

## Appendix I – Options Appraisal Community Housing Fund

Proposal Option	Description	Funding	Pros	Cons
<b>Option 1</b>				
<p><b>Extend the “Swale Hub pilot programme” managed by ACRK</b></p>	<p>An extension of this programme using the remaining Community Housing Fund will enable continuity for local groups who are already engaged and have either started to set-up a CLT or are in the early stages of working with ACRK to establish a local group.</p> <p>ACRK now have specialist Community Housing staff in place and this combined with their experience of managing Kent’s rural housing needs schemes, mean that they have capacity and the relevant experience to develop this programme out further.</p> <p>This model will be supported by a grant partnership agreement with ACRK that will clearly show how the grant will be passed across for administration and management of the programme.</p> <p>Clear monitoring responsibilities and evidence progress update reports will continue to be provided as agreed.</p>	<p>Covered by the remaining £281,232 Community Housing Fund allocation</p>	<p>An established service which will provide continuity for groups already engaged with Swale’s Hub.</p> <p>Specialist dedicated and experienced staff already in place.</p>	<p>Less direct control for the Council</p>
<b>Option 2</b>				
<p><b>“Kent Hub” model</b></p>	<p>ACRK secured a Development Grant from the Community Housing Fund to develop a Community Led Housing Hub for Kent, and in January 2020 the Kent Hub was officially established. The Hub provides essential support to CLT communities across Kent providing a central resource of advice, support and guidance, increasing knowledge whilst</p>	<p>Freeze the remaining £281,232 until the end of the first year of the Kent Hub (2021) and then pass across the grant to ACRK at expiry of the Homes</p>	<p>A partnership service developed out by dedicated, specialist and experienced staff with direct access to national CLT advice and support.</p>	<p>Less control for the Council with potential for Swale CLT’s/CH groups and schemes to get ‘lost’ in a large county-wide partnership</p>

	<p>developing skills to bring projects to fruition.</p> <p>ACRK have commissioned an expert contractor to support the first phase of the Hub's development including the completion of a 5-year business plan and economic appraisal detailing income generation to sustain the Hub into the future. A second stage 'full grant' application has also been made to Homes England to allow the Hub to operate for one year and become established within that time.</p> <p>Swale's remaining CHF could be 'frozen' until the beginning of 2021 when ACRK's Kent Hub 'full grant' has run out, at which point Swale could choose to put the remaining grant into the Kent Hub.</p> <p>In the interim period, between the expiry of the Swale Hub pilot and the beginning of 2021, ACRK would continue to provide a service to Swale groups, and importantly if Swale chooses to include their remaining CHF fund into the Kent Hub after the expiry of the 'full grant', Swale's funds will only be used to support Swale groups.</p>	<p>England 'Full Grant'.</p>	<p>Greater opportunities for application to future national CHF/CLT funding streams.</p> <p>Shared knowledge, best-practice and experiences from county-wide partners.</p>	
<b>Option 3</b>				
<p><b>"Swale BC grant management"</b></p>	<p>The remaining grant will be retained, managed and administered by Swale BC as part of the council's affordable housing programme, and used in partnership with fully constituted community led housing groups including Community Land Trusts enabling feasibility and legal works to progress identified housing sites.</p>	<p>Swale BC retain the remaining £281,232 Community Housing Fund allocation, and administer, manage and monitor the grant.</p>	<p>Direct control for the council as part of Swale's affordable housing programme, enabling better targeting of known sites and schemes with other local partners.</p>	<p>Limited in-house experience and expertise of CLT's.</p>

	<p>The grant application process will need to be considered to enable a clear and transparent process for local community led housing groups to apply directly to the Council for CHF grant.</p> <p>Marketing, social media materials and events will also need to be organised to publicise Swale BC's CHF grant programme.</p> <p>This model will utilise existing resources and officer time as part of the Council's affordable housing programme.</p>		<p>Existing resources, staffing and management of the CHF will be incorporated within the affordable housing programme.</p>	
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