

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Council Meeting – 8 December 2009

Part I

To deal with written questions to and receive recommendations to the Council from the Executive.

Councillor Coles

(a) Growth Point Funding – Re-profiling the Spending Plan

Taunton Deane is in receipt of Growth Points (GP) funding for the furtherance of the future development of Taunton in both the long and medium term.

The funding is a mix of capital and revenue funding. The allocation for 2009/2010 was £3,338,104 capital and £301,249 revenue and for 2010/2011 the provisional amounts allocated were £3,972,516 capital and £300,698 revenue.

The priorities for using this funding have previously been agreed by the Project Taunton Steering Group and the Project Taunton Advisory Board and the addition to the Capital Programme of the capital elements of this Spending Plan were approved by Full Council earlier in the year.

Due to the recession, the Minister for Housing and Planning notified the Council during the summer that the capital allocation for 2009/2010 was to be reduced by 43% to £2,248,263. The revenue funding has not been reduced.

With further reductions in public spending being likely next year and, in the absence of any firm commitment from the Government about even the reduced figure being available, the Executive has reconsidered the Spending Plan for 2010/2011.

The re-prioritised Spending Plan shows that if the Council continues to undertake the works to provide the Northern Inner Distributor Road and, if no Growth Point funding is received next year, there will be a significant overspend of £2,691,000.

In this scenario, the scheme to enhance Castle Green would be at risk as it is the least aligned to the delivery of housing and economic growth in Taunton.

It is therefore **recommended** that the changes to the Capital Programme of the capital elements of the Growth Point Funding Plan be agreed.