

# DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

**Decision maker:** Portfolio Holder for Finance and Communication

**Decision in the matter of:** New Homes Bonus Recommendations to Award Round 1 - Knutsford

**Decision:** That the following recommendations made by the member award group panels for the New Homes Bonus Community Fund for Round 1 and for these to be awarded or awarded with conditions:

No.	Area	Organisation	Amount to fund
1	Knutsford	The Welcome Ltd	£19,973
2	Knutsford	1st Knutsford Scouts	£15,931
3	Knutsford	Chelford Community Hub	£35,000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£70,904</b>

**Background:** On 22nd February 2018 the Council set aside £2m (£1m in each of 2018/19 and 2019/20), as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, for a New Homes Bonus Community Fund.

New Homes Bonus is a Government grant that has been paid to Cheshire East Council since 2011 based on the net annual increase in local homes. The bonus is a permanent feature of the Local Authority Finance Settlement, created through top-slicing Revenue Support Grant.

Allocations will be made on the basis of Fund Areas that mirror the seven Cheshire East Council Highways Groups. The allocation for each Fund Area will be based on two elements: a fixed allocation; and a variable allocation based on the net increase in homes, within each Fund Area, using data for the period October 2010 to October 2017.

The New Homes Bonus Community Fund has been split across the Borough based on the location of housing developments that have contributed to the New Homes Bonus funding allocated to Cheshire East Council. The scheme provides communities with an opportunity to engage directly in how this funding should be spent, in accordance with locally agreed priorities. The annual Fixed Allocation is £350,000.

This to be split evenly between the seven Fund Areas providing individual allocations of £50,000. The annual Variable Allocation is

£650,000. This to be split between each fund area based on net housing completions between 2011 and 2017.

Each application has been evaluated and scored by multi-agency officer panel accordance with the criteria set out in Annex 7 of the NHB Community Fund Policy. The multi-agency officer panel evaluation process concluded with a set of recommendations to propose to the award group panels.

The elected member award group panels for all areas met between 12- 25 February 2019 taking into consideration the recommendations made by multi-agency officer panel alongside information regarding all fund applications. Each group agreed by a majority on which applications to be proposed for award either with or without conditions.

**Background Documents:**

Report to the Portfolio Holder entitled 'New Homes Bonus Recommendations to Award Round 1 – Knutsford.

The background papers relating to this decision can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

**Approved:**

Councillor Paul Bates  
Portfolio Holder for Finance and Communications

**Date:**

11 March 2019

**Executive Director:**

Mark Palethorpe  
Acting Executive Director of People