
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06-2006/07 – RELEASE OF FUNDS

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Don Bristow
Resource Management Portfolio**

Responsible Director(s) –Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of the report is to delegate powers to the Director of Development & Environment, (in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Regeneration and Planning Portfolio) for the approval of provision of grants for building works to properties in conservation areas.

Background Information.

2. Council approved the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan, 2005/06 – 2008/09 on 10th March 2005.
3. Prior to Capital Schemes commencing a further Cabinet report is required to formally release the schemes Capital Funding. Cabinet received a further report on 15th March 2005, formally releasing the Corporately funded capital schemes. This report is attached at **Appendix 1**.
4. In relation to the Northgate Building Improvement Scheme, which will involve the provision of grants for building works to properties in the Northgate Conservation Area, the Director of Development and Environment, who will administer the scheme, currently does not have delegated power for the approval of the provision of grants.

Information and Analysis

5. In relation to the Northgate Building Improvement Scheme, it is suggested that the approval process will be as follows, applications received by the Council's Conservation Officer will be assessed for eligibility against the principles of the Scheme. (The principles will be set out in a detailed agreement between the Council and English Heritage). Where satisfactory, the Conservation Officer will calculate the amount of grant and complete a pro-forma setting out a summary of the proposed works and a financial breakdown. He will sign it, then pass it in turn for signature by the Director of Development and Environment and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Planning. If and when these are received a formal grant offer, with requirements and conditions will be sent to the applicant.

Outcome of Consultation

6. Although no formal consultation has taken place the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan, 2005/06 – 2008/09 was discussed at Resources Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 10th

February 2005 their comments were then considered at the special meeting of Cabinet on 1st March 2005.

Legal Implications

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

9. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

10. The issues contained within this report do represent a change to Council Policy.

Conclusion

11. The Northgate Building Improvement Scheme has been allocated £100,000 of Corporate Resources, however the scheme is unable to proceed until the Director of Development & Environment (in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Regeneration and Planning Portfolio) are granted delegated powers for the approval of the provision of grants for building works to properties in Conservation Areas.

Recommendation

12. Council is requested to approve that the Director of Development & Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Regeneration and Planning Portfolio are granted delegated powers for the approval of the provision of grants for building works to properties in Conservation Areas and this is to be included in the Council's constitution.

Reasons

13. The recommendations are supported to allow the Northgate Building Improvement Scheme to commence.

Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

- (i) Capital Medium Term Financial Plan, 2005/06 – 2008/09

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