
REPORT TO:	Finance and Management Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 14
DATE OF MEETING:	12 th June 2003	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/
REPORT FROM:	Deputy Chief Executive)	OPEN/EXEMPT PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	John Birkett (5742)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Disbursement of Planning Delivery Grant 2003/04	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 **Reason for Exempt** (if appropriate)

1.1 None.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 That the Finance and Management Committee be recommended to authorise expenditure of up to £75,000 from the Planning Delivery Grant 2003/04 for those purposes identified within the report to the Environmental and Development Services Committee of 27th May 2003.

2.2 That the Chief Executive allocates proposed expenditure up to £75,000 in accordance with the heads set out in paragraph 4.5 of the above report with particular emphasis on expenditure likely to secure future grant funding.

3.0 **Purpose of Report**

3.1 To consider how to spend the Planning Delivery Grant 2003/04 to best effect within the planning service.

4.0 **Detail**

4.1 In agreeing the report (see Appendix A), the Environmental and Development Services Committee paid particular attention to those items that are likely to improve performance such that grant may be secured for subsequent years. These relate particularly, in the first instance, to ensuring that the time taken to decide applications falls

within the Government performance indicator of 60% of major applications determined within 13 weeks.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 As set out in the attached report.

7.0 Corporate Implications

7.1 Delivery of the Local Plan and customer satisfaction is a critical factor in the Corporate Plan as are other factors relating to the economy and environment, heavily influenced by the service.

8.0 Community Implications

8.1 Customer satisfaction is a key requirement for Best Value improvements identified by inspectors as needed to make the service come up to standard. This is dependent on increased staff deployment.

9.0 Conclusions

9.1 The Environmental and Development Services Committee recommends that the grant be devoted to the planning service as intended by the Government. Members considered that priority should be given to ensuring the capacity to secure future grants for this purpose.

10.0 Background Papers

10.1 Letters from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister dated 10th March and 9th April 2003.