

## Guide to the Droitwich Spa Area Partnership fund

### ▪ Introduction

This short guide gives an overview of the Droitwich Spa Area Partnership fund, which was previously known as the Community Planning fund. It sets out what the fund is for, where it comes from, how it is spent and the process for allocating the two distinct elements of the fund. It incorporates key changes that the Droitwich Spa Area Partnership has made to the way it uses the fund. It also signposts organisations seeking funding to other sources of help and support.

### ▪ What is the fund?

The **Droitwich Spa Area Partnership fund** is the annual budget of the Droitwich Spa Area Partnership. It's a fund to help the partnership deliver its priorities. It is **not** an 'open access' grant scheme.

The **Droitwich Spa Area Partnership** is one of three **Local Strategic Partnerships** (LSPs) in Wychavon. LSPs are bodies that bring together public, private, community and voluntary agencies at a local level to improve quality of life. The Droitwich Spa Area Partnership works to deliver real improvements to people living and working in Droitwich Spa and the 28 surrounding rural parishes.

The partnership's priorities are set out in its three year strategy (2006-2009) and action plan. For a copy of the strategy and action plan, or more information about the partnership, contact Joe Ling, Droitwich Spa Area Partnership Manager on 01386 565355 or by e-mail to [joe.ling@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:joe.ling@wychavon.gov.uk).

### ▪ Who provides the fund?

At present, Wychavon District Council provides the partnership with an annual budget of £30,000 to deliver **practical projects** that improve quality of life in Droitwich Spa and the surrounding rural areas. This constitutes the Droitwich Spa Area Partnership fund. The partnership hopes to increase this modest fund by leveraging in more substantial funding from other partners and external funding streams.

### ▪ How is the fund allocated?

There are two distinct elements to the fund. Figure 1 provides an illustration of the process for allocating the two elements of the fund.

In summary, the partnership uses the **majority of the fund** (£20-£25,000) to support projects that contribute to the delivery of the priorities in its outline strategy and action plan. The partnership identifies these projects itself and invites appropriate organisations to put together proposals for delivering the projects. The partnership no longer accepts speculative applications to the fund.

The partnership may invite your organisation to put together a proposal for a project that will help deliver its priorities. This is an indication that the partnership is keen to use some of the Droitwich Spa Area Partnership fund to support you in delivering the project. If your organisation accepts the invitation, you will be asked to fill out an application form, including project details, anticipated outcomes, costs and how much funding you need from the partnership and other sources to deliver the project. You will be given some guidance notes to help you complete the application form.

The **community chest** element of the fund (£5-£10,000) is a small grant scheme aimed at the villages and parishes in the rural areas covered by the partnership. Groups or organisations in those areas can apply to the community chest specifically for support with:

- feasibility work on larger projects, such as village hall improvements or recreational facilities
- delivering practical projects identified in Parish Plans.
- **Can my organisation apply to the fund?**

The fund is **not** an 'open access' grant scheme. Only organisations meeting the criteria, specified above, for the community chest element of the fund can apply.

The partnership will **not** consider proposals for other projects, unless the partnership, through the Droitwich Spa Area Partnership Manager, has specifically invited an organisation to prepare such a proposal.

The partnership can signpost local people and groups to other potential sources of funding. It may also lend its support to applications and scheme designs where projects are consistent with its priorities.

- **What other funding sources are there?**

There is a wide range of funding sources available for community projects. Here are a few good places to start:

- a) **Awards for all** is a lottery grants scheme aimed at local communities. It awards grants of between £500 and £5000 in a simple and straightforward way. The upper limit is £10,000. To find out more visit [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk)
- b) **Wychavon Community Grants** is an annual grants scheme run by Wychavon District Council. It's advertised in March/April each year, with decisions made in August. Grants are offered to local voluntary groups and charitable organisations, particularly for new projects that will make a lasting difference to local communities. For more information go to [www.wychavon.gov.uk](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk) or ring 01386 565235.
- c) **Wychavon District Council's Funding Directory** lists a whole range of grant funds. Go to [www.wychavon.gov.uk](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk) and click on F under the A to Z of services.

## Process For Allocating The Droitwich Spa Area Partnership Fund

