

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL – 10 MAY 2017

REPORT BY HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES  
AND MONITORING OFFICER

---

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW: BUNTINGFORD  
TOWN COUNCIL

---

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford

---

Purpose/Summary of Report

- **To put in place a protocol for any ward(s) affected by a community governance review, which delays the payment of any New Homes Bonus until the review is complete.**

**RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION: that**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>any New Homes Bonus payments be held in abeyance for an area which is the subject of a Community Governance review until the outcome of the Community Governance review is complete, at which point, payments will be backdated and paid in line with the outcome of the review.</b>
------------	---

1.0 Background

1.1 Under provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement Act 2007 (the 2007 Act), Council has the power to review and make changes to community governance within its area. The term community governance in this context relates to parish and town councils only.

1.2 The 2007 Act streamlined the process of taking decisions to give effect to recommendations made in a community governance review (e.g. the creation of new parishes and the establishment of parish councils) and about other matters such as making changes to parish boundaries and electoral arrangements.

- 1.3 Community governance reviews provide the opportunity for principal councils to review and make changes to community governance within their areas. It can be helpful to undertake community governance reviews in circumstances such as where there have been changes in population, or in reaction to specific or local new issues.
- 1.4 At Council meetings of 16 December 2015 and 27 July 2016 and, the Council committed to undertake community governance reviews in Bishop's Stortford and Buntingford respectively.
- 1.5 It is likely that the impact of new housing planned through the district plan will require further community governance reviews.
- 2.0 New Homes Bonus
- 2.1 The New Homes Bonus (NHB) is a national initiative whereby funding from the national revenue grant for local authorities has been top sliced and allocated to local councils in proportion to the number of new homes in their area.
- 2.2 The Council currently give away 25% of the New Homes Bonus it receives from central government to towns/parishes, in proportion to the number of houses built within their boundary. The intention of this grant is to provide support to towns/parishes which are directly affected by the increase in the number of homes, and the resulting increased demand on services, infrastructure, etc.
- 2.3 In order to ensure fairness in the allocation of New Homes Bonus, Council is asked to agree that where any area is undergoing a Community governance review, the Council will hold in abeyance any NHB payments until the outcome of the community Governance review and backdate any payments in light of the outcome of the review.
- 3.0 Implications/Consultations
- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

#### Background Papers

None

Contact Officer: Alison Stuart – Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer – Extn: 2170  
[alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Alison Stuart – Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer – Extn: 2170  
[alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk)