



meeting **CABINET**

date **7 JUNE 2006**

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT

Purpose of Report

1. To approve the allocation to Environment & Sustainability Portfolio of the Government's Planning Delivery Grant.

Background

2. As from 2004/05, County Councils have been eligible to receive Planning Delivery Grant (PDG), from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which is used, nationally, to improve the planning service.
3. For the last two years, the Council has received £138,574 and £106,135 respectively, based on performance against a range of planning related topics, and used for various service activities and improvements, in line with a Service Improvement Plan.

Grant Award 2006/07

4. The criteria for the amount of grant made available to local authorities have changed somewhat from previous years, and this year the amount for County Councils is based on three aspects:-
 - Performance in development control
 - Performance in provision of e-planning service
 - Flat rate award for plan making.
5. Based on good performance, in the first two of those criteria, the total award to the County Council this year will be £113,717.
6. This will be used to continue work from previous years, principally for salaries for two temporary staff brought in to help deliver the new planning agenda and to improve our IT capabilities. Additionally it is hoped to recruit an additional

planning assistant on a 2-year contract to support work on producing the County's Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

7. 25% of the PDG award has to be spent on capital, and it is likely this will be on further IT development.
8. In view of the above, it is proposed that the Planning Delivery Grant of £113,717 be allocated to Environment & Sustainability Portfolio.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

RECOMMENDATION

10. It is RECOMMENDED that the Planning Delivery Grant for 2006/07 be allocated to Environment & Sustainability Portfolio for improving the Council's planning service as outlined in the report and as in accordance with Finance Standing Order A3.4.

COUNCILLOR STELLA SMEDLEY
Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

Director of Resources' Financial Comments

The award of £113,717 is duly noted. Detailed proposals for its spend will be required from Development Planning. [DJK 8.5.06]

Legal Services' Comments

Cabinet have power to decide the Recommendation. [SHB 26.4.06]

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Letter from ODPM dated 30 March 2006.

Electoral Division(s) Affected

All.

epd.neh/vs/ep4852
18 April 2006

