

## What funding is available?

Funding is available from different sources to help communities prepare Neighbourhood Development Plans. The Government has contracted Locality (<http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/>) to support neighbourhood planning through the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning programme, a two year, £9.5 million support programme for communities developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan and/or Neighbourhood Development Order.

The programme is being delivered by Locality, in partnership with the Royal Town Planning Institute (including Planning Aid England), Community Development Foundation (CDF), Urban Vision Enterprise, Eden Project and planning consultants URS.

Funding can be used to cover startup costs, developing and analysing the evidence base, public consultations and training, as well as venue hire, printing and publicity. The programme will support groups developing Neighbourhood Development plans in two ways:

- **direct support:** professional advice and support, with an average value of equivalent to £9,500, tailored to meet the needs of supported neighbourhoods. This support is provided through Locality and the Royal Town Planning Institute / Planning Aid England. Planning advice will be given by qualified planners, although their work may be supplemented by community engagement specialists. This element of the programme enables you to receive expert advice tailored to the individual needs of your area to help you to complete the various stages of your Neighbourhood Development Plan. More information is available [here on the My Community Rights website](#).
- **grant payments:** up to £7,000 per neighbourhood area, to contribute to costs incurred by the group preparing a neighbourhood plan or order (more information is available [here on the My Community Rights website](#))

Communities can apply for this funding through the [www.mycommunityrights.org.uk](http://www.mycommunityrights.org.uk) website, where you will need to supply details including the nature of the area you are planning for, the capacity of your group, how far your plan has progressed and your timetable for completion. If you are only preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan you can apply for either direct support or a grant, but not both. If you are preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan and a Neighbourhood Development Order you can apply for both direct support and grant payments, one for each activity.

Please refer to this document, [Neighbourhood planning funding guidance](#), for more information on who can apply, when, how, and what the grant money can (and cannot) be spent upon. It is also recommended that you also speak with your district council before applying about support they might offer and what your needs are.

As your neighbourhood planning activities progress, your district council will also receive funding from the government to help support you and to pay for the independent examination of the plan or order and the referendum of local people.

**Please note:** Oxfordshire County Council receives no funding for supporting neighbourhood planning.