

Section 106 Marconi Fund

Application Guidelines

St. Albans City & District Council welcomes applications from community and voluntary groups and other interested local parties for funding that meets the strict criteria of the Section 106 Marconi Fund.

Background

Following the grant of planning permission, an agreement was entered into on 28 August 1997 with the developer for the Marconi Site, Longacres (originally allocated for employment use) to be used for social housing. The section 106 agreement included an allocation of funding to support carefully defined employment related measures. More details of the criteria relating to these is given below.

The Criteria You Will Need to Address

Applications for funding must relate to the criteria relating to the section 106 agreement. In particular the Council is required to utilise the funds on 'measures aimed at encouraging the provision of employment facilities in accordance with Policy 22 of the District Local Plan Review and in accordance with the Council's Economic Development Strategy'.

Within the agreement there is no geographical restriction on where the money is spent. However, there is a requirement to account to the developers for payments and the further from the site the money is spent, the more difficult it is likely to be to justify.

The agreement states that the monies must be spent within five years of receipt. The first deadline, relating to £100,000 has been met as result of previously approved awards and the second deadline is also likely to be met as a result of previous awards. The remaining deadlines are 9 July 2006 and 13 November 2007.

Policy 22 of the District Local Plan Review relates to small Businesses and states that 'The District Council will encourage the provision of facilities for small firms on the employment areas listed in Policy 20. Small firms will also be encouraged, where environmentally acceptable, on other sites that comply with Policies 23, 24, 77 or 89. Copies of the District Plan Review can be inspected at the District Council offices, Harpenden Town Council offices or at the main Libraries in the District. Copies are also available for purchase from the District

Council at £16 to collect or £20 by post (there is an additional charge for the associated proposals maps).

A copy of the council's Economic Development Strategy can be obtained from Des Welton, Head of Enterprise & Development, St. Albans City & District Council, District Council Offices, St. Peter's Street, St. Albans AL1 3JE. There is no charge for this document.

Further Information

You are advised to discuss your proposal informally with the Council before you put a lot of effort into an application. In particular, you will need to satisfy yourself that your proposal is eligible for support and on the availability of funds. You should contact: Des Welton, Head of Enterprise & Development, St. Albans City & District Council, District Council Offices, St. Peter's Street, St. Albans, AL1 3JE (tel: 01727 819349).

How to Submit Your Proposal

Applications should normally be submitted in the form of a Business Plan with supporting cash flow statements for a minimum period of two years. Applications should be submitted to: Des Welton, Head of Enterprise & Development, St. Albans City & District Council, District Council Offices, St. Peter's Street, St. Albans, AL1 3JE. Advice on how to prepare a business plan can be found at: www.exemplas.com.

Once Your Application Has Been Submitted

On receipt of your application an assessment will be made as to whether it meets the terms of the Section 106 agreement and whether sufficient funding remains available. If your application does not meet these strict criteria you will be advised, this will normally be within four weeks of you submitting your application. Alternatively you may be asked to submit further supporting information.

If your application complies with the section 106 agreement you may be invited to make a presentation to a Council Grants Panel. This is a panel of three senior councillors (Cabinet Members). You will be asked to give a presentation of your proposal (up to 15 minutes) and the Panel may ask you questions on your proposal. For applications up to £25,000 the Panel may make the final decision, for amounts above this the Panel will submit its recommendations to the council's Cabinet which will make the final decision.

As a condition of any award there will be a requirement to submit regular progress reports on the implementation of the project.

Enterprise & Development
St. Albans City & District Council
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