

**MEDIUM TERM PLAN
REQUESTS FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

(Report by the Head of Financial Services)

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet to release funds for the MTP schemes detailed in the attached annexes.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Council, at its meeting in December 2003, decided that specific prior approval be sought and obtained from the Cabinet before MTP schemes/projects are implemented.
- 2.2** Officers have identified which schemes that they wish Cabinet to consider releasing funding for at this meeting and have discussed them with the relevant Executive Councillor.
- 2.3** Annex A summarises and the succeeding Annexes detail, the schemes where release of funds is now requested.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1** The Cabinet is recommended to release the funding shown in Annex A.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985

Budget and MTP reports
Previous requests for releases

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ANNEX A

SUMMARY		Net Revenue Impact £000					Net Capital £000						
		2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010
Annex													
B	Vehicle Replacement Programme		2	3	3	3	3		67				
C	Older People Village Warden Scheme		3	3	3	3	3						
D	Discretionary Repair Loans / Grants		7	14	14	14	14		277				
E	Disabled Facilities Grants		22	43	43	43	43		868				
Total amount for which release now requested			34	63	63	63	63		1,212				

Vehicle Replacement Programme – 02/192/C

Robert Ward

Financial Impact

	Net Revenue Impact						Net Capital							
	2003/ 2004 £000	2004/ 2005 £000	2005/ 2006 £000	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2003/ 2004 £000	2004/ 2005 £000	2005/ 2006 £000	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000
Approved Budget			-165	-143	-130	-109	-82			1,391	343	190	647	425
Already released (Fleet Lease)			-171	-164	-164	-164	-164			1,148				
Amount for which release now requested			2	3	3	3	3			67				

Justification for Release

Fleet No	F4342, F4241, F4340
User	Supervising Inspector
Vehicle Type	Ford Escort Van
Reg No	V125 PER S139 UEW S140 UEW
Replaced with	Similar type vehicles
Year of Manufacture	1999, 1997
Year of replacement	2005 - 2006
Estimated Cost of Replacement	£42,000
Residual Value	£1800

The above machinery will have reached the end of the operational life and therefore a Capital provision is required to replace these first line vehicles.

Plant and Machinery Fleet Replacement 2005 - 2006

To replace trailers, 24 inch pedestrian rotary mowers, hedge cutters, leaf blower from the Grounds Maintenance front line machinery requirements.

Estimated Cost of Replacement £5,000

Fleet No	F4616
User	Operations Division – Grounds Maintenance
Vehicle Type	Ransomes Triple Mowers
Reg No	N565 FWL
Replaced with	Ransomes Triple Mower type machinery
Year of Manufacture	1994
Year of replacement	2005 - 2006
Estimated Cost of Replacement	£20,000
Residual Value	£500

The above machinery will have reached the end of the operational life and therefore a Capital provision is required to replace these first line vehicles.

616 Older People Village Warden Scheme

Steve Plant

Financial Impact	Net Revenue Impact						Net Capital							
	2003/ 2004 £000	2004/ 2005 £000	2005/ 2006 £000	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2003/ 2004 £000	2004/ 2005 £000	2005/ 2006 £000	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000
Approved Budget			3	3	3	3	3			0	0	0	0	0
Already released			0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0
Amount for which release now requested			3	3	3	3	3			0	0	0	0	0

Justification for Release

The village warden service provides a regular contact for older people who live independently in their own homes and are a reliable link with statutory services and emergency help. Warden schemes help and encourage older people to maintain and enhance their independence in a discreet manner; provide a consistent and responsive point of contact for older people; are a 'watchful eye' and can prevent crisis situations and accidents arising; are a way of reducing social exclusion and isolation; and are local community based and are part of a wider local network.

The service is available to older people who are ineligible for higher level social services' support and is available to older people in all housing tenures with the exception of sheltered housing. The scheme will commence in an identified parish or group of small parishes that needs new or additional community based services for older people. Early indications are that Ramsey is in need of such a service and the Parish Plan identifies and prioritises services for vulnerable people. The warden will be employed by Age Concern and funding comes from many sources including Social Services and service users.

Huntingdonshire has an ageing population and supporting older people to remain in their own home is a priority for the Housing Service and for the Housing, Health and Social Care Thematic Group of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership. This scheme will also contribute to the LPSA stretch target for the independence of older people.

141 & 381 Discretionary Repair Loans / Grants

Steve Plant

Financial Impact	Net Revenue Impact						Net Capital							
	2003/ 2004 £000	2004/ 2005 £000	2005/ 2006 £000	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2003/ 2004 £000	2004/ 2005 £000	2005/ 2006 £000	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000
Approved Budget			7	21	35	49	63			277	277	277	277	277
Already released			0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0
Amount for which release now requested			7	14	14	14	14			277	0	0	0	0

Justification for Release

House repair loans / grants are discretionary, but it is the expectation of government that authorities will work to address private sector unfitness and disrepair. The recently published guidance from the ODPM states "The government would consider an authority to be failing in its duty as a housing enabler and in its responsibility to consider the condition of the local private sector stock if it did not make some provision for assistance".

Repair loans / grants are made according to a tightly-defined criteria based on the seriousness and urgency of the repair and the ability of the owner to finance. All repair loans / grants may therefore be assumed to be to finance work that would otherwise not have been carried out, and if not carried out would have led to a deterioration in the built environment and, in some cases, would have led to a decline in the health of the owner.

The Council's policy is to issue interest free loans to eligible owner occupiers. A charge is placed on their property and the loan is repaid when the property is sold. Grants are given in exceptional circumstances if there is inadequate equity in the property to support the charge.

39B & 309/442/441 Disabled Facilities Grants

Steve Plant

Financial Impact

	Net Revenue Impact						Net Capital							
	2003/ 2004 £000	2004/ 2005 £000	2005/ 2006 £000	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2003/ 2004 £000	2004/ 2005 £000	2005/ 2006 £000	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000
Approved Budget			22	65	108	151	194			868	868	868	868	868
Already released			0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0
Amount for which release now requested			22	43	43	43	43			868	0	0	0	0

Justification for Release

The Council must award a DFG for work to achieve one or more of a set of purposes defined by statute. DFGs are awarded on the recommendation of an Occupational Therapist (OT) and funds aids and adaptations like ramps, stair lifts and level access showers. DFGs enable elderly and disabled people to live independently and therefore contribute towards the quality of life for vulnerable people. The Council must be satisfied that a DFG is necessary and appropriate and that to carry it out is reasonable and practicable. The Council is, therefore, expected and required to set a budget that can cope with the likely level of demand placed upon it.

The Government has recently announced allocations for 2005/06 and has allocated a maximum of £327k to contribute towards DFGs in Huntingdonshire. The Government's allocation does not reflect the true demand for DFGs and their financial contribution is inadequate to resource the demand for grants in Huntingdonshire.

Full release of £868k will provide the Council with a total DFG budget of £1,195k. This is below the projected spend in the current year (£1.366m) but the spend is subject to demand and the uncertain staffing resources of occupational therapists before HDC input. The level of demand and projected spend will be closely monitored.