

TO: EXECUTIVE -12 DECEMBER 2005

SUBJECT: PLANNING DEVELOPMENT GRANT

FROM: PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the revised allocation of Planning Development Grant as set out in appendix 1 be approved

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 A report was made to the June Executive setting out the Planning Development grant that had been awarded to the Council for 2005/06. The total award at that time was reported as £193,299. Since then further information has been provided by the ODPM on additions to that level of grant. These arise from:

- An additional award for Plan Making of £54,545, slightly larger than the £52,000 anticipated at that time
- An additional sum of £18,156, awarded for 2004 performance, following assessment of final returned performance figures

- 2.2 The total awarded for 2005/06 is therefore £214,000.

- 2.3 In addition, the ODPM has advised that as from 15/06, 25% of the PDG award has to be allocated to capital funding rather than revenue. In addition, an adjustment has to be made to take account of an over allocation of funding for one of the planner and Enforcement officer posts as funding was allocated for the whole of the year and the appointments were only able to be made at the half point of the 04/05 year. This has a positive effect in that it increases the allocation available for 05/06 by £28,000. As a result of these differences, a revised distribution of PDG for the year is now placed before members. All the original revenue commitments can still be met and there has been some adjustment of categories to take account of the capital allocation requirement

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 There is a range of potential ways in which the PDG can be allocated. The present proposal is one which concentrates on reinforcing support where it is most required within the Planning Service

4. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 The allocation of funding has all been made within the existing Planning and Corporate Policy framework. The allocation of the funding will also contribute significantly to the achievement of wider corporate priorities, notably through securing progress on document management and ICT investment. There are no additional financial implications arising from the proposals in this report.

John Archer

Head of Planning and Engineering

BACKGROUND PAPERS

ODPM Guidance/website

Areas in District Affected:	all
Executive Portfolio Area and Holder:	Environment – Cllr Mrs. Begg
Key Decision:	yes
Included in Forward Plan:	no
If Yes, method of consultation:	

For further information about this report please contact:

Contact Officer: John Archer
Tel 01926456500

Email john.archer@warwickdc.gov.uk

5. **BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The allocation of funding is part of a national initiative to provide local planning authorities with supporting funding. The scale of the awards is made against a range of criteria related to Development Control performance, Plan making progress and achievement in e-planning.
- 5.2 In considering how the PDG funding should be disbursed this year, Executive agreed in June to consolidate on the approach already established. The monies were therefore targeted principally at maintaining additional temporary staff in post as it is through securing and maintaining high quality staff that it is possible to deliver the levels of service required. Allocations were therefore made for further years ahead for posts already supported by PDG. The allocation agreed in June is set out at Appendix 1
- 5.3 Taking into account the adjustments arising from the additional funding from the ODPM and the reallocation across to this year of some further staff funding, the total available for expenditure during the year is now £246,000.
- 5.4 The additional allocation and the requirement to allocate 25% to capital expenditure have required a review of the allocations. The proposals for revised allocation of the funding are set out in appendix 2. Members will note that all the commitments to staff funding set out in appendix 1 have been retained and there has been some reallocation of funding to the capital requirement. Not all the capital requirement has yet been allocated to specific projects, but it is hoped that it may contribute to the continued development of IT within the Planning Service.

APPENDIX 1

Planning Development Grant – Allocation of 05/06 Funds

Areas of Work	05/06	06/07	07/08
PPC – retention of temporary planner post for further year	Main PDG funding already committed Upgrade – 2,500	25,000	
PPC – retention of temporary planner post for 2 more years	Main PD funding already committed Upgrade – 2,000	25,000	27,000
DC – retention of temporary planner post for further year	Main PDG funding committed Upgrade – 3,000	34,000	
DC – retention of temp P/T Enforcement Officer for 2 more years	Main PDG Funding committed	13,000	14,000
DC – Admin support 2 x staff/temp support/data. Checking support and upgrade		37,500	
General – IT support/contribution to Document Management Development		16,600	
Total	7,500	151,100	41,000

APPENDIX 2

Planning Development Grant – Revised Allocation of 05/06 Funds

Areas of Work	05/06	06/07	07/08
PPC – retention of temporary planner post for further year	Main PDG funding already committed Upgrade – 2,500	25,000	
PPC – retention of temporary planner post for 2 more years	Main PD funding already committed Upgrade – 2,000	25,000	27,000
DC – retention of temporary planner post for further year	Main PDG funding committed Upgrade – 3,000	34,000	
DC – retention of temp P/T Enforcement Officer for 2 more years	Main PDG Funding committed	13,000	14,000
DC – Admin support -2 admin assistant posts	28,000		
DC – temp cover for peak periods	4,000		
DC – staff training		3,500	
Contribution to Document Management Development/data capture NB - amendment here, as part now allocated to capital category	11,600		
Contingency (unallocated)	4,439		
Total revenue allocation	55,539	100,500	41,000
Capital funding NB – allocated sum is the full 25% of the 05/06 allocation to capital as required. Of this, allocations so far have been made as follows: Accolaid licences – 12,000 Mobile working (tablet PCs) -7,000 PPC laptop 1,225 Plotter 3,500 Copier 5,236 Unallocated 20,000	48,961		
Total	104,500	100,500	41,000

