

Opportunities Bulletin – 8th January 2015

875/1 Storm Eva flood relief appeals: match-funding prospectus

As part of the government's support for those affected by flood damage from Storm Eva, the government has pledged to match funds raised by charities who are running appeals in areas affected by floods, up to £2 million. Charities can find out further information about eligibility and how to access the match-funding in the prospectus and apply via the expression of interest form.

The closing date to submit the expressions of interest form is 11 January 2016.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/storm-eva-flood-relief-appeals-match-funding-prospectus>

875/2 Flood-hit businesses funding

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills announced on 1 January 2015 that a cash pot will be available for the estimated 2,500 firms on either side of the Pennines left flooded by the Boxing Day deluge in the north of England. The £6 million package adds to the £5 million already announced by the government to help businesses in Lancashire and Cumbria affected by Storm Desmond earlier in December.

The government's press release states that Local [Growth Hubs](#) have more information and should be contacted on how to access the business support. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-funding-confirmed-for-flood-hit-businesses>

875/3 Emergency Flood Relief Fund – Sport England

Sport England's Emergency Flood Relief Fund will initially invest up to £400,000 of National Lottery funding into sports facilities that have been damaged as a result of the floods and storms. This dedicated fund will help safeguard community sport and get sports facilities back up and running as quickly as possible.

Sport England state that early indicators suggest the biggest impact of the bad weather has been on sports such as hockey, rugby and football because of flooded and waterlogged pitches, and water sports where many clubs are on riverbanks or in coastal areas.

Clubs and community-based sports organisations needing funding to clean up and get up and running quickly can request up to £5,000 of emergency funding which could be awarded very quickly.

The new £400,000 National Lottery fund has been created specifically to help with the damage of the exceptional weather caused by the recent unprecedented rainfall, and is in addition to Sport England's other grant programmes which will continue to operate as normal.

The fund will remain open until 1 February 2016 (this date will be kept under

review) to ensure that those who are currently unable to assess the damage will not lose out.

<http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/flood-relief-fund/>

875/4 Farming Recovery Fund

Farmers hit by Storm Eva flooding in Lancashire and Yorkshire will receive emergency funding of up to £20,000 each, Environment Secretary Elizabeth Truss announced.

The Farming Recovery Fund, originally launched to help farmers hit by Storm Desmond in Cumbria, Northumberland and parts of Lancashire, will now be extended to farmers in all the areas affected by storms over Christmas and Boxing Day.

Farmers suffering from uninsurable losses can apply for Farming Recovery Fund grants of up to £20,000 via the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) to help restore soils, rebuild tracks and repair flood channels.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-the-farming-recovery-fund-frf>

875/5 Affordable Starter Homes Fund

The government has announced a £1.2 billion starter home fund to prepare brownfield sites for new homes. This is intended to fast-track the creation of at least 30,000 new starter homes and up to 30,000 market homes on 500 new sites by 2020.

The new investment is intended to help kick-start regeneration and secure planning permission in urban areas – renovating disused or under-occupied urban sites so builders can get to work without any delays.

The announcement was made on 4 January 2016 and the press release can be viewed at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-the-government-will-directly-build-affordable-homes>

875/6 Help the Homeless grants

Help The Homeless makes grants to charitable organisations with the aim of helping homeless people return to the community and enabling them to resume a normal life. Grants are available to small and medium-sized charitable organisations to fund the capital costs of projects with grants of up to £5,000. The quarterly deadlines for grant applications each year are: 15 March, 15 June, 15 September and 15 December.

<http://www.help-the-homeless.org.uk/>

875/7 Architectural Heritage Fund

The AHF is dedicated to the preservation and renewal of buildings of architectural or historic significance which have failed to find a viable re-use on the open market. The AHF can provide grants, subject to eligibility, to help with assessing the viability of a project, or to fund development costs. Project Viability Grants of up to 50% (£3000 maximum) are to fund short

studies to look at potential uses for a building and at its current condition.

The Project Development Grant scheme also offers grants of up to 50% (£25,000 maximum) and is intended to assist an organisation to cover some of the costs of developing and co-ordinating a project and taking it towards the start of work on site.

Applications for Viability Grants can be submitted at any time. The 2016 deadlines for Development Grants are 10 February, 11 May, 17 August and 26 October.

<http://www.ahfund.org.uk/grants.php>

875/8 Coastal Communities Fund – Big Lottery Fund

The UK Government announced on 8 July 2015 that the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) will be extended to 2020/21. This was confirmed in the Autumn Statement on 25 November 2015. At least £90m of new funding will be available from 2017/18, following the end of the current programme. Details of future funding arrangements will be announced in the new year. The Big Lottery Fund is engaged to deliver the current CCF programme to March 2017. No details are available as yet on how the new funding will be delivered. See the website below for more details.

<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/uk-wide/coastal-communities>

875/9 European Structural and Investment Funds – Department for Communities and Local Government

A variety of funds under the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) are currently available in different parts of the country. ESIF includes money from the European Social Fund (ESF), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Deadlines for applications vary. Please see the website below for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds>

875/10 Big Potential – Big Lottery Fund

Big Potential, a BIG Lottery Fund grant fund, will deliver approximately £10m of grant funding over 3 years to eligible VCSE organisations (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations) with the aim of improving the sustainability, capacity and scale of VCSE organisations in order that they may deliver greater social impact.

The programme aims to raise awareness of the social investment market and support VCSEs who want to prepare themselves for social investment. In July 2015, Big Lottery announced an additional 'Big Potential Advanced Fund.' It will be supporting organisations at a more advanced stage in their social investment journey, looking to raise larger investments of over £500,000 as well as win contracts over £1m. The new advanced route will be available to those that are clear about how social investment could work for them and can describe a potential deal or interest from investors and need help to close that deal. Grants of up to £150,000 will be available.

Big Potential's website can be accessed [here](#).

875/11 Inspired Facilities – Sport England

Inspired Facilities is a £110 million programme that funds the renovation and modernisation of local sports facilities. To date Sport England have helped over 1,800 projects to improve and refurbish sports clubs or transform non-sporting venues into modern grassroots sport facilities. So whether you are a club, local authority, school or parish council Sport England could help you improve your facilities.

Grants are available from £20,000 to £75,000 (up to £150,000 for statutory bodies) for any organisation eligible to receive Lottery funding. Your application should show how your project will keep and, ideally, attract more people to sport and that your project is needed and wanted by the local community.

The next deadline for applications is 11 January 2016.

<https://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/inspired-facilities/>

875/12 Grants for the Arts Libraries Fund – Arts Council

The aim of this fund is to inspire innovative partnerships between libraries and arts organisations, and encourage library users and those living locally to take part in artistic and cultural activities.

It is hoped that this second phase of funding, which will be rolled out between April 2015 and March 2018, will once again inspire ambitious, innovative partnerships between libraries and arts organisations, and encourage library users and those living locally to take part in artistic and cultural activities.

Public libraries can apply for grants of between £1,000 and £100,000 covering activities lasting up to three years. The fund opened to applications on 1 April 2015 and will run until 31 March 2018.

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/apply-funding/apply-for-funding/grants-arts-libraries-fund/>

875/13 The Arts Impact Fund – Arts Council

This fund aims to invest for artistic, social and financial return. The Arts Impact Fund will offer repayable finance to arts organisations working in England that can show how they are sustainable; have great artistic ambitions; and have a positive impact on society.

The Fund, created and funded by Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Nesta, supported by Arts Council England and with additional funding from Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, will offer repayable finance to arts organisations working in England that can show how they are sustainable; have great artistic ambitions; and have a positive impact on society. It will provide repayable loan finance between £150,000 up to £600,000, and funding needs can vary. For example, an applicant may want to buy or refurbish a building or purchase equipment or need to pay salaries or buy in additional services to help the organisation generate more income,

perhaps for a tour or exhibition.

There will be at least five funding rounds from April 2015 to April 2017.

<https://artsimpactfund.org/>

875/14 The Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material (PRISM) Fund – Arts Council

PRISM awards grants towards the costs of acquisition and conservation of items or collections which are important in the history and development of science, technology, industry, and related fields.

The PRISM Fund can offer grants of up to £20,000, or 90 per cent of the total project costs. All accredited museums are eligible except national organisations funded directly through central government. Applications are also accepted from other charitable or public bodies engaged in the preservation of eligible material. This includes specialist libraries, public repositories and archives or libraries formally linked to local authorities or eligible bodies such as universities and religious organisations.

Applications can be submitted at any time of the year, and will be assessed subject to budgetary constraints. It is intended that a decision will be given within two months of receiving a full application.

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/apply-funding/apply-for-funding/prism/>

875/15 Growth Programme: Grants for the Rural Economy – Defra

The European Growth Programme provides funding to help projects which create jobs and boost the economy in England. These grants are funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) manages the grants, working with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and local partners.

From March 2015, the RPA is publishing 'calls for applications' under the Growth Programme. The calls for application invite applications for grants in specific LEP areas. Calls for applications are currently open in a limited number of LEP areas, as part of an initial phase, before the programme opens fully. These calls will only include some of the grants listed below, depending on local priorities.

The website states that calls for applications will open across the country "from June." The grants that are available will reflect the priorities of each local area and may include:

- Business development
- Business start-up
- Renewable energy
- Small scale tourism infrastructure
- Tourism co-operation
- Food processing

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/growth-programme-grants-for-the-rural-economy>

875/16 Community Buildings Grants – Locality

Any Town or Parish Council, Neighbourhood Forum or qualifying community group can apply for Pre-Feasibility grants (£1000 to £10,000) and Project Support grants (£5000 to £40,000) to help move a community building or community housing project to the point at which a Community Right to Build Order, or (in the case of community led housing projects only) a traditional planning permission application, can be submitted. These are revenue grants which means that they do not cover the capital costs of land acquisition or actually constructing a building.

http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/community-buildings/?_a=funding

875/17 Neighbourhood Planning Grants – Locality

Funded as part of the Department for Communities and Local Government's Neighbourhood Planning and Community Right to Build support programme, grants are available to help Parish Councils and other groups to prepare Neighbourhood Plans. As part of the £22 million programme, grants can be used to pay for events to engage the local community, print leaflets and to pay for specialist planning expertise. The support programme runs to 2018. All groups writing a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order will be eligible to apply for up to £8,000 in grant. Groups facing more complex issues can apply for specific packages of technical support where needed, and may also be eligible for further £6,000 in grant.

A rolling programme of applications is underway and is expected to be operated throughout the year.

http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/?_a=funding

875/18 Planning Enforcement Fund – Department for Communities and Local Government

This new time-limited Fund is available to local planning authorities in England, including National Parks. The scheme provides a grant of up to £10,000 or 50% of its legal costs (whichever is the lesser) to local planning authorities to secure a Court injunction to prevent actual or apprehended breaches of planning control. The scheme will run for the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16 commencing in January 2015 and ending in March 2016.

<http://www.planningenforcementfund.co.uk/>

875/19 Grants for War Memorials – War Memorials Trust

War Memorials Trust administers a number of grants schemes which between them cover the whole of the UK. Currently programme funders include the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Historic England, Historic Scotland and War Memorials Trust. Grants are currently available up to 75% of eligible costs with a normal maximum grant of £30,000.

War Memorials Trust seeks to help all war memorial custodians, whatever the nature and size of their war memorial by facilitating repair and conservation projects.

Annual deadlines are 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December.

<http://www.warmemorials.org/grants/>

875/20 Childcare Business Grants Scheme – Government Equalities Office

The Childcare New Business Grants Scheme was introduced to boost the provision of childcare in England and to incentivise entrepreneurship. It aims to encourage and support the starting up of new childcare businesses by providing a flat rate start-up grant of:

- £500 for new childminding businesses setting up in England (those who are looking after one or more children to whom they are not related, on domestic premises, for reward and for a total of more than 2 hours in any day);
- £1000 for new childminding businesses, as above, that will provide care for disabled children (applicants will need to demonstrate that they have incurred additional expenditure in setting up their business as a result of this);
- £1000 for new nursery, out of school club, or childcare on domestic premises setting up in England.

The future of the Childcare New Business Grant Scheme is currently under review. While this review takes place, the current scheme will remain open to new applications up to and including the 19th February 2016.

<http://www.childcarebusinessgrants.dcms.gov.uk/>

875/21 Rural Community Energy Fund

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects which provide economic and social benefits to the community. The fund will provide up to approximately £150,000 of funding for feasibility and pre-planning development work to help projects become investment ready. RCEF provides support in two stages:

- Stage 1 provides a grant of up to approximately £20,000 to pay for an initial investigation into the feasibility of a renewable energy project.
- Stage 2 provides an unsecured loan of up to approximately £130,000 to support planning applications and develop a robust business case to attract further investment.

The fund is being delivered on behalf of the government by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). Applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis and there is no set deadline for bids

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/rural-community-energy-fund>

875/22 Urban Community Energy Fund

The Urban Community Energy Fund (UCEF) is the urban counterpart to the RCEF and was launched on 13 November 2014. UCEF is a £10m fund to kick-start renewable energy generation projects in urban communities across England. Community groups will be able to access grants and loans to support renewable energy developments.

Grants of up to £20,000 are available for the more speculative, early stages of a project's development, such as public consultation and preliminary viability studies.

UCEF will also provide loans of up to £130,000 to develop planning applications and a robust business case to attract further investment. This is intended to help projects become 'investment ready', that is, at the right stage to secure a bank loan or another form of investment.

The deadlines for applications are the last Friday of every other month – January, March, May, July, September and November.

<https://www.gov.uk/urban-community-energy-fund>

875/23 Reaching Communities England – Big Lottery Fund

Reaching Communities funding is for projects that help people and communities most in need. Grants are available from £10,000, upwards and funding can last for up to 5 years. If you think you need more than £500,000 you must call Big Lottery before applying to discuss why you believe a larger project is appropriate. There is no upper limit for total project costs. Reaching Communities can fund salaries, running costs, a contribution towards core costs and equipment. Reaching Communities can also fund up to £100,000 for land, buildings or refurbishment capital costs.

All projects must address one or more of the following outcomes:

- People have better chances in life, with better access to training and development to improve their life skills,
- Stronger communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems,
- Improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy,
- Healthier and more active people and communities

There is a two stage application process. After submitting a Reaching Communities Stage One application form, applicants will be told within 6 weeks whether the project is one that might be considered for funding. If successful, the applicant will be sent a Stage Two application form. Applicants will usually have four months to complete this.

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/england/reaching-communities-england>

875/24 Reaching Communities Buildings – Big Lottery Fund

The buildings strand of Reaching Communities provides funding for land and buildings projects costing more than £100,000. It can also provide revenue funding to help to get the building running and deliver project activities (for revenue funding or funding for a land and buildings project of less than £100,000, see Reaching Communities England).

Funding is available for building grants up to 2015 and there are currently no deadlines for applications. However, the programme is regularly reviewed and applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as they are ready. To ensure that this funding makes the biggest difference to those most in need, it is targeted at buildings or sites based in the most deprived 'Lower Super Output Areas' in England.

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/england/reaching-communities-buildings-england>

875/25 Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund – Football Foundation

The Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund provides grants for building or refurbishing grassroots facilities, such as changing pavilions and playing surfaces for community benefit, with money provided by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England) and delivered by the Foundation. The Fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations and gives grants for projects that:

- Improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities.
- Sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age, or ability.
- Help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport.

Grants are available for between £10,000 and £500,000.

<http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>

875/26 On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion Fund - WRAP

The On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Fund has been developed to help farmers in England get financial support to build small-scale AD plants on their farms

The fund is being delivered on behalf of the government by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). WRAP understand that the main barriers to developing AD on farms are: access to finance; availability of reference sites for technologies and case studies; demonstration of the benefits of AD; the potential high cost of technology.

To address these barriers and encourage the uptake of small-scale on-farm AD in the UK WRAP has developed a programme to help farms access finance, provide case studies and demonstration information and provide support for farmers who want to use AD on their farm. The fund will be available to farms in England, that have access to slurries or manures; and who wish to build AD plants producing up to 250kW of power.

The scheme is split into two parts:

- A business plant grant up to £10,000 to investigate the environmental and economic potential of building an AD plant on the farm.
- A capital loan up to £400,000 (or a maximum of 50% of the project cost).

This is available for AD plants producing up to 250kW of power.

There is a rolling programme for applications.

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/node/16778>

875/27 Heritage Project Grants – Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funds projects which focus on heritage. HLF offer a range of different grant programmes with grants from £3,000 to over £5million. In assessing applications, HLF take account of the broad range of outcomes for heritage, people and communities that projects will achieve.

HLF programmes include:

- Start Up Grants – grants of between £3,000-£10,000 to help create a new organisation to look after heritage or engage people with it. This grant can also support existing groups taking on new responsibilities for heritage.
- Grants for Places of Worship – historic places of worship are often at the heart of communities. Grants from £10,000–£250,000 can fund urgent structural repairs and help to make them better places for everyone to visit.
- Parks for People – for projects related to historic parks and cemeteries in the UK. You can apply for a grant from £100,000 to £5million. Applications go

through a two round process and must be submitted by either 28 February for a decision in June or by 31 August for a decision in December.

- Transition Funding – available to organisations in the UK who want to achieve significant strategic change (through acquiring new skills or knowledge, or new models of governance, leadership, business and income) in order to become more resilient and sustain improved management of heritage for the long term. To apply you must be a previous recipient of an HLF grant. You can apply for a grant of more than £10,000 and up to £100,000.
- Heritage Enterprise – supports enterprising community organisations across the UK to rescue neglected historic buildings and sites and unlock their economic potential. You can apply for a grant from £100,000 to £5million.
- Sharing Heritage – for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK. Applications can be made for a grant from £3,000 to £10,000. The fund is available to not-for-profit organisations or partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations wanting to explore, share and celebrate their community’s heritage. This is a rolling programme and applications can be submitted at any time.
- Our Heritage – for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK. Applications can be made for a grant of more than £10,000 and up to £100,000. HLF fund applications from not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage (including individuals and for-profit organisations) and partnerships. This is a rolling programme and applications can be made at any time.
- Heritage Grants – HLF’s open programme for any type of project related to the national, regional, or local heritage in the UK. You can apply for a grant of over £100,000. Heritage Grants applications go through a two-round process. This is so that you can apply at an early stage of planning your project and get an idea of whether you have a good chance of getting a grant before you submit your proposals in greater detail.
- Young Roots – for projects that engage young people with heritage in the UK. Applications can be made for a grant of more than £10,000 and up to £50,000. Under this programme, HLF fund partnerships of heritage and youth organisations to help young people shape and deliver their own projects in safe environments. This is a rolling programme and applications can be made at any time.

For information on all HLF programmes visit the website.

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

875/28 National Planning Policy: consultation on proposed changes – Department for Communities & Local Government consultation

The government states that this consultation is seeking views on some specific changes to National Planning Policy in the following areas:

- “broadening the definition of affordable housing, to expand the range of low cost housing opportunities for those aspiring to own their new home
- increasing residential density around commuter hubs, to make more efficient use of land in suitable locations
- supporting sustainable new settlements, development on brownfield land and small sites, and delivery of housing allocated in plans
- supporting delivery of starter homes”

This consultation closes on 22 February 2016.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-consultation-on-proposed-changes>

875/29 Provisional local government finance settlement 2016 to 2017 and an offer to councils for future years – Department for Communities & Local Government consultation

This consultation invites the views of interested parties on proposals for the local government finance settlement for 2016 to 2017, and for the approach to future local government finance settlements.

This consultation closes on 15 January 2016.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/provisional-local-government-finance-settlement-2016-to-2017-and-an-offer-to-councils-for-future-years>

875/30 New Homes Bonus: sharpening the incentive: technical consultation – Department for Communities & Local Government consultation

This consultation seeks views on options for changes to the New Homes Bonus to better reflect authorities' delivery of new housing.

It also seeks views on reducing the number of years in which current and future payments are made.

This consultation closes on 10 March 2016.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-homes-bonus-sharpening-the-incentive-technical-consultation>

875/31 Local government pension scheme: investment regulations – Department for Communities & Local Government consultation

This consultation proposes to revoke and replace the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009.

The proposals include:

- removing some of the existing prescriptive means of ensuring that investments are suitably diverse - instead make authorities responsible for determining the balance of their investments and taking account of risk
- introducing safeguards to ensure that the more flexible legislation being discussed is used appropriately
- guidance on pooling assets is followed

This consultation closes on 19 February 2016.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revoking-and-replacing-the-local-government-pension-scheme>

875/32 Community infrastructure levy review: questionnaire – Department for Communities & Local Government consultation

The review is very keen to hear from a wide range of people. Local authorities and communities groups are important, as are developers, surveyors, lawyers and consultants involved in the community infrastructure levy (CIL) process.

The community infrastructure levy introduced in April 2010 seeks to provide a faster, fairer, more certain and transparent means of collecting developer contributions to infrastructure than individually-negotiated 'Section 106'

planning obligations.

The government confirmed in November 2015 that Liz Peace will lead and chair an independent group conducting a review of the community infrastructure levy.

The group met on 12 November 2015 and will assess the extent to which CIL does or can provide an effective mechanism for funding infrastructure, as well as recommend changes that would improve its operation in support of the government's wider housing and growth objectives.

This consultation closes on 15 January 2016.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/community-infrastructure-levy-review-questionnaire>

875//33 Higher education: teaching excellence, social mobility and student choice – Department for Business, Innovation & Skills consultation

This green paper sets out proposals to change the higher education landscape.

The government is seeking views on proposals to:

- introduce a Teaching Excellence Framework that will deliver better value for money for students, employers and taxpayers
- increase access and success in higher education participation for those from disadvantaged and under-represented groups
- create a new single gateway for entry and create a create common system for all providers
- establish a new Office for Students to promote the student interest and ensure value for money, and to reduce the regulatory burden on the sector

The consultation also considers the implications of the proposals on the research landscape. This consultation closes on 15 January 2016.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/higher-education-teaching-excellence-social-mobility-and-student-choice>

875/34 EU Broadband Cost Reduction Directive – Department for Culture, Media & Sport consultation

The government is seeking views on proposed measures to implement the EU Broadband Cost Reduction Directive (Directive 2014/61/EU). The Directive sets out the requirements Member States must meet to encourage the sharing of existing physical infrastructure which may be suitable for deploying broadband networks and the coordination of civil works across a wide range of infrastructure sectors. It provides rights to access information about existing physical infrastructure and planned civil works to facilitate such sharing and coordination.

The Directive also requires the appointment of a dispute body to handle disputes that may arise as a result of the Directive, and single information point(s) to provide information on planning permits and planned civil works. The Government is required to have implemented the Directive by 1 July 2016.

This consultation closes on 25 January 2016.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/eu-broadband-cost-reduction-directive>

875/35 New Part R of the Building Regulations – Department for Communities & Local Government consultation

The government is seeking views on their approach to implementing Article 8 of the 2014 Broadband Cost Reduction Directive (EU 2014/61) and on the guidance they have set out within the draft Approved Document R. Government would also welcome any further evidence to inform the supporting impact assessment.

This proposal mainly affects developers and the telecommunications industry. Government states that this consultation will inform the approach they will take to implement Article 8 of the 2014 Broadband Cost Reduction Directive that requires all new buildings and major renovations to have in-building physical infrastructure which supports connections to superfast broadband. Government is planning to meet this requirement by introducing a new 'Requirement R1 – In-Building Physical Infrastructure' to the Building Regulations.

This consultation closes on 11 January 2016.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-part-r-of-the-building-regulations>