

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Individual Executive Decision

11 June 2024

TITLE:	Towns and Villages Regeneration Fund
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Greenhalgh- Deputy Leader & Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure
CONTACT OFFICER:	Lorraine Wright – Head of Regeneration
WARDS INVOLVED:	All wards

Appendices Attached

Appendix 1: Guidance notes – Towns and Villages Regeneration Fund

Appendix 2: Expression of Interest form draft

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 Since 2019, there has been a discretionary budget for small regeneration grants (regeneration grant) of £12,000 per annum (total) which was allocated to the three town councils of Chapel-en-le-Frith, New Mills and Whaley Bridge.
- 1.2 New priorities have emerged since 2019 including the new [High Peak Tourism Strategy](#) and the new High Peak Borough Plan 2024-27.
- 1.4 As the period of the commitment to the Central area town and parish councils has now ended, the discretionary regeneration grant budget is being reviewed and will be re-named the Town and Villages Regeneration Fund (the grant) with new recommendations set out below. The total amount available per annum will be £15,000.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 There will be no fixed budget allocations of £4000 for 2023/24 and future years to Chapel-en-le-Frith parish, New Mills or Whaley Bridge Town councils.
- 2.2 The above town and parish councils along with other groups may apply for funding on the basis of having identified appropriate regeneration projects in their town or village.

- 2.3 The Town and Villages Regeneration Fund will be used to fund small projects priorities in the “parished” towns and villages throughout High Peak at the discretion of the Deputy Leader & Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure.

3. **Executive Summary**

Regeneration grant budgets for 2022/23 were not fully utilised and it is proposed to review these to make their operation more efficient and to allocate funding at the discretion of the Deputy Leader & Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure to projects which will accrue the most benefit and meet emerging regeneration priorities.

4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

4.1 Aim 3 of the High Peak Borough Plan 2023-27

To protect and create jobs by supporting economic growth, development and regeneration including to:-

- Work to create flourishing town centres and thriving high streets that support the local economy.
- Promote tourism to maximise local benefit

5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 The alternative option is to continue to ring fence monies for the three mentioned Town and Parish councils which may remain unspent and not contribute to the overall regeneration of High Peak.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

The grant can contribute to the design and management of the built and landscaped environment to ‘design out crime’.

6.2 Workforce

The grant is managed by the regeneration team who have taken on new responsibilities for UK Shared Prosperity Fund increasing the workload.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies.

6.4 Financial Considerations

The annual budget for the grant is £15,000.

6.5 Legal

A grant application process will be introduced.

6.6 Climate Change

The grant can contribute to supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy.

6.7 Consultation

The latest consultations were for the new Borough Plan, the High Peak Tourism Strategy and for the UKSPF Investment Plan which highlighted a number of new priorities.

6.8 Risk Assessment

Risks are limited due to the fact that funding is not paid until evidence of project completion and defrayal is provided.

Andrew Stokes

Chief Executive

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

Contact details

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7. Detail

- 7.1 In July 2019, High Peak Borough Council offered the three Parish and Town Councils of Chapel-en-le-Frith, New Mills and Whaley Bridge a three year commitment for regeneration grant support. This equated to an annual grant of £4,000 each (£12,000 each over three years) with a final date for expenditure being 31st March 2022. The grant was required to be equally matched either by the parish council or other resources.
- 7.2 During this three year period, additional monies for regeneration came forward from UK Government for the central area in response to the Toddbrook incident and High Peak Borough Council also recognised that the ability to plan and deliver work was affected by Covid-19. In 2021/22 funds were also available from the UK Government's Welcome Back Fund to aid Covid recovery.
- 7.3 High Peak Borough Council thus agreed for any unspent money to be rolled forward into the 2022/23 financial year, together with an additional one year grant of £4,000 each for 2022/23.
- 7.4 Not all of the allocated funding was spent.
- 7.5 There are many reasons why the funding was not spent by the town and parish councils including the carry forward from 2020 due to Covid, additional funding available following the ToddBrook dam breach and planned projects not going ahead. Chapel-en-le-Firth have managed a successful shop front improvement scheme.
- 7.7 No guarantees were given by High Peak Borough Council regarding any underspends being carried forward to 2023/24.
- 7.8 It is proposed that the re-named Towns and Villages Regeneration Fund should be used to fund small projects in towns and villages throughout High Peak at the discretion of the Deputy Leader & Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure.
- 7.10 The regeneration grant will be available to all Town and Parish councils and to other properly constituted organisations within the parishes listed below:-
- Bamford with Thornhill
 - Castleton
 - Chapel-en-le-Frith
 - Charlesworth
 - Chinley, Buxworth & Brownside
 - Chisworth
 - Derwent and Hope Woodlands
 - Edale
 - Hartington Upper Quarter

- Hayfield
- Hope with Aston
- King Sterndale
- New Mills
- Peak Forest
- Tintwistle
- Whaley Bridge
- Wormhill and Green Fairfield

7.11 The Towns and Villages Regeneration Fund is aimed at attracting visitors and residents to town and village centres and projects could include part-funding:-

- Improving public (not business) display boards and signage (where the owner's permission is obtained)
- Part-funding (50%) shop front grant schemes
- Production of local walking and cycling trail maps and promotion.
- Improvements to the accessibility of high streets and visitor attractions for disabled visitors and residents
- Small scale environmental tidy ups of public green spaces
- Part funding (50%) creative and makers and heritage events accessible to the public
- Other to be outlined by applicants

7.12 A copy of the proposed guidance notes is attached as Appendix 1.

7.13 With a limited total budget of £15,000 applicants would be expected to match fund where possible.

A copy of the draft proposed Expression of Interest form is attached as Appendix 2.

7.14 It should be noted that Town and Parish Councils, community organisations and businesses will also be able to apply for various strands of funding from [UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund](#) to fund specific interventions through a competitive grant process.

7.16 Grants are also available from the [Councillors' Initiative Fund](#) for residents, local groups and businesses to encourage beneficial community activity.