keep up to date with any funding which becomes available?

Your Neighbourhood Planning team support officer will be able to advise you if any additional sources of funding become available.

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Neighbourhood Development Order guidance notes available:

1. What is a Neighbourhood Development Order
2. A guide to procedures
3. Getting started
4. Neighbourhood Development Order project ideas
5. Funding your Neighbourhood Development Order
6. Glossary of Terms