

**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 scheme detailed in the attached annex.

**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 scheme that they wish Cabinet to consider releasing funding for and have discussed it with the relevant Executive Councillor.
- 2.3 Annex A gives details of the scheme for an Environmental Health Officer, Health & Safety (Housing).

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

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

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985**

None

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## 329 - EHO Health &amp; Safety (Housing) – New Post

Sue Lammin

Financial Impact	Net Revenue Impact						Net Capital							
	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2010/ 2011 £000	2011/ 2012 £000	2012/ 2013 £000	2006/ 2007 £000	2007/ 2008 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2010/ 2011 £000	2011/ 2012 £000	2012/ 2013 £000
Approved Budget	33	33	33	33	33	33								
Already released	0	0	0	0	0	0								
<b>Amount for which release now requested</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>								

**Justification for Release**

The focus of the Housing Act 2004 Act is concentrated on housing conditions in the private rented sector principally through the introduction of a new Housing Health & safety Rating System (HHSRS), a mandatory licensing scheme for high risk Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and discretionary licensing for other HMOs. The Act also includes new enforcement provisions for dealing with long term empty dwellings, selective licensing of other residential accommodation and overcrowding. The provisions of the Act have been introduced progressively and most of the private sector enforcement provisions have been effective since April 2006 and include measures designed to tackle long standing problems in the private housing sector in relation to repair, facilities, management and occupier safety.

At a time of increased housing demand due to market conditions and immigration the enforcement resources within Environmental Health have been stretched to cope with the increased number and complexity of private sector housing complaints brought about by the Act. It is now evident that our existing resources cannot cope with the increased demand and, in spite of prioritising complaints, we are now having to maintain a waiting list of possible Houses in Multiple Occupation that require inspection. This new post is necessary to meet the level of demand.