
PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2005/06

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the Government's proposals for the distribution of Planning Delivery Grant in 2005/06. Comments on the proposals are required by 28th January 2005.

2 PROPOSALS FOR 2005/06

- 2.1 The Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) is intended to support Local Authorities to carry out the changes required to deliver the new planning system and to drive up performance.

- 2.2 For 2005/06 the Government is proposing to reward performance on Development Control, Local Development Plan preparations, housing delivery in both growth and low demand areas and e-Planning. The total amount to be distributed is £170 million, on the basis of a 75%/25% split between resource and capital.

Development Control

- 2.3 A total of £100 million is to be allocated to reward Development Control performance, with the award being based on the year ending September 2004. The grant entitlement is assessed against performance in processing major, minor and other applications, with the final total reflecting the number of applications determined. See Appendix 1 to this report.

Plan Making

- 2.4 A total of £21.6 million is to be distributed, based solely on the criteria of whether a Local Development Scheme (the timetable for preparing the Local Development Framework) has been submitted to Government by 28th March 2005. If all Authorities submit their LDS, the grant award will be £52,010, although this total will be higher if Authorities do not meet the deadline.

Areas of High Housing Demand

- 2.5 A total of £16 million has been allocated to this category and the consultation document indicates that Rochford will be eligible for an award of £48,268.

E-Planning

- 2.6 This is a new category for 2005/06 and £8 million is to be distributed. The assessment of award is based on a review of the Planning Services provided on-line through the Council's website. For Rochford, the report indicates the award will be £50,000.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Leaving aside performance in Development Control, it seems likely that for the plan making, e-Planning and Housing Demand categories, the Council will receive a grant of about £150,000.
- 3.2 In relation to Development Control, the calculation is a little more complicated, but it is likely the award in 2005/06 will not be at the level of the last two years. An update on the likely award will be provided at the meeting, if available.
- 3.3 Looking at the arrangements for calculating PDG in the consultation document, these seem entirely reasonable and certainly the reward for e-Planning reflects the significant progress that has been made in Rochford over the last 12 months.
- 3.4 A further report on the use of the planning delivery grant will be prepared once the final settlement is announced by the Government in February.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The planning delivery grant provides a valuable additional resource to assist service delivery improvements.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That, subject to comments from Members, the ODPM be informed that this Council has no comments to make on the methodology for calculating PDG, but welcomes the e-Planning element.

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Background Papers:-

ODPM Consultation Paper "Proposals for Allocation of Planning Delivery Grant 2005/6" December 2004

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