

FAQs: Withdrawal of Neighbourhood Planning Grant Funding

1. What has happened to the neighbourhood planning grant funding?

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has decided to **stop funding the neighbourhood planning support programme** from 2025 onwards due to the spending review

2. Who was administering the funding and support?

The programme was delivered by **Locality**, a membership organisation commissioned by MHCLG to provide grants and technical support to communities engaged in neighbourhood planning

3. Can new applications for grants or technical support still be submitted?

No. **Locality is no longer accepting new applications** for grants or technical support. All existing support packages will be completed by **March 2026**, depending on their individual timelines

4. What happens to neighbourhood plans currently in development?

Groups with **existing support agreements** will continue to receive assistance until their packages are completed. However, **new groups or plans will not be eligible** for funding or technical support going forward.

When a group has completed their consultations and evidence gathering and are ready to submit their Plan, this can be done in the same way as before. **Plans should be submitted by the Qualifying Body to Harborough District Council who will take the Plan through examination and referendum.** ([paragraph 6 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 \(as amended\)](#)).

5. What support is still available?

While formal funding and technical support have ended, **Locality's advice service remains available** for queries. However, the **Champions Network and other learning opportunities** have also been discontinued. **Harborough District Council is available, as before, to [provide advice and support for the community](#).**

The details about any additional financial support are yet to be made available. Options may include;

- [Leicestershire County Council will still be supporting groups in Leicestershire](#) with information, support and guidance; along with Voluntary Action Leicestershire (<https://valonline.org.uk/>).
- [Awards for All](#) may fund neighbourhood plan groups if they meet the criteria
- Parish Councils may self fund the preparation of a Plan.

6. What support will Harborough District Council give our community?

Harborough District Council continues to support neighbourhood planning with advice and guidance concerning preparation of neighbourhood plans

We will continue to receive plans from communities and take the plan through independent examination and referendum.

More details can be found on the HDC website [here](#)

7. Why was the funding withdrawn?

The decision was made as part of a **government spending review**, which reprioritised funding allocations.

8. How many communities have been affected?

Over **2,400 communities** have initiated neighbourhood plans nationally, with more than **1,000 plans approved at referendum**.

In Harborough District

- * **30 NDPs 'made' (10 plans reviewed)**
- * **6 new NDPs being prepared**
- * **7 NDPs currently reviewing**
- * **17 NDPs more than 5 years old**

- * **1300 houses allocated in NDPs**
- * **1154 houses with permission/built**
- * **59 houses allocated in reviewed plans***
- * **21 houses with permission/built in review plans***

*as of late 2024

For further information please contact

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