



Ryedale District Council

REPORT TO: Policy & Resources Committee

DATE: 6 December 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Development Control Manager, Gary Housden, & Forward Planning & Economic Development Manager, Julian Rudd

SUBJECT: **PDG EXPENDITURE AWARD FOR 2007/8**

WARDS AFFECTED: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek endorsement of the proposed expenditure of the Planning Delivery Grant awarded to Ryedale for 2007/8, and onwards. Members are advised that changes to the regime of Planning Delivery Grant are proposed. A separate Member's briefing on the recently issued Housing & Planning Delivery Grant Consultation Paper and other planning and housing matters is scheduled for 5 December 2007.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **Members endorse the proposed allocation of the Planning Delivery Grant 2007/8 and onwards, where appropriate, as detailed at Annex A.**

3.0 REASONS SUPPORTING DECISION

- 3.1 The recommendations for funding are based on a range of schemes which contribute to the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the attached matrix Annex A. These priorities are also weighted according to their significance. The matrix also assesses the risk of not undertaking projects.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Members will recall that a similar approach has been adopted over the last 3 years. The current year award was announced in two tranches; the first announced in December 2006 was solely for D.C. performance (an amount of £54,133) and the second tranche, which included awards for plan making of e-government and D.C. performance, was not announced until late July 2007. The second tranche amounted to £173,969 in total (£120,666 for D.C. performance;
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£10,087 for e-planning and £43,216 for plan making). The second amount has yet to be confirmed as a final allocation by the D.C.L.G. For the purposes of this report, however, the 'provisional' figures are considered to be correct and the total award for PDG 2007/8 amounts to £228,102.

5.0 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 The proposals for expenditure of PDG have been prioritised by officers based on an assessment of the impact of each proposal against a number of relevant criteria.
- 5.2 The primary aim of PDG is to enable Councils to improve their planning services although the allocations are not ring-fenced. Local Authorities can therefore maintain their discretion in the way the money can be spent although it should be noted that the way PDG is spent is monitored annually by the DCLG.
- 5.3 PDG has been invaluable in both financing certain posts within Development Control and Forward Planning, and in funding key pieces of work that have supported the LDF (such as retail and employment studies, Malton Town Centre study, and the housing needs study) and improvements to e-planning. There are still a number of outstanding projects that Members have agreed should be financed by previous awards of PDG, including the finalisation of the Malton Town Centre study, the Development Control Procedures Manual and the production of appraisals for key existing Conservation Areas. Work on these is anticipated in Spring 2008.

6.0 PROPOALS FOR ALLOCATION OF THE 2006/2007 GRANT

- 6.1 The proposed expenditure areas have been identified by the Development Control Manager and Forward Planning Manager. These have been prioritised against the anticipated future Grant award criteria and key areas affecting the Council's activities including legislative/statutory requirements, external auditing through CPA/Best Value Inspector regimes and the Council's priorities as expressed in the Council's Community, Corporate, Service Plans and Risk Management Plans.
- 6.2 Due to the considerable financial importance of PDG, each project has also been assessed with scores weighted to reflect their relevance to meeting forthcoming Planning Delivery Grant award criteria (DC performance x3, plan making x3, improvement in e-government performance x1 and the delivery of housing and maintenance of a 5 year land supply x3). The legislation and statutory measures now include the recently published National Indicators (NIs). Due to the importance of affordable housing in terms of corporate priorities and local circumstances, measures that would assist delivery of affordable units are given a double weighting.
- 6.3 The matrix attached for 2007/8, as in previous years shows the ranked list of projects/areas of expenditure. The total spend is not to exceed £241,000 (comprises of this years amount and uncommitted funds from 2006/7).

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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- 7.1 All costs of PDG allocation are based on either estimates of 'one-off' costs with no on-going revenue implications or in the case of staffing costs based on total on-costs up to end of March 2009, unless otherwise stated in the matrix. *However, if key areas of work and performance levels are to be maintained, it will be necessary to absorb staffing costs into the establishment beyond March 2009, unless further funding through the New Housing & Planning Delivery Grant or other sources becomes available.*

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The proposals put forward have all been arrived at by an appraisal against the Council's previously agreed policies. The prioritisation also includes risk scores which informs its overall ranking.

9.0 CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The award of PDG enables a number of new bids to be put forward which will help to achieve the Council's priorities and also help to ensure that the criteria upon which future grants are awarded are satisfied.

OFFICER CONTACT:

Gary Housden - Development Control Manager
Julian Rudd - Forward Planning & Economic Development Manager

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