

**RAMSEY RURAL RENEWAL
REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS
(Report by Head of Planning Policy & Head of Financial Services)**

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet to:

- release part of the funding for the Ramsey Rural Renewal MTP scheme
- allow part of the funding to be transferred from capital to revenue.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 As part of the Medium Term Plan 2003–08, Council approved a pump priming budget (Ref 03/358/A) to assist initiatives in the rural area in and around Ramsey to get 'off the ground'.

2.2 The Cabinet received a report on 14th October 2004 [Minute 70 refers] making reference to the development of the Ramsey Area Partnership, since its formation in Autumn 2003, and submitting the Healthcheck Strategy and Action Plan for consideration. This was endorsed by the Cabinet.

2.3 A summary of the key priorities of the Ramsey Area Partnership and linkages with Council work priorities and those of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership is shown in Annex A.

2.4 Annex B outlines the schemes that officers consider are likely to be priority following discussion with the relevant Executive Councillors.

2.5 Further detailed work and consultation is required before finalising the precise nature, timing and cost of specific schemes. It has also now been identified that some of these proposals would require revenue funding rather than the capital funding, which was included in the approved scheme.

2.6 It is therefore necessary to confirm whether funds can be released and what level of flexibility the Cabinet will accept between capital and revenue so that detailed evaluation can commence.

3. FUNDING RELEASE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The approved MTP scheme was as shown below.

	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Spending	50	50	50	50	50
Revenue implications (lost interest)	1	4	6	8	12

- 3.2 This report is only seeking release of the 2004/05 and 2005/06 elements. The table below shows the revenue implications of this based on the spending being capital (as approved) and if half were converted to revenue.

	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
APPROVED BASIS					
Capital Spending	50	50	0	0	0
Revenue Impact	1	3	5	5	5
REQUESTED BASIS					
Capital Spending	20	30			
Revenue Spending	10	40			
Revenue Impact	11	42	3	3	3
IMPACT OF REQUESTED CHANGE	10	39	-2	-2	-2

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Cabinet is recommended to:

- (a) agree to the release of the funding for this scheme in 2004/05 and 2005/06
- (b) approve a supplementary revenue estimate of up to £10k in the current year and the inclusion of the variations in revenue impact relating to 2005/06 onwards in the MTP.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ramsey Area Partnership File
Huntingdonshire Community Strategy 2004

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Theme	Ramsey Area Partnership Priority Actions	HDC Short-term Priority	HDC Long-term Priority	Community Strategy Priority
Our Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work together with local communities and appropriate agencies to develop a plan for the establishment of multi-purpose community resources, including those for young people, in the town as part of the Ramsey Gateway proposal ▪ Work together to support the development and management of a local community chest fund ▪ Work together to promote the Ramsey Area Partnership vision and encourage increased community participation and engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Information Shop ▪ Community learning ▪ HeLP sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-agency Community Resource Centre ▪ Meeting place for young people ▪ Joint Health Facility with greater expertise for provision of range of clinics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare plans for the provision of community facilities and service-hub centres ▪ Promote services and activities which contribute to healthy lifestyles ▪ Promote active involvement of young people in planning ▪ To work with communities to reduce anti-social behaviour
Enhancing our heritage, open spaces & waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work together to promote Ramsey and the Great Fen Project in partnership investigating ▪ Work together to develop the waterway for leisure, linking with other initiatives such as the Fens Waterways ▪ Work together to develop a 'visitor package' for residents and tourists promoting the heritage, cultural and recreational activities the area has to offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barge Dock ▪ Tourist Information Kiosk ▪ Tourism Signage ▪ Heritage interpretation ▪ Heritage Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Great Fen – interpretation and linkages to Ramsey ▪ Development of waterway based leisure activity ▪ Customer Care (Welcome Host) ▪ Tourism Development ▪ Improving local recreational open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Co-ordination of and access to cultural and leisure activities

<p>Creating sustainable development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work together to develop the northern entrance to the town, known as Ramsey Gateway, potentially incorporating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ business and enterprise centre ➢ housing ➢ community facilities ➢ links to and from town centre and the open countryside ➢ renewable energy schemes ➢ design methods that provide a high quality, safe environment which is in keeping with the character of the town ▪ Work together to successfully apply for external grant funding to help realise the Ramsey Area Partnership vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment Initiative ▪ Retail Skills ▪ Vocational Training ▪ RAF Upwood Brief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Northern Gateway ▪ Business & Enterprise Centre ▪ Renewable Energy ▪ Housing to meet local needs ▪ Designing out Crime ▪ Learndirect Facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interim Planning Guidance for Northern Gateway ▪ Housing to meet local needs ▪ Produce good practice to promote sustainable communities ▪ Support the development of and access to the countryside for informal recreation
<p>Vibrant town centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work together to conserve and enhance the town centre supporting the development of a Conservation Area Character Statement and appropriate enhancement schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation Area Review ▪ Community Safety – CCTV, diversionary activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation Area Enhancements ▪ Environmental Improvements ▪ Historic Building Restoration ▪ Streetscape Continuity ▪ Increased investment ▪ Increased footfall in town ▪ Community safety – ASBOs ▪ Public space / Market Square 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve the facilities, competitiveness and appeal of Ramsey town centre
<p>Effective transport choices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work together to establish a Transport Strategy for the Ramsey area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of community transport ▪ Cycle use – cycle racks ▪ Free car parking & signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased use of community transport ▪ Market Town Area Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote new and existing public transport schemes ▪ Prepare promotion of community transport

ANNEX B

- Community Information Shop - expansion and refurbishment (match funding secured from the Greater Cambridge Partnership)
- The Buzz project - mobile facilities and development opportunities for young people (match funding secured from Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership)
- Town centre enhancements – support funding for implementation of projects arising from the forthcoming Ramsey Conservation Area Character Statement
- Community Chest Fund – funding to assist and empower local community groups in the Ramsey area to take forward actions that support the local communities using a process agreed with Community Initiatives (match funding from applicants will be encouraged)
- RAP goes live - running costs for promotion and development of the Ramsey Area Partnership and it's work (match funding partner officer and voluntary support)
- Community Centre Feasibility – one-off feasibility and business plan for the facility in Ramsey incorporating principles outlined in the Ramsey Gateway Urban Design Framework (match funding support through volunteer support from the Ramsey Community Hall Trust)
- Safety Zone Event – first-time opportunity for multi-agency event promoting safety to young people (partner officer time and venue provision provided as match funding)