

TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE 8 FEBRUARY 2006

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Williams,
Leader of the Council

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/07 TO 2008/09

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the proposed General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programmes for the period 2006/07 to 2008/09.

For the General Fund the estimated unallocated resources available are £739k. Proposed new schemes amount to £407.5k, leaving £331.5k of unallocated capital resources available for future schemes.

For all Housing schemes, both GF and HRA, the estimated resources available for 2006/07 amount to £5,966k. The proposed capital programme for 2006/07 fully utilises all available resources.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the proposed GF Capital Programme as outlined in Appendix A and to consider the proposed HRA Capital Programme as outlined in Appendix B. Following approval by the Executive the programme is due to be considered by Full Council on 21 February.

2 CAPITAL RESOURCES

2.1 All capital expenditure has to be financed from borrowing, capital receipts or other revenue funds.

2.2 The current position on the amount of unallocated resources available for both the GF and Housing is set out below:

	2006/07 General Fund £000	2006/07 Housing £000
Current Balance	739	5,966

2.3 The General Fund figure shown above reflects the uncommitted balance on capital reserves plus the amount that we expect to receive in capital receipts arising from the sale of GF assets. It does not however, include any new Revenue Contributions to Capital that the Executive are proposing in the Revenue Budget report. Resources for Housing include the Major Repairs Allowance, supported borrowing, usable capital receipts and any revenue contributions to capital.

- 2.4 The figure for the HRA is much higher as, unlike the GF, the HRA receives a direct grant from central Government (the Major Repairs Allowance) towards capital expenditure. This comprises around 60% of all resources available to finance Housing schemes.
- 2.5 From 1 April 2004 the Council no longer had to rely on Government issued credit approvals to enable it to borrow money to finance capital expenditure. The new Prudential Code allows local authorities to borrow money for capital purposes providing it remains prudent, affordable and sustainable. It should be noted that for both the GF and the HRA no Prudential borrowing is assumed in the table above. For Housing the only borrowing which is included in the resources is that borrowing for which central Government will provide revenue support via subsidy to meet debt costs. This is known as “supported borrowing” and amounts to £1.044m in 2006/07.
- 2.6 Any new loan debt will only be taken after full consideration of the Authority’s treasury management strategy and the indicators prescribed by the Prudential Code.

3 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The current approved capital programme totals £14.7m. This includes any slippage in schemes, which have been rolled forward from 2004/05 and any subsequent supplementary estimates that have been approved by Full Council.
- 3.2 The programme also includes the GF Housing capital programme, a summary of which is shown below:

	2005/06 £000	2006/07 £000	2007/08 £000
Renovation Grants	680	685	685
Grants to Housing Associations	751	809	809
Single Housing Investment Pot Bids	118	0	0
Total	1,549	1,494	1,494

Further details on the proposed GF Housing capital programme are shown in Appendix C.

- 3.3 The programme approved by Full Council in February 2005 went up until the end of 2007/08. The programme has now been extended to include 2008/09 and those traditionally recurring schemes, which had been approved up until 2007/08 have now been included for 2008/09. These recurring schemes total £286,500 and include:

Portfolio/Scheme	Recurring Schemes Annual Budget £
Leisure, Arts & Culture	
Grants to Clubs	59,500
Play Equipment – Grants to Parishes	31,000
Replacement Play Equipment	13,000
New Play Equipment	13,000
Corporate Services	
Energy Conservation	5,000
Desk Top Hardware Refurbishment Prog.	60,000
Environmental Services	
Taunton/Bridgwater Canal (£10k per annum up to 2008/09)	30,000
Planning Policy & Transportation	
Contributions to Footpaths and Streetlighting (£25k per annum up to 2008/09)	75,000
Total	286,500

3.4 After taking into account the recurring schemes the amount of unallocated resources is now £452.5k.

3.5 New Schemes

The Executive propose to make the following new schemes a priority for the new Programme:

Portfolio/Scheme	Amount Required from Unallocated Resources £
Environmental Services	
Taunton Crematorium – Mercury Abatement works (self financed by increased fees)	0
Taunton Crematorium – upgrade sound system & replace Lectern	6,000
Norton Fitzwarren Dam (financed by developers contributions)	0
Economic Development	
Deane DLO – purchase/lease of new small plant and vehicles (financed via lease/DLO funds)	0
Parking on mixed tenure estates	15,000
Corporate Services	
Public Buildings – Disability Discrimination Act works	100,000
Total	121,000

- 3.6 Members may note that in the Budget Consultation Packs, that were issued to all Members before Christmas, that there was a scheme proposed for a replacement security system at Deane House. This work has now become more urgent with the works requiring completion before April and therefore the Executive have, at their last meeting, already requested Full Council approval for this scheme. Secondly, the scheme for an upgraded sound system and replacement Lectern at the Crematorium has only recently been identified and was not included in the budget consultation pack.
- 3.7 In considering the new bids submitted by Officers the only amendment to a proposed scheme by the Executive is the reduction of the amount to be included for Disability Discrimination Act works which was originally proposed by Officers at £413k, and which, as shown above, Executive Councillors have reduced to £100k. The original budget proposal was to fund all DDA works but due to the constraints on the level of available resources the Executive have decided to allocate a budget for 2006/07 that will enable the most urgent works to be completed.
- 3.8 In total supporting the schemes outlined in paragraph 3.5, would leave £331.5k of unallocated capital resources. This excludes any new Revenue Contributions to Capital which the Executive are proposing in the Revenue Budget report.
- 3.9 It should be noted that due to the limited resources currently available the ability of the Council to continue to fund new and recurring schemes in future years, after 2008/09, could only continue if new resources are generated. This could be through either borrowing, revenue contributions or through the sale of assets.
- 3.10 Detailed Project Approval Reports for any of the schemes are available through Steve Murphy in Financial Services on 01823 331448.
- 3.11 The detailed GF capital programme, which includes these proposed schemes now totals £19.8m and is shown in Appendix A.

4 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The table in paragraph 2.2 shows the level of resources available to finance the proposed Housing capital programme for 2006/07, and as mentioned above, includes no unsupported borrowing. By limiting the borrowing necessary for the programme to the amount of supported borrowing ensures that the HRA will not have to meet any unsupported borrowing costs. Included within this sum is a contribution to capital from the HRA of £798k and estimated useable capital receipts from the sale of Council Houses of £400k (only 20 sales are estimated in 2006/07).

- 4.2 The General Fund Housing Programme, as detailed in paragraph 3.2 requires the use of £1.494m of these resources, leaving £4.472m available for the HRA capital programme.
- 4.3 The funding for the programmes in 2007/08 and 2008/09 is anticipated to be broadly similar to 2006/07, although it is not possible at this stage to accurately identify these. However, when details are known the programme will be amended to reflect the actual level of funding available.
- 4.4 The proposed HRA Capital Programme for 2006/07, as detailed in Appendix B, and accompanied by the commentary in Appendix C, projects a programme of £4.472m. This fully utilises all available resources and will fund work that is considered both necessary and achievable for the housing stock during the next year.
- 4.5 The Housing Review Panel and Tenants Forum considered the draft Housing capital programme at their January meetings. In the draft Programme which was considered by the Housing Review Panel, due to financial constraints, there was no provision for the Cash Incentive Scheme in 2006/07. However following a request made by the Panel, Officers have reviewed the Programme and have now put £50,000 into this budget for next year. This has been funded by reducing the amount available for Decent Homes work. It is also anticipated that the budget for 2007/08 onwards would be around £250,000 pa.
- 4.6 The Review Board at their meeting on 26 January considered the capital programme and made no suggestions for changes to the proposed budget.
- 4.7 For both the GF and HRA any new schemes, which emerge during the lifespan of the programmes, will be funded through existing unallocated resources or through new resources, such as new capital receipts. Bids for additional schemes to those set out above should be made through the Executive, using the PAR format.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Executive is requested to recommend the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account capital programmes to Full Council for approval.

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Background Papers: Review Board 26 January 2006, Capital Programme 2006/07 to 2008/09.

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL
GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY**

Portfolio Expenditure	Current Estimate 2005/06 £	Forward Estimate 2006/07 £	Forward Estimate 2007/08 £	Forward Estimate 2008/09 £	Total £
Corporate Services	1,305,676	165,000	65,000	65,000	1,600,676
Economic Dev, Property & Tourism	1,295,825	150,300	0	0	1,446,125
Environmental Services	2,781,522	4,584,500	119,000	10,000	7,495,022
Housing (Non-HRA)	1,549,000	1,494,000	1,494,000	1,494,000	6,031,000
Leisure, Arts and Culture	2,140,500	116,500	116,500	116,500	2,490,000
Planning Policy & Transportation	606,439	45,000	45,000	25,000	721,439
Total Expenditure	9,678,963	6,555,300	1,839,500	1,710,500	19,784,263

TDBC CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06 - 2007/08

CORPORATE RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

Primary Code	Responsible Officer	Scheme	Current Budget 2005/06 £	Estimated Budget 2006/07 £	Estimated Budget 2007/08 £	Estimated Budget 2008/09 £	Total £
T30	George Stark	Public Buildings -Disabled Access	206,189	100,000	0	0	306,189
T31	George Stark	Energy Conservation/Water Management	28,528	5,000	5,000	5,000	43,528
T32	Stewart Rutledge	The Deane House - Air Conditioning	5,984	0	0	0	5,984
T58	Simon Kirkham	Desk Top Hardware Refurb Programme	0	60,000	60,000	60,000	180,000
T58	Simon Kirkham	IT Projects	92,750	0	0	0	92,750
T59	George Stark	Asbestos Removal	39,082	0	0	0	39,082
W26		Introduction of Storage Area Network	1,947	0	0	0	1,947
W50		FIS System	166,504	0	0	0	166,504
W51		Revenues & Benefits IT System	355,500	0	0	0	355,500
	Claire Bramley	Replacement Colour Printer	41,857				41,857
W65	Simon Kirkham	Implementing E Government	350,335	0	0	0	350,335
	Stewart Rutledge	Deane House Security System	17,000	0	0	0	17,000
		Total Expenditure	1,305,676	165,000	65,000	65,000	1,600,676

TDBC CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06 - 2007/08
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PROPERTY AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

Primary Code	Responsible Officer	Scheme	Current Budget 2005/06 £	Estimated Budget 2006/07 £	Estimated Budget 2007/08 £	Estimated Budget 2008/09 £	Total £
T40	Tony Turner	Grass Cutting Equipt.	31,500	33,950	0	0	65,450
T41	Tony Turner	Vehicle Acquisitions	116,600	101,350	0	0	217,950
T42	Martyn Hembrow	Refurbishment / Improvements - Priory Depot	40,540	0	0	0	40,540
T61	John Seabrook	Parking on Estates	19,287	15,000	0	0	34,287
T82	Stewart Rutledge	Paul St Car Park	116,850	0	0	0	116,850
T83	John Lewis	Town Centre CCTV	60,132	0	0	0	60,132
T85		Resignalling at Norton Fitzwarren	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
W17	Stewart Rutledge	Bike Park Development (St James St)	45,000	0	0	0	45,000
W60		Hestercombe Gardens (Heritage)	60,000	0	0	0	60,000
W69	Adrian Priest	Frobisher Way	149,141	0	0	0	149,141
W70		Blackdown Business Park	496,775	0	0	0	496,775
W71		Business Park Development, Wiveliscombe	150,000	0	0	0	150,000
		Total Expenditure	1,295,825	150,300	0	0	1,446,125

TDBC CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06 - 2007/08

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Primary Code	Responsible Officer	Scheme	Current Budget 2005/06 £	Estimated Budget 2006/07 £	Estimated Budget 2007/08 £	Estimated Budget 2008/09 £	Total £
T27	Paul Rayson	Cemetery Extension	14,960	0	0	0	14,960
T50	John Herrington	Flood Relief	415,954	4,500,000	0	0	4,915,954
T52	Bruce Carpenter	Public Conveniences - Kingston Road	25,000	0	0	0	25,000
T52	Bruce Carpenter	Public Conveniences - Priorswood	35,000	0	0	0	35,000
T52	Bruce Carpenter	Public Conveniences - North St Wellington	122,500	0	0	0	122,500
T54	Pete Weaver	Env Health Hand Held Computers	3,858	0	0	0	3,858
T74	Ian Clark	Taunton/Bridgwater Canal	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000
T75	Ian Clark	Conservation Areas Underground	6,500	0	0	0	6,500
T95		Air Quality Monitoring Equipment	5,438	0	0	0	5,438
W10	Paul Rayson	Re-Brick Cremators	7,831	0	0	0	7,831
W12	Paul Rayson	Crematorium - Exension	187,861	0	0	0	187,861
W13	Paul Rayson	Cemetery & Crematorium Car Park Lighting	16,000	0	0	0	16,000
W36		Neroche Project	8,000	8,000	24,000	0	40,000
W68	Bruce Carpenter	Waste Initiative	1,922,620	60,500	0	0	1,983,120
	Paul Rayson	Mercury Abatement Works (Extension and F	0	0	85,000	0	85,000
	Paul Rayson	Sound System Upgrade at Crematorium	0	6,000	0	0	6,000
		Total Expenditure	2,781,522	4,584,500	119,000	10,000	7,495,022

TDBC CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06 - 2007/08

HOUSING

Primary Code	Responsible Officer	Scheme	Current Budget 2005/06 £	Budget 2006/07 £	Budget 2007/08 £	Budget 2008/09 £	Total £
V98		Private Sector Renewal Grants	480,000	335,000	335,000	335,000	1,485,000
V98		Disabled Facilities Grants	200,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	1,250,000
V99		Grants to Registered Social Landlords	751,000	809,000	809,000	809,000	3,178,000
		Sprinklers	24,000	0	0	0	24,000
		Homeless Scheme	24,000	0	0	0	24,000
		Wessex Reinvestment Trust - Loans	70,000	0	0	0	70,000
		Total Expenditure	1,549,000	1,494,000	1,494,000	1,494,000	6,031,000

TDBC CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06 - 2007/08
LEISURE, ARTS AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO

Primary Code	Responsible Officer	Scheme	Current Budget 2005/06 £	Estimated Budget 2006/07 £	Estimated Budget 2007/08 £	Estimated Budget 2008/09 £	Total £
T01	Karen Hughes	Corporate Priorities - Grants to Clubs - Unallocated	49,985	59,500	59,500	59,500	228,485
T01	Karen Hughes	Corporate Priorities - Grants to Clubs - Combe Florey V. Hall	9,671	0	0	0	9,671
T01	Karen Hughes	Corporate Priorities - Grants to Clubs - Wiveliscombe	7,195	0	0	0	7,195
T01	Karen Hughes	Corporate Priorities - Grants to Clubs - Stoke St Gregory	35,000	0	0	0	35,000
T01	Karen Hughes	Corporate Priorities - Grants to Clubs - Stawley	5,507	0	0	0	5,507
T01	Karen Hughes	Corporate Priorities - Grants to Clubs - Bathealton	13,750	0	0	0	13,750
T01	Karen Hughes	Corporate Priorities - Grants to Clubs - Taunton Angling Assoc.	3,000	0	0	0	3,000
T01	Karen Hughes	Corporate Priorities - Grants to Clubs - West Bagborough	3,500	0	0	0	3,500
T01	Karen Hughes	Corporate Priorities - Grants to Clubs - Ash Priors	7,750	0	0	0	7,750
T04	Karen Hughes	Corporate Priorities - Play Equipt. Grants to Parishes	63,883	31,000	31,000	31,000	156,883
T05	Karen Hughes	Play Equipt. Replacement	299,069	26,000	26,000	26,000	377,069
T05	Karen Hughes	Victoria Park	122,000	0	0	0	122,000
T05	Karen Hughes	Tollgate, Wiveliscombe	7,000	0	0	0	7,000
T28	Steve Hughes	WSC Refurbishment	25,645	0	0	0	25,645
T90	Stewart Rutledge	The Wellsprings Centre	144,702	0	0	0	144,702
T91		Parks Refurbishment	23,015	0	0	0	23,015
T92	Steve Hughes	Rural Kickabout Scheme Grant	7,000	0	0	0	7,000
W03	Pete Weaver	Grounds Maintenance System	1,538	0	0	0	1,538
W05	Karen Hughes	Play Facilities Nth Taunton	26,836	0	0	0	26,836
W07	Steve Hughes	Resurfacing of Outdoor Tennis Cts	488	0	0	0	488
W08	Stewart Rutledge	The Wellsprings Centre - Post Determination	158,415	0	0	0	158,415
W09		Tennis Centre Extension	361,996	0	0	0	361,996
W14		Blackbrook - Hawkins Trust Payment	65,000	0	0	0	65,000
W15	Joy Wishlade	Travel Plan	12,000	0	0	0	12,000
W16	Steve Hughes	Vivary Chalet (replacement for Golf Pavillion)	168,450	0	0	0	168,450
W22	Karen Hughes	Contributions - Cotford Prim School	8,656	0	0	0	8,656
W67	Karen Hughes	Wellington Arts Association Grants	9,450	0	0	0	9,450
	Joy Wishlade	Land at Roughmoor	500,000	0	0	0	500,000
		Total Expenditure	2,140,500	116,500	116,500	116,500	2,490,000

TDBC CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06 - 2007/08

PLANNING POLICY AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

Primary Code	Responsible Officer	Scheme	Current Budget 2005/06 £	Estimated Budget 2006/07 £	Estimated Budget 2007/08 £	Estimated Budget 2008/09 £	Total £
T45	John Lewis	Parking Strategy - Payment Equipment Replacement	20,000	20,000	20,000	0	60,000
T60	John Herrington	Contributions to Footpaths and Streetlighting	49,967	25,000	25,000	25,000	124,967
T66		Town Centre Management Initiative	2,849	0	0	0	2,849
T86		Town Centre Improvements	69,511	0	0	0	69,511
T94		Pedestrian Signage	5,700	0	0	0	5,700
W30		Contribution to Silk Mills Scheme	399,000	0	0	0	399,000
W32		Multi-Storey Car Park - Drying Room	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
W33		Anti Suicide Measures - Paul St Car Park	49,412	0	0	0	49,412
		Total Expenditure	606,439	45,000	45,000	25,000	721,439

Housing Capital Programmes 2005/6 to 2008/9

Area	Original Budget 2005/6	Revised Budget 2005/6	Proposed Budget 2006/7	Forecast Budget 2007/8	Forecast Budget 2008/9
Kitchens and Bathrooms)			2,748,000	2,798,000	2,798,000
Central Heating Upgrades)			200,000	200,000	200,000
Electrical rewiring)	3,568,000	3,834,720	75,000	75,000	75,000
Reroofing)			200,000	200,000	200,000
Replacement Windows)			120,000	120,000	120,000
Door Entry Systems	40,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Sound Proofing	22,000	7,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Fees			250,000	250,000	250,000
FUNDED BY MRA	3,630,000	3,861,720	3,633,000	3,683,000	3,683,000
Integrated Housing Management System	300,000	100,000	250,000	0	0
Communal TV Aerials	30,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Aids and Adaptations	264,800	199,800	200,000	200,000	200,000
Extensions	90,000	50,000	0	0	0
Environmental Security Measures	65,000	20,000	0	0	0
Work to Achieve Adoptable Standards	5,000	0	0	0	0
Elderly Persons Clubrooms/DDA Work	35,000	15,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Sheltered Housing Alterations	90,000	65,000	0	0	0
Stock Condition Survey	80,000	80,000	0	0	0
Asbestos Investigations	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Fees			29,000	29,000	29,000
Community Alarm Systems	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Tenants Imps.	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Cash Incentive Scheme	250,000	241,500	50,000	250,000	250,000
Disabled Facilities Grants (HRA Stock)	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total HRA Capital	5,109,800	4,913,020	4,472,000	4,472,000	4,472,000

APPENDIX C

1. Housing Capital Programme Commentary

- 1.1 The Capital Programme projected for 2006/07 is based on a realistic assessment of the resources that are available. The programme is designed to achieve an investment strategy to meet the demands for the improvement of public and private housing and to make a significant contribution to Joint Commissioning for the provision of new homes. The programme follows the priorities outlined in our housing strategy and HRA business plan, which in turn properly considers the links to the overall strategy of the Council.

2. Comments

- 2.1 The comments focus on the main items of expenditure as set out in Appendix B.

2.2 **Local Authority Owned Stock**

- 2.3 The future major investment into the Housing Stock will concentrate on delivering 'Decent Homes'.

2.4 Delivering Decent Homes (HP 4)

£3,343,000

In July 2001 the Council received guidance on the Government target to 'ensure that all social housing meets set standards of decency by 2010 by reducing the number of households living in social housing that does not meet these standards'. There are four criterion used to determine a "decent home" and each property has to satisfy these in order to be classified as decent.

The four criterion are:-

- A. It meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing
- B. It is in a reasonable state of repair
- C. It has reasonably modern facilities and services
- D. Provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort

Predominantly, this work concentrates on upgrading kitchens, re-roofing, provision of double glazed PVCu replacement windows, external doors with improved security, upgrading central heating systems and replacing old electrical wiring in order to comply with the latest IEE regulations will be undertaken as resources permit.

2.5 Door Entry Systems (HP 4)

£30,000

In recent years, door entry systems have been installed in Sheltered Housing schemes. Continuing this theme future proposals will concentrate on the remaining sheltered housing schemes, and also at General Needs Flats where significant problems of Anti-Social Behaviour exists.

2.6	<u>Soundproofing Work (HP 4)</u> The programme, which started with the Duplex flats at Holway, Taunton in 1997 has been extended to other flats with timber floors where sound transmission problems exist. It is recommended that provision should be made to allow this work to continue, and to include other post-war flats when these properties are vacated.	£10,000
2.7	<u>New Housing Management IT System (HP 4)</u> This scheme has been deferred from 2005/06 to 2006/07 due to the shortfall in resources experienced by the Council arising from the drop off in Right to Buy sales.	£250,000
2.8	<u>Communal TV Aerial Systems</u> In line with the Government requirements, as existing communal T.V. aerial systems become time expired, these will be replaced with systems capable of receiving digital reception.	£20,000
2.9	<u>Aids and Adaptations (inc parking) (HP 5)</u> Continued assistance to provide essential modifications to Council dwellings including small car parking improvements for disabled tenants.	£200,000
2.10	<u>Elderly Persons Clubrooms/DDA Work</u> In order to ensure the existing sheltered housing schemes clubrooms comply with the Disability Discriminations Act certain modifications are necessary. It is proposed to include £20,000 each year to cover these modifications.	£20,000
2.11	<u>Asbestos Investigations (HP 4)</u> Surveys are currently being carried out to help build a database to inform the Council, as a landlord, so that it can properly notify its tenants of the existence of mineral fibres in their homes. Although it is only possible at the present time to provide general advice, it is necessary to build a detailed database, identifying where these products exist.	£20,000
2.12	<u>Tenants Improvements and the provision of Community Alarm Systems</u> Tenants are compensated for improvements they have undertaken under the Rights to Compensation legislation when they vacate their homes. This budget also allows continued investment into the Community Alarm Service, assisting elderly, infirm and vulnerable people to remain in their homes.	£50,000
2.13	<u>Cash Incentive Scheme (HP 1)</u> In the draft Programme, due to financial constraints, there	£50,000

was no provision for the Cash Incentive Scheme in 2006/07. However following a request made at the recent Housing Review Panel, Officers have reviewed the Programme and have now put £50,000 into this budget. This has been funded by reducing the amount shown in paragraph 2.4 for Decent Homes work by £50,000.

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|------|---|----------|
| 2.14 | <u>Disabled Facilities Grants (HRA Stock) (HP 5)</u>
Demand continues for this service which is also a statutory duty. Recommend continuing the same investment level as this year. | £200,000 |
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| 3. | <u>Private Sector Renewal</u> | |
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| 3.1 | <u>Grants to Registered Social Landlords (HP 1)</u>
The current building programme (with reserve schemes) involves provision of accommodation over the three-year period, but we need to increase the number of units being provided to 197 per annum according to the ARK report 2005. The reduction in funding when compared to the original budget for 2005/6 is a direct result of the significant reduction in the number of Right to Buy sales completed. | £809,000 |
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| 3.2 | <u>Private Sector Renewal Grants (HP 3)</u>
Continued investment into the private sector for grant aid. Although the budget for 2006/7 shows a reduction on the expenditure within the current financial year it is intended to return to 2003/4 levels of investment if resources permit. Work has begun on providing loans under the Regulatory Reform of Grants through the Wessex Reinvestment Trust. The development of a Home Improvement Agency continues. Councillors will be kept informed of progress. | £335,000 |
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 | | |
| 3.3 | <u>Disabled Facilities Grants – Private Sector (HP 5)</u>
This remains an important investment as evidenced by the 2002 Private Sector House Condition Survey. As with Council DFG's there is a statutory obligation to provide this service. | £350,000 |