

**MEDIUM TERM PLAN
REQUEST 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 agreed in December 2005 *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 identified the schemes that they wish Cabinet to consider releasing funding for and have discussed them with the relevant Executive Councillor.
- 2.3 Annex A summarises and the following Annexes detail these requests.

3. RECOMMENDATION

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

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985

None

Contact Officer:

Steve Couper

Head of Financial Services ☎ 01480 388103

ANNEX A

SUMMARY		Net Revenue Impact (£'000)						Net Capital (£'000)							
		2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011		
Annex B	443 - Common Housing Register/Choice Based Lettings		0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5		9						
Total amount for which release now requested			0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5		9						

443 - Common Housing Register/Choice Based Lettings

Financial Impact

Approved Budget
Already released
**Amount for which release
now requested**

Net Revenue Impact							Net Capital						
2005/ 2006 £000	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2010/ 2011 £000	2011/ 2012 £000	2005/ 2006 £000	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2010/ 2011 £000	2011/ 2012 £000
		6	8	8	8	8			53				
		0	0	0	0	0			0				
	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5		9					

Justification for Release

This project has moved forward considerably following a successful bid for £181k of ODPM funding to help establish a Choice Based Lettings (CBL) scheme across the Cambridge sub region. All Councils are required to implement CBL by 2010 and by bringing this project forward, accessing ODPM capital funding and working in partnership with the other six sub regional Councils we will gain efficiencies in the set up costs of the scheme. However, this also means that we have revised our project timetable and the capital funding required to progress the project. Funding is now required a year earlier in 2006/07. Each sub regional Council is being asked to contribute £18k towards the set up costs although this amount may vary dependent upon the final specification and tender processes of the IT software required for the scheme. An agreement has been reached with the Luminus Group to pay 50% of the initial £18k.

CBL is directly linked to the provision of a single, or common, Housing Register for the district or possibly even the sub region. This is being considered as part of the project and may lead to each Council reviewing the IT software it uses to hold its Register information. The project will assess the efficiencies that may be gained from administering a joint Register across the sub region from a single database and if appropriate this will be included in the specification to jointly procure an IT package that can perform both the CBL and Register functions.

If additional set up costs are likely to be incurred the Council's contribution may increase although a wider cost sharing agreement will be sought with the smaller stock holding housing associations in the sub region to minimise the financial impact.

Cabinet is, therefore, requested to approve the initial release of £9k to cover the Council's capital contribution to this project. A further report will be provided for Cabinet once the final costs from jointly procuring the IT software for the project are clearer.