

COMMITTEE: EAST LUTON AREA COMMITTEE

DATE: 28TH SEPTEMBER 2006

SUBJECT: REFERENCE FROM EXECUTIVE - AREA COMMITTEE FUNDING

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY)

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL ✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to refer to the Area Committee a recommendation of the Executive arising from its meeting held on 3rd July 2006.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **East Luton Area Committee is recommended to provide spending plans for their allocations.**

BACKGROUND

3. At the meeting of the Area Committee Board held on 12th April 2006 a report of the Area Committee Support Officer was made which advised that no contribution had been made from the Neighbourhood Renewal

Fund to the Area Committees in the 2005/2006 financial year which had resulted in a shortfall in the budget of £30,000.

4. Following consideration of the report the Area Committee Board requested that the Executive be recommended to support the Area Committee Board's view that the fairest way to meet the £30,000 shortfall in Area Committee budgets for 2005/2006 (caused by the withdrawal of the contribution from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund) would be an equitable split between the Area Committees of 50% of the shortfall (£15,000) with the remainder to be found from other sources.
5. The Executive at its meeting held on 8th May 2006 determined the matter and resolved:

“(i) That support in principle be given to the Area Committee Board's view that the fairest way to meet the £30,000 shortfall in Area Committee Budgets for 2005/6 caused by the withdrawal of the contribution from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund would be an equitable split between the Area Committees of 50% of the shortfall (£15,000) with the remainder found from other sources.

(ii) That the principle set out at (i) above be borne in mind when decisions regarding the carry forward requests are considered”.

REPORT

6. At its meeting held on 3rd July 2006, the Executive considered a report of the Head of Corporate Finance which detailed requests made for budget carry forwards.
7. As part of that report, the Executive considered the Area Committee Board's request for a further £15,000 for Area Committee budgets. It should be noted that the Executive had already approved at their meeting of 5th June 2006, the carry forward of the 2005/6 underspend on Area Committee budgets (£37,210).
8. However, the request for the additional £15,000 was not supported by some officers as consistent underspends had occurred in Area Committee budgets.
9. Following consideration of the issue the Executive resolved: “(v) That Area Committees be requested to submit spending plans to Corporate Directors Management Team (CDMT)”.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

10. That the Area Committees be requested to provide spending plans for their budget allocations.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

11. Executive Decision No. EX/210(v)/06