

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Executive – 18 August 2010

Allocation of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

Report of Strategic Director Joy Wishlade

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Mark Edwards)

1. Executive Summary

In April 2010 it was reported to Executive that a total amount of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant had been received of: Revenue: £666,829 and Capital: £219,573.

A further allocation for a number of issues was approved by the Executive in April 2010 leaving a significant amount of unallocated funds, including some underspends from previous allocations.

This report seeks approval to allocate some more of this funding.

2. Background

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant is given to Local Authorities based on their performance in Development Control, plan making and delivery of housing. We received a high amount this year mainly due to the work in plan making and the adoption of the Town Centre Area Action Plan. The Coalition Government has scrapped HPDG for future years so this is the last funding allocation through this particular funding stream. The funding is allocated to deliver improved planning, forward planning (plan making) and housing delivery services.

3. Details

The Executive report in April 2010 stated that following approval of the suggested funding there was a further £3,573 capital and £526,828 revenue left unallocated. However there has been some underspend from allocations made in previous years leaving a further saving of £8,000 capital and £2,400 revenue therefore leaving £11,573 capital and £529,228 revenue unallocated.

The allocations that are now requested are as follows:-

Revenue Items	
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	£30,000
Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment	£17,000
Strategic Housing Market Assessment update (affordable housing viability and thresholds in rural areas)	£9,250
Review of housing growth projections	£6,000
Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment surveys	£ 600
Development Management efficiency review of planning processes	£7,120
Total	£69,970

There are no further capital allocations requested at this time.

If the above items are approved this will leave unallocated:

Revenue: £459,258

Capital: £11,573

4. Finance Comments

No further comments

5. Legal Comments

There are no legal implications that require reporting.

6. Links to Corporate Aims

These allocations will aid delivery of the Corporate Aim: Regeneration and Growth.

7. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

Having sound planning documents will ensure adherence to all environmental requirements.

8. Equalities Impact

There are no equalities impacts.

9. Risk Management

The highest risk is that if these studies are not undertaken there would be a higher likelihood that the Core Strategy would be found unsound

10. Partnership Implications

Not applicable

11. Scrutiny

This paper was discussed at Corporate Scrutiny on 29 July 2010. The recommendations were supported.

12. Recommendation

The Executive recommends approval of the above allocation of HPDG funds.

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