

Tenant Option Budget Guidance 2010/11

- **What is the tenant option budget for?**

The tenant option budget is a sum of money that has been allocated by each operational company's board. Residents apply to it in order to bring about improvements to benefit the physical environment and / or residents of a particular estate or scheme.

The budget can:

- Fund environmental and security improvements
- and/or**
- Support local community initiatives and projects.

- **Making an application:**

If you have an idea you want to put forward you should complete the attached application form with as much detail as possible and send it to Castle Morpeth Housing. Alternatively you can hand it to any member of Castle Morpeth Housing's staff.

A panel (comprising of Castle Morpeth Housing residents and staff) will look at the applications and will consider the criteria as described below. Your project proposal will not necessarily cover all the criteria or considerations – so don't worry!

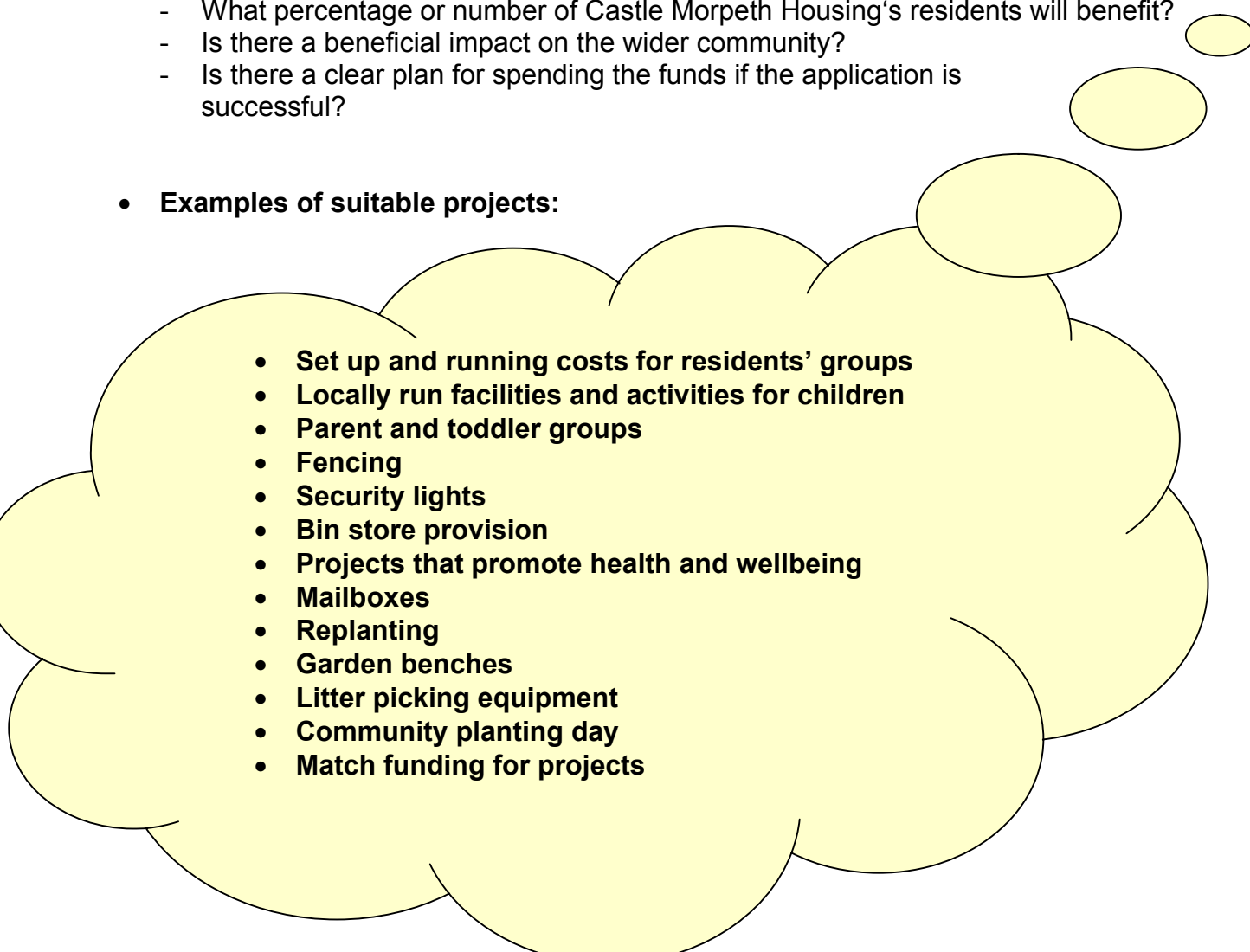
- **Considerations for environmental and security improvements:**

- Is it practical to put the proposal into place (is there enough room etc)?
- Will the project have a lasting effect?
- Will it improve the look and/or feel of the area?
- What environmental improvement will it create?
- Does it have Health & Safety benefits?
- Will it improve the security of the area?
- What percentage or number of Castle Morpeth Housing's residents will benefit?
- Is there a benefit for a particular subsection of the local community?
- Is there a beneficial impact on the wider community?

- **Considerations for community initiatives/projects:**

- Is the project or initiative based on a scheme or estate where Castle Morpeth Housing manages most of the properties?
- Would the project or initiative benefit residents living in the area?
- Is there a benefit for a particular subsection of the local community?
- Will the project or initiative have a lasting effect?
- What percentage or number of Castle Morpeth Housing's residents will benefit?
- Is there a beneficial impact on the wider community?
- Is there a clear plan for spending the funds if the application is successful?

- **Examples of suitable projects:**

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- **Set up and running costs for residents' groups**
 - **Locally run facilities and activities for children**
 - **Parent and toddler groups**
 - **Fencing**
 - **Security lights**
 - **Bin store provision**
 - **Projects that promote health and wellbeing**
 - **Mailboxes**
 - **Replanting**
 - **Garden benches**
 - **Litter picking equipment**
 - **Community planting day**
 - **Match funding for projects**

- **The Tenant Option Budget will not be used for:**

- works such as repairs which are the responsibility of Castle Morpeth Housing, or work that is already in the planned maintenance schedule.
- works which would change the amount of service charges unless, after consultation, the majority of residents agree with the works.
- projects which will only benefit a single individual.

Every application will be considered, although smaller, low-cost schemes are more likely to be approved.

- **And lastly...**

When we receive an application we will let other residents in the area/scheme know and ask them for their opinion. It would be helpful if you have talked to your neighbours about the idea and have obtained their ideas. To show the support for the proposal you could even ask for their signature on the back of the form to say that they support the proposal.

Contacts and Help

If you have any queries regarding the process or need help in filling in the form please do not hesitate to contact your housing officer, a member of the resident involvement team, or a technical officer. If you would prefer to speak with one of the resident panel members, please contact the resident involvement team and they will arrange for this to happen.

Resident Involvement Team

Name(s):

Telephone contact number(s):

Angeline Rochford
Community Involvement Officer

0845 1170020