

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Executive – 13 July 2011

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

Report of the Strategic Director (Joy Wislade)

(This matter is the responsibility of Councillor Mark Edwards)

1. Executive Summary

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) is no longer available but the Council still has a significant amount from previous allocations which is unallocated. It has also allocated amounts in the past that were not spent and are no longer required. The purpose of this report is to provide an up to date picture of what HPDG remains and to recommend further allocations.

2. Background

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant was given to Local Authorities based on their performance in Development Control, Plan Making and delivery of housing. The coalition government has scrapped HPDG for future years. The funding is allocated to deliver improved planning, forward planning (plan making) and housing delivery services.

3. Current Situation

There is currently £505,040 held in the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant reserve of this £445,467 is revenue, the remainder £59,573 is capital.

There have been several allocations from the HPDG reserve made since the last HPDG report. They are taken into account in the figures above and are as follows:

Revenue:

- £73,400 towards Strategic Director salary in 2011/12 as part of the Budget Setting process (Full Council February 2011)
- £15,000 towards the £50,000 TDBC Project Taunton funding in 2011/12 agreed as part of the Budget Setting process (there was an under spend of £35,000 against the £50,000 agreed as part of the 2010/11 allocations).

Capital:

- £100k to re-pay Project Taunton agreed income from the sale of the Coal Orchard car park that was incorrectly allocated to general capital reserves (Executive March 2011)

Since the previous HPDG report it has been assumed that there will be a reallocation of £216k to HPDG Capital that was agreed to part fund the purchase of a development site in Taunton. The opportunity that existed when this was agreed by the Executive (April 2010) no longer exists. The full report of can be found in the confidential appendix. The issue that has changed is that the third party interest in the site no longer exists.

4. Further Allocations

Further allocations that are recommended as part of this report are as follows:

1. £46,478 revenue towards the work required to prepare the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy on development. The amount that is raised per new dwelling to contribute towards new infrastructure is subject to a rigorous evidential test. This work will give the Council that sound evidence set within a policy context that means that we will be able not only to raise the levy but also an interim policy arrangement before the CIL is finally approved.
2. £8,970 revenue towards the additional costs arising from extending the economic and demographic projections in the Core Strategy to an end date of 2028 due to the delays in bringing the Core Strategy forward.

This will still leave £390,019 revenue and £59,573 capital funding un-allocated

5. Finance Comments

The financial information is included in the main body of this report. The extra £100k suggested by Corporate Scrutiny is not included in the figures above. If the Executive endorse this recommendation this would come from revenue funding and would therefore leave £290,019 un-allocated. There are no further finance comments.

6. Legal Comments

There are no legal implications to this report.

7. Links to Corporate Aims

This links to the Aim of Regeneration as without the policy context and the ability to raise funding for infrastructure the Borough will not be able to develop.

8. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

The Core Strategy provides environmental policies to protect the environment and provide policies on sustainability as part of the development plan.

9. Equalities Impact

This has been considered but there are no equality issues that arise from this report.

10. Risk Management

There are no risk management issues that are relevant to this report.

11. Partnership Implications

There are no partnership implications to this report.

12. Corporate Scrutiny

The report went to Corporate Scrutiny on 26 May 2011. The issue that was rigorously discussed was the de-allocation of the £216k funding mentioned in paragraph 3. I have therefore included the whole of the confidential report of April 2010 as the appendix rather than attempt a synopsis.

Corporate Scrutiny also endorsed a further recommendation:

“That a further £100k be allocated for inward investment purposes”.

The recommendations outlined below as 2 – 4 were fully endorsed.

13. Recommendations

The Executive are requested to consider the following recommendations:

1. To consider Corporate Scrutiny’s proposal to allocate £100k from HPDG for inward investment purposes
2. To confirm the de-allocation of £216,000 of HPDG capital funding to part fund the purchase of a development site in Taunton as in the confidential Executive report April 2010.
3. £46,478 revenue to be allocated towards the work required to prepare the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy on development
4. £8,970 revenue be allocated towards the additional costs arising from extending the economic and demographic projections in the Core Strategy to an end date of 2028

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