

**Report to the Council Housebuilding  
Cabinet Committee**



**Report reference:** CHB-022-2013/14  
**Date of meeting:** 17 April 2014

**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Portfolio:** Housing

**Subject:** London-Stansted-Harlow Programme of Development (POD) –  
Outcome of Funding Bid for the Council Housebuilding  
Programme

**Responsible Officer:** Alan Hall, Director of Communities (01992 564004)

**Democratic Services Officer:** Jackie Leither (01992 564756)

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**Recommendations:**

- 1) That the successful outcome of the bid by the West Essex Housing Forum to the London-Stansted-Harlow Programme of Development (POD) Partnership Board for funding towards the costs of the Council Housebuilding Programmes of the three district councils in West Essex be noted; and
- (2) That the Cabinet Committee notes that the Council's share of the £112,000 total funding will be £37,300 - towards the costs of the development at Harveyfields, Waltham Abbey as part of Phase 1 of the Housebuilding Programme.

**Executive Summary:**

The Council is a member of the West Essex Housing Forum, which submitted a bid to the London-Stansted-Harlow Programme of Development (POD) Partnership Board for funding towards the costs of the Council Housebuilding Programmes of the three district councils in West Essex.

The bid for £112,000 was successful, and the Council's share is £37,300.

**Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

For noting only.

**Other Options for Action:**

For noting only.

**Report:**

1. The London-Stansted-Harlow Programme of Development (POD) Partnership Board was established a number of years ago to oversee the use of Growth Area Fund (GAF) funding from the Government for the London-Stansted-Harlow area, and the subsequent implementation of projects funded from the GAF. The Board includes officer representatives

from Harlow, Uttlesford, Epping Forest, East Herts, Broxbourne, Essex and Herts Councils; Lea Valley Regional Park Authority; British Waterways; and a number of not-for profit organisations. The Director of Communities is the Council's representative on the Partnership Board.

2. In 2011, the Heads of Housing of the three District Councils in West Essex submitted a bid to the POD Partnership Board under the auspices of the West Essex Housing Forum, to help fund some affordable housing schemes within the three districts. The bid was successful, and included funding of £160,000 from the POD Partnership Board to assist with the funding of two affordable housing developments in the Epping Forest District:

(a) The provision of required flood mitigation measures for the Council housing development at for the former Red Cross Hall Site, Roundhills (now forming part of Phase 1 of the Council's Housebuilding Programme) - £90,000; and

(b) The construction of the 4 affordable homes from straw bales at Millfield, High Ongar by Hastoe Housing Association, which significantly reduces the fuel costs for the tenants and CO2 emissions - £70,000.

3. A few months ago, the POD Partnership Board invited further bids from Partnership members for residual funding of £250,000 that had become available for various reasons. There was a total of 5 bids submitted for consideration, totalling £551,000 (double the amount available).

4. One of these bids was again submitted by the West Essex Housing Forum, for £112,000 to help fund each Council's respective Housebuilding Programmes. It is pleasing to report that the bid was successful, and each Council will receive £37,300 towards the costs of funding their Housebuilding Programmes.

5. The Cabinet Committee has previously delegated decisions on the allocation of funding for the Housebuilding Programme to the Director of Communities. It is currently proposed that this funding will be used to help fund the development at Harveyfields, as part of Phase 1.

**Resource Implications:**

POD grant funding - £37,300

**Legal and Governance Implications:**

The Council needs to submit a Delivery Plan, detailing when the funding will be drawn down.

**Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:**

None.

**Consultation Undertaken:**

The bid was submitted in collaboration with the two other West Essex Councils.

**Background Papers:**

West Essex Housing Forum bid to the POD Partnership Board.

## **Impact Assessments:**

### Risk Management

Minimal

### Equality and Diversity:

Did the initial assessment of the proposals contained in this report for relevance to the Council's general equality duties, reveal any potentially adverse equality implications? N/A

Where equality implications were identified through the initial assessment process, has a formal Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? N/A

What equality implications were identified through the Equality Impact Assessment process?

N/A

How have the equality implications identified through the Equality Impact Assessment been addressed in this report in order to avoid discrimination against any particular group?

N/A