

**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

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SUMMARY		Net Revenue Impact (£'000)						Net Capital (£'000)					
		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	733 - Flexible Working	10	67	52	52	52	52						
C	39B & 309/442/441 Disabled Facilities Grants		9	19	19	19	19						
D	141 & 381 & 611 Discretionary Loans / Grants		6	12	12	12	12						
Total amount for which release now requested		10	82	83	83	83	83	640					

MTP Bid – 733 - Flexible Working

Project Officer – Chris Hall – IMD (Matt Hinton – Project Mgr)

Financial Impact

	Net Revenue Impact						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 Net Budget	10	67	52	52	52	52		23						
Already released	0	0	0	0	0	0		0						
Amount for which release now requested	10	67	52	52	52	52		23						

Justification for Release

The Project is already underway as approved by the Accommodation Project Board in December 2006. Production of a Strategy and Members broadband access roll out are priorities. The revenue budget will support Members broadband access roll out, increase the Council's Internet connection and fund production of the Strategy. The capital budget is to fund the installation and set up costs of the Members broadband and new Internet connection.

For further details see the original MTP submission.

MTP Bid - 39B & 309/442/441 Disabled Facilities Grants

Project Officer:- Steve Plant

Financial Impact

Approved Gross Budget
Approved Net Budget
Already released

**Gross amount for which
release now requested**

**Net amount for which
release now requested**

Net Revenue Impact							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
								1,253					
	23	46	46	46	46	46		918					
	0	0	0	0	0	0		0					
								800					
	9	19	19	19	19	19		378					

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 2007/08 and has allocated a maximum of £421,990 to contribute towards DFGs in Huntingdonshire.

The OT service has predicted that 250 DFG referrals will be made in the year. About 30% of these do not proceed to full application because of an excessive applicant contribution and other reasons. DFGs cost an average of £4.5k, therefore, for 2007/08 a budget of £788k is required. In addition, as a result of the long waiting time for an OT assessment in Huntingdonshire (one year) the PCT are considering the scope to second staff from other areas to bring the Huntingdonshire's waiting list into line with that of other areas. Although this will take time to come to fruition, it should have an impact in 2007/8.

Cabinet are therefore requested to release £800k (£421,990 of which is funded by central Government) to enable DFGs to be processed from the start of the new financial year.

MTP Bid - 141 & 381 & 611 Discretionary Loans / Grants

Project Officer:- Steve Plant

Financial Impact

	Net Revenue Impact						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 Gross Budget								239						
Approved Net Budget		6	12	12	12	12		239						
Already released		0	0	0	0	0		0						
Amount for which release now requested		6	12	12	12	12		239						

Justification for Release

House repair loans / grants are discretionary but it the expectation of government that authorities will work to address private sector unfit and disrepair. The 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 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.