

The Community Housing Investment Partnership Fund (CHIP)

A joint £11million fund between
Greenfields Community Housing
and Braintree District Council



Lithuanian

Bendruomenės būsto investicijų partnerystės fondas

Polish

Fundusz Spółki Inwestycyjnej na rzecz Budownictwa

Slovakian

Komunitný bytový investičný partnerský fond

Latvian

Kopienas mājokļu investīcijas partnerības fonds





Lithuanian

Bendruomenės būsto investicijų partnerystės fondas
Dėl vertimo skambinkite numeriu **01376 535400**

Polish

Fundusz Spółki Inwestycyjnej na rzecz Budownictwa
W celu uzyskania tłumaczenia, proszę zadzwonić pod numer **01376 535400**

Slovakian

Komunitný bytový investičný partnerský fond
Ak chcete preklad, volajte na číslo **01376 535400**

Latvian

Kopienas mājokļu investīcijas partnerības fonds
Lai saņemtu tulkojumu, zvaniet uz **01376 535400**

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Introduction

The Community and Housing Investment Partnership (CHIP) Fund was established when Braintree District Council transferred their housing stock to Greenfields Community Housing in November 2007. The fund was set up with £11 million and was designed to ensure long term positive improvements and change within the District.



The CHIP Fund is managed by Greenfields on behalf of the CHIP Board. The Board is made up of three representatives from the Council and three representatives from Greenfields. The CHIP Board meet three times a year and the meetings are generally held in March, July and November.

Fund Priorities

The fund has been set up to provide support for projects and activities within the Braintree District that will positively impact on communities and individuals living within the area.

The use of the fund and its priorities were established by Braintree District Council and formed part of the transfer agreement with Greenfields Community Housing.

They are:

1. The development of new affordable social housing

Social Housing means the provision of accommodation for letting at affordable or below market rents (including the sale of dwellings on shared ownership or other equity sharing terms).

2. The development of facilities for community benefit

Community Benefit means the provision of sports and/or recreational facilities and/or community centres and/or workshops and/or community services and/or community regeneration initiatives and/or other non-profit distributing enterprises for the benefit of all or some residents of Braintree.



3. Environmental Improvements

Environmental Improvements are schemes and additional features which will enhance and improve areas and communities, as well as alleviating issues affecting local residents. Examples of environmental improvements are parking schemes, additional lighting, litter and dog fouling bins, tree-planting, security measures and additional signage

4. Regeneration Activities

These can include the physical elements of a community and the positive actions taken to create desirable places for people to live. It should also be about much more than the physical and include both social economic action taken to reverse decline and create vibrant & sustainable communities into the future. This can include but is not exclusive to tackling poverty and social exclusion and creating employment and training opportunities for residents living within a community

5. Additional priorities identified in the Annual Funding Review

Each year the CHIP Board has the opportunity to add priorities. However, as at May 2011, no additional priorities had been included.

The fund was established with £11 million for investing in the local community and it has been broken down into different elements as follows:

- **The Development of New Affordable Social Housing**

£5.5million has been set aside for Greenfields and Braintree District Council to work together to develop new affordable housing within the district.

For more information regarding new development being funded by the CHIP Fund, contact Peter Cook, Head of Regeneration and Development at Greenfields on 01376 535400 or Tim Lucas, Housing Research and Development Officer at the Council on 01376 552525.

- **The Grassroots Endowment Fund**

The CHIP Board capitalised on an opportunity from the Government Office of the Third Sector to set up a Grassroots Endowment Fund. As a result, an initial £660,000 was invested and since then a further £250,000 has been invested, taking the total investment in the endowment fund to £910,000. This investment has attracted a further £660,000 of match-funding from the Government, taking the value of the fund to £1.74 million (with interest) at 31 March 2011.

Investing money extends the life of the CHIP Fund and provides funding for projects in perpetuity. The money is invested and managed by Essex Community Foundation on behalf of the CHIP Board and will be available from July 2011.

For more information regarding the Grassroots Endowment Fund, contact David Hall, Finance & Resources Director at Greenfields on 01376 535400.

- **CHIP Fund Priority Areas**

The CHIP Fund is targeted at areas that need investment, recognising that some areas may not currently have the capacity within their neighbourhoods to be making applications for grants from the CHIP Board. As a result, a number of areas were identified as priority areas:

- **Braintree North (Bocking North/South) – The Glebe, Coldnailhurst, Deanery and Tabor estates**
- **Braintree South – Goldingham and Lister Road estates**
- **Braintree East – Bartrams, Beckers Green and Stubbs Lane estates**
- **Witham North – Templars and Forest Road estates**
- **Witham West – Powers Hall End and Humber Road estates**



The CHIP Board is eager to fund a range of activities. However, it should be recognised that the CHIP Fund is in essence a 'one off' opportunity and will not continue indefinitely. Once the funds have been allocated, the fund will close with the exception of the Grassroots Endowment Fund.

Applications for grants over £25,000 will only be considered from within the priority areas. Projects that directly involve local people in designing and shaping the bids are particularly encouraged.

We understand that this may mean that projects may take longer to formulate, but those with clear and sustained input from the local community will be most likely to succeed and benefit the community in the long term.

Organisations do not need to be registered charities and the CHIP Board will consider applications from other groups, providing their objectives are charitable and of benefit to local people.

For more information regarding the CHIP Fund, contact Sandra Crosby, Housing Director at Greenfields on 01376 535400.

- **Braintree District Community Investment Fund (CIF)**

Whilst the CHIP Board has recognised the need to target funds at the priority areas, it also wanted to ensure that the wider District can benefit. As a result, the Braintree District Community Investment Fund (CIF) has been set up.

This fund is open to all organisations working within the district that meet one or more of the fund priorities for grants of between £5,000 and £25,000.

The CHIP Board has engaged Essex Community Foundation (ECF) to undertake a full grant-making service and applications should be made directly to Essex Community Foundation. The CHIP Board makes the final decisions based on recommendations from ECF.

It is envisaged that grant awards will be made in the region of £250,000 per annum over a three year period from 2011.

For more information regarding the Braintree District CIF, contact Essex Community Foundation on 01245 356018 or log onto:

www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk.



Grants will not be made to individuals. In addition, applications will not be considered in the following cases:

- **Promoting religion or political activity**
- **Operating outside the Braintree District**
- **Funding requests for an endowment appeal**
- **Where work has already been undertaken**
- **Providing little or no community benefit.**

