

**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 allow Cabinet to decide whether to release funds for the MTP schemes detailed in the attached annexes.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council considered the draft budget and MTP report at its December meeting and agreed *that, having regard to the implications for future spending and Council Tax levels, Directors review with appropriate Executive Councillors the need for schemes/projects included in the MTP but not yet started and that specific prior approval be sought and obtained from the Cabinet before such schemes/projects are implemented.*

- 2.2 Officers have considered which schemes have wholly or partly started with reference to the following definitions:

STARTED

- The staff have been appointed and/or a legally binding contract is in place for all aspects.
- Some of the staff have been appointed or a legally binding contract is in place for **part** of the scheme **and there is no sensible option to avoid or defer those elements that are not yet legally committed.**
- The scheme is based on a partnership and **all** constituent projects have been agreed with those partners and they have reserved funding for them in the current year.

PARTIAL START

- Some of the staff have been appointed or a legally binding contract is in place for part of the expenditure and there is a practical cost-effective option to not carry out the full scheme at this time.
- The scheme is based on a partnership and **some** individual projects have been agreed with those partners and they have reserved funding for them in the current year.

- 2.3 Officers have subsequently identified which schemes that they wish Cabinet to consider releasing further funding for and have discussed them with the relevant Executive Councillor.

- 2.4 Annex A summarises and the following Annexes detail the schemes where release of funds is now requested.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is recommended to delegate authority to release the budget, shown in Annex B, to the Director of Operational Services following consultation with the Leader of the Council in the light of the Government's decision on whether to cap the Council's spending this year.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985

None

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SUMMARY		Net Revenue Impact (£'000)					Net Capital (£'000)				
		2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010
Annex B	Health Improvement	4	8	8	8	8					
Total amount for which release now requested		4	8	8	8	8					

064 Health Improvement

Sue Lammin

Financial Impact

	Net Revenue Impact					Net Capital				
	2005 / 2006 £000	2006 / 2007 £000	2007 / 2008 £000	2008 / 2009 £000	2009 / 2010 £000	2005 / 2006 £000	2006 / 2007 £000	2007 / 2008 £000	2008 / 2009 £000	2009 / 2010 £000
Approved Budget	4	8	8	8	8	0	0	0	0	0
Already released	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amount for which release now requested	4	8	8	8	8	0	0	0	0	0

Justification for Release

This funding will be used to provide continued funding for 16 community volunteers in Eynesbury with the cooking implements and ingredients and advertising to run a "Ready, Steady, Lunch" project at the Marshall Road Centre in St Neots. The Facility is provided by Hunts Social Services. The skills and training to run the sessions could be provided by HDC Environmental Health division and the Primary Care Trust. This could run from February 2006 on a weekly basis. The same funding will support training and cooking sessions with Youth Centres lead by Cambridgeshire County Council Youth Workers and supported by officers from Environmental Health. Young People would be provided with a facility to cook safely in and learn skills to eat healthily, too.

Promoting services and activities which prevent ill health and contribute to healthy lifestyles is one of the five medium term priorities selected by the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership to help deliver the community Strategy. A project of this type also contributes to the corporate priority of attaining and maintaining a healthy population. Members of the Community Initiatives team and Officers from Environmental Health presented and cooking demonstration at a Christmas Fayre in St Neots. This has created a lot of interest in the Community run HDC supported healthy eating promotion.

The Project promotes social inclusion and

- a healthy diet through reducing dependence on ready meals
- sound food hygiene practices to tackle the incidence of food poisoning in the home
- kitchen safety to minimise accidents
- Allotment work for cheaper and healthier foods
- the concept of a healthy diet

It has been running successfully in Oxmoor and Ramsey (on a smaller scale). A formal evaluation is being compiled at present. A program on the project is going to be aired on the 18th of January 2006 on Teachers' TV channel.