



# Borough of Oadby & Wigston

Policy Committee

9<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## Housing and Planning Delivery Grant 2008/09

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive      Report Number:  
Author: Deputy Chief Executive

### NON-EXEMPT

This report is likely to be considered while the meeting is open to press & public

### Summary:

This report informs members of a receipt of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant amounting to £80,898 and makes recommendations for the use of this additional grant.

### Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

1. The provisional receipt of £80,898 in Housing and Planning Delivery Grant be noted.
2. £20,000 be allocated for office alterations and service improvements in Planning and Building Control, as set out in the report.
3. The remaining provisional allocation of £60,898 be earmarked for improvements in IT systems, details of which will be agreed by the newly established ICT Steering Group.

Level of delegation: Committee

Wards affected: All

### Comments of Statutory Officers:

Head of Paid Service: None

Proper Officer for Financial Affairs: The 2008/09 budget does not include any provision for a receipt of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant.

Monitoring Officer: None

### **Appendices Attached: None.**

### Impact Assessments:

Health: )  
Environment: )  
Community Safety: ) No direct impact from the proposals.  
Human Rights: )  
Equal Opportunities: )  
Risk Assessment: )

Commentary:

1. The Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) is a new grant, applicable from 2008/09 which replaces Planning Delivery Grant. The overall aim of the HPDG is to incentivise local authorities to improve delivery of housing and other planning outcomes as part of their strategic, place shaping role. HPDG funding will amount to £510 million nationally over the three years to 2011. This compares to total Planning Delivery Grant funding of £425 million for the three years to 2007/08.
2. At the time of preparing the 2008/09 budget there was uncertainty about how the HPDG would be allocated between authorities. Consequently, no amount was included in the budget. Provisional amounts of HPDG have recently been announced and Oadby & Wigston has been allocated £80,898. Allocations will be confirmed in October 2008 when the final grant determination is published.
3. It is proposed that £20,000 of the HPDG is used for service improvements in Planning & Building Control, with the remaining £60,898 being earmarked for developments in IT systems that support the delivery of housing and planning related services.
4. The £20,000 for service improvements in Planning & Building Control will cover:

Description	£
Building alterations to Forward Plans office	4,000
Furniture and Equipment	1,500
Back scanning of Planning records	3,000
Back scanning of Building Control records	2,000
Back scanning of Planning decisions	7,000
Re-engineering/improvement of services provision	2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,000</b>

5. The building alterations are required to provide for new staffing arrangements in Forward Plans, including those to assist with additional work caused by the proposed Eco-town. The back scanning of records is necessary in order to make best use of the Idox electronic document management system and will facilitate more efficient retrieval of Planning and Building Control records in the future. A small provision has also been made for general improvements in Planning services.
6. There is an urgent need to update the Council's property information system (CAPs) which is used by a number of departments of the Council including Planning, Environmental Health and Land Charges. This includes a significant data capture exercise to convert manual records held in various departments into a fully integrated, computer based property information system and enforcement register.
7. It is proposed that upgrades to the CAPs system be dealt with through the new shared service for ICT. Through the shared service, recommendations for IT spend will be overseen by the new member ICT Steering Group. Members are therefore recommended to earmark the remaining £60,898 of HPDG for developments in IT

systems, details of which will then be agreed by the ICT Steering Group. Developments in IT systems funded by HPDG are likely to include the CAPs system, Building Control Public Access system and the Planning Portal plus related consultancy and training costs. The ICT Steering Group will report through to Policy Committee so that the IT Strategy and IT expenditure are correctly authorised in accordance with the Council's budgetary framework.

Background Papers referred to in compiling this report:

None