

Report to Holkham P C 14^h November 2023

Peer Review

North Norfolk District Council is pleased with the conclusions of an extensive and thorough Corporate Peer Review of the authority conducted in September of this year through the Local Government Association's sector-led improvement programme.

Over the course of the week the peer group, which included senior officers and elected members from a number of local authorities elsewhere in the UK, conducted over 55 conversations / focus group meetings with elected NNDC members, staff, partners and local stakeholders, as well as reviewing a number of corporate policy documents and observing meetings of the Council's Governance, Risk and Audit and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The review concluded the District Council performs well and has a very clear understanding of the needs of its residents and is passionate about delivering for its communities. It is ambitious for the district with a new Corporate Plan, has a strong record of partnership working and is investing in local facilities – The Reef, Cromer Pier, public conveniences.

The Review Team noted the Council is debt-free and has healthy reserves, but is starting to feel the pinch of austerity, high levels of inflation and increased demand for services such that moving forward it will need to give increased consideration to the changed financial context in which the Council operates.

In order to move from being a good council to a “great” council, the Review Team made four recommendations around having a stronger focus on strategic financial issues; aligning resources with the ambitions of the new Corporate Plan; developing a new Organisational Development Plan to support workforce planning and development; and more distributive leadership to increase operational capacity. The Council will now develop an Action Plan in response to these recommendations.=

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Homelessness

A growing number of families are in need of temporary housing. The cost of temporary housing has soared. NNDC has increased its own stock of properties which re-home families first but then has to turn to costly B&Bs and Hotels.

NNDC are in a better position than other District Councils with costs threatening to overwhelm budgets. Temporary homes in England are costing the tax payer 1.7Billion a year.

NNDC has about 70 families in temporary accommodation. In August last year 48 households were homeless.

Briston By Election

A by-election has been called for the Briston Ward as the elected member has had to resign because of a serious illness. The election has been called for the 7th Dec 23.

North Norfolk Sustainability Fund

Does Holkham have a community group that needs assistance?
One more round (winter 2024}before the end of the financial year in April 2024.

Learn more about the grant, what funding is available and how to apply

Please see separate sheet

North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund Details

Learn more about the grant, what funding is available and how to apply

In April 2019, North Norfolk District Council declared a Climate Emergency across the District. To reflect and support the Council's priorities regarding climate change and the environment, The North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund has been established.

The aim of this fund, which has environmental and community sustainability at its heart, is to help build strong and sustainable communities and ensure the long term future and wellbeing of our communities here in North Norfolk.

The fund will help communities to develop new and innovative projects which will improve their environment as well as their health and social wellbeing.

By sustainable communities we mean:

Places in which people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a good and sustainable quality of life.

Funding available and decision process

The fund will assist communities in meeting their needs, with funding now available for both capital and revenue projects that meet the fund's criteria.

The grants are administered by North Norfolk District Council. There is a Grants Panel, a politically balanced group made up of 7 elected members, that meet **four times a year** to award grants of between **£1,000 and £15,000**.

Grants under £1,000

For grants of under £1,000, a **monthly** decision panel now meets. This allows us to quickly turn around these smaller grants. They also have a shorter, simpler application form, but the sustainable communities criteria will remain the same. The outcome of grant applications are decided by the panel and reported to the NNDC Cabinet through the minutes of the meeting.

View the worthy local causes which benefited from the [latest rounds of funding](#).

Sustainable Communities Fund cont

Who can apply?

The fund is available for projects that:

- demonstrate positive environmental outcomes through capital or revenue projects
- clearly demonstrate that they have focused on increasing the positive environmental impacts of the project and on reducing its negative environmental impacts
- conserve or enhance the biodiversity of a community
- help to promote or embed sustainability to the wider community
- promote physical and mental wellbeing and healthy within North Norfolk

We receive applications from:

- local voluntary organisations
- charities (whether registered or not)
- community groups
- Parish and Town Councils in North Norfolk
- larger regional or national charities or organisations, if the funding is to deliver a specific project in North Norfolk
- community businesses, social enterprises and other not-for-profit organisations

Before you apply

1. Read through the North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund Prospectus.
2. Ensure that your organisation meets the criteria to apply.
3. Make sure the purpose of the funding meets the funding criteria.
4. Contact Sharon Garth on **01263 516248** if you need to discuss your application.

Making an application

Once it has been confirmed your application meets both sets of criteria,

1. Complete one of the following forms:
 - Application form for grants between £1,000 to £15,000 *
 - Application form for grants under £1,000 *

Guidance notes

- Applications £1,000 to £15,000
- Applications under £1,000

* The Declaration section on both forms must have an original signature.

Do not convert the application form to a Word document or any other format; and **do not** copy and paste information into the form as this distorts the formatting.

Sustainable Communities Fund

2. Complete the Independent Referee form and ask someone who knows the project to complete it. An original signature is also required on this form.
3. Complete the Covid Impact form.
4. Lastly, gather all the requested documentation, including photos and ensure quotes are on company headed paper. No email quotes will be accepted.

Where to send your application

Once you have gathered your supporting documentation, please send your completed application to:

Email: supporting.communities@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Only applications which are fully completed, signed and accompanied by **all** supporting documentation that are received by the date below will be accepted.

When to apply

Completed applications can be made to the fund at any time and will be put forward to the next available panel.

Applications for between **£1,000 and £15,000** to go to the next funding panel will need to reach us by **Monday 6 November 2023**.

Applications for **under £1,000** can be submitted at any time.

It is anticipated that decisions on grant applications between £1,000 and £15,000 will be made **within six weeks** of the application deadline date.

Get in touch

Please contact Sharon Garth on **01263 516248** with any questions about completing the application form or the supporting documentation required.