

**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 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

<b>SUMMARY</b>		<b>Net Revenue Impact (£'000)</b>						<b>Net Capital (£'000)</b>					
		2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012
Annex B	<b>70 – Housing Market Assessment (Housing Needs Survey)</b>	5	5	5	5	5							
<b>Total amount for which release now requested</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>							

## 70 – Housing Market Assessment (Housing Need Survey)

Steve Plant

Financial Impact	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
Approved Budget Already released		5	5	5	5	5								
<b>Amount for which release now requested</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>								

**Justification for Release**

Housing Market Assessments are required by Government guidance, and by Planning Policy Statement 3(PPS3). They should be prepared collaboratively with stakeholders on a sub-regional basis. Although based around sub-regional housing markets, the findings of the Assessment should be capable of being disaggregated to a district level. They inform and support the Housing Strategy and Planning policies and should:

- Estimate housing need and demand in terms of affordable and market housing;
- Determine how the distribution of need and demand varies across the area;
- Consider future demographic trends and identify the accommodation requirement of specific groups, for example, older people, people with disabilities, first time buyers etc.

The value of housing assessments is in:

- Developing long-term strategic views of housing need and demand to inform regional spatial strategies and regional housing strategies;
- Developing a sound approach to planning for the mix of household needs in a market area;
- Assisting local planning authorities to justify a certain level of affordable housing, and to decide how housing need translates into different sizes and types of affordable housing; and
- Assisting local authorities with a variety of decisions on matters including social housing allocation priorities, private sector renewal options and the valuation of new-build low cost home ownership units. Such assessments are also used to inform the development of housing policies on stock conversion, demolition and transfer in areas where the quality of the housing available is inadequate. Assessments are therefore key to investment decisions.

Within the Cambridge sub-region, the seven authorities and Cambridgeshire County Council have joined together to jointly undertake the Housing Market Assessment. A Project Group has been formed, including officers from HDC's Housing and Planning Services. A dedicated officer has been employed by the County Council to undertake the work, which is being managed within the County Council's Research Group. Primary research (from an independent research company) will be commissioned as required. HDC's contribution towards the project is being met through this MTP bid and the Planning Delivery Grant. The total funding requirement is £57k over 5 years, broadly comparable to the cost of a 5-yearly Housing Need Survey, which is being incorporated into this work.

This MTP bid has already been approved by Cabinet and this form seeks release of the funds to enable HDC's contribution to be made.