

# PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant

### Frequently Asked Questions



#### Where does the money for the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant fund come from?

- The money is raised through a Council Tax premium on second homes and long-term empty properties in Pembrokeshire.
- This is a power that local authorities in Wales have under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
- The discretion given to local authorities to charge a premium is intended to be a tool to help local authorities to:
  - bring long-term empty homes back into use to provide safe, secure and affordable homes: and
  - support local authorities in increasing the supply of affordable housing and enhancing the sustainability of local communities
- The premium for second homes in Pembrokeshire is currently 50%, on top of the 100% Council Tax which second home-owners are liable for.
- The premium for long-term empty properties in Pembrokeshire is currently 25%, in addition to the normal Council Tax rate, on properties unoccupied and unfurnished since 1st April 2016. In succeeding years the premium will rise as the time the property has been empty increases, so that, by April 2021, it will be 100% on properties empty for five or more years.

#### Can you give some examples of the impact of second homes on communities?

- Loss of community vibrancy, neighbourliness.
- Projects maintained throughout the year being difficult particularly in the winter with fewer people living full time in the community.
- Services hard to maintain with a reduction in community residents.
- Transportation hard to maintain with a reduction of community residents.
- Isolation of older community members.
- House prices inflated resulting in young members of the community unable to afford living in the area and moving away.
- Young families unable to live in the community due to inflated house prices.
- Older family members without support from immediate family being more reliant on social services.

- Lack of facilities for young people due to diminishing numbers of young families in the area.
- Impact on local businesses with reduced trade.

## **Can you give some examples of how to address the impact of second home ownership on communities?**

- Create welcoming community hubs to address loneliness and isolation enabling residents to socialise and network.
- Supporting activities and groups to facilitate more social, networking and volunteering opportunities.
- Create support groups with activities.
- Improve transfer of community information through social media, newsletters, and noticeboards to promote events and activities and increase local engagement
- Enhance community facilities, amenities and infrastructure engaging volunteers to increase community involvement and pride
- Develop events and activities to increase community vibrancy and increase footfall to support local businesses
- Encourage second home owners to be more involved and engaged with the local community through activities and events

## **Can you give some examples of eligible projects?**

You can find a list of project which have already received Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant Funding in Appendix 1.

## **Will information about the application or project be shared?**

Pembrokeshire County Council has obligations and responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to provide, on request, access to recorded information, which we hold. This means that the information, which we hold about the application / project, may be subject to disclosure, in response to a request, unless we decide, that one of the statutory exemptions applies. Where information, data and material of any nature comprises Personal Data or Sensitive Personal Data, as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998, we will comply with the act and, in most cases, we will not disclose any such confidential information to any third party without your consent.

## **What are the general duties of the grant panel?**

The aim of the Grant Panel is to make decisions with regard to the income generated via the Council Tax Premium for second homes and long-term empty properties to relevant impacted areas in Pembrokeshire. Specifically to:

- Ensure that income generated via the Council Tax Premium for second homes and long-term empty properties is administered in accordance with Section 139 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- Enable access to the fund to all those eligible within the named areas
- Assess all applications and supporting information in-line with the agreed criteria
- To make recommendations regarding the allocation of funding to the Council's Cabinet for consideration and approval
- To receive and consider end of project evaluations
- Panel members will declare where there may be a direct or indirect conflict of interest with a project. A Declaration of Interest register will be kept and reported in minutes of Grant Panel meetings
- Where relevant, advice from other appropriate officers / experts will be presented to the panel for consideration

## How will my project be scored?

All applications will be assessed and scored competitively against the criteria in Section 1 of the Grant Criteria. The scoring system is as follows:

Scoring Criteria	
Criteria	Score
How a project addresses the negative impact of second homes (relates to questions B2, B8)	25
How a project contributes to the Grant outcomes (relates to questions B3)	25
Is the project supported by the community and informed through community consultation? (relates to questions B4, B5, B6)	25
Project value for money and financial sustainability (relates to questions A5, A7, C1, C2)	10
Has matched funding be sought or secured (relating to questions C3)	10
How the organisation is structured and managed (relating to questions A5, A6)	5
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>100</b>

### Award mechanism

Award	Score
Unconditional Approval	70-100
Conditional approval	50-70
Declined	<50