
HOUSING CORPORATION FUNDING BIDS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the bidding process by housing associations to the Housing Corporation for funding for housing schemes in the District.
- 1.2 The Housing Corporation seeks the Council's views on the bids it has received and Members are invited to comment on each proposed scheme.

2 FUNDING PROCESS

- 2.1 Housing associations are able to bid each year for funding for housing developments from the Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme (ADP) and from other ring-fenced schemes, for example, "Homebuy" funding.
- 2.2 Scheme bids should be designed to help meet strategic housing needs, both in terms of the Housing Corporation's national and regional investment strategies and the Council's own housing strategy.
- 2.3 In previous years, part of the Housing Corporation's ADP funds were allocated on the basis of a housing needs calculation. This year, all ADP funds will be allocated on the basis of bids meeting one or more of the Housing Corporation's key strategic priorities.
 - Regeneration
 - Growth
 - Supported Housing
 - Black and minority ethnic communities
 - Rural
- 2.4 Bids have to be submitted in the Autumn, this year the end of October, and the outcome of the bidding process is announced in February or March.

3 BIDS MADE

- 3.1 At the time of writing this report, information about the bids made by housing associations for development in this District is still awaited. It is anticipated that this will be available in time to allow an addendum to this report to be issued.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Some of the proposed schemes are likely to include funding for support services which will be met after April 2003 from the Supporting People Programme.
- 4.2 Although the bids are for Housing Corporation funding there is often a request for funds from the Local Authority as well as the Housing Corporation. This occurs when the Corporation is unable to fund the scheme in full or where the scheme is high cost. This could be, for example, through local property or land prices or for small schemes involving few properties.

Any bids to Rochford will be dealt with under separate reports. Any agreement to fund will only be in line with a scheme meeting the objectives of the Council. Examples of current objectives are the provision of units for the homeless, disposal of vacant housing sites, Hardwick House, Albert Jones Court and supported housing provision as detailed in the housing strategy.

The current capital programme has a provision of £150,000 for either supporting Housing Associations or to support private sector renewal grants.

There is currently no provision in 2002/03.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Some of the schemes are likely to assist in meeting the Council's Crime and Disorder reduction objectives by providing housing with support for vulnerable people.

6 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

Subject to Members' comments, to support the bids identified in the addendum which is to follow. (HHHCC)

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Background Papers:

Letter from The Housing Corporation (East) dated 24 October 2001.

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