

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 15th October 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Environment

SUBJECT: Amendment to Capital Programme to reflect Growth Fund Capital Award.

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the award of capital funding from DCLG's Growth Fund and request amendment of the Halton Capital Programme to facilitate internal accountancy procedures and comply with the Council's Constitution.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- (1) **note the funding allocation from DCLG's Growth Fund, and;**
- (2) **recommend that the Council amend the Capital Programme to reflect the Growth Fund award and facilitate Halton's position as the 'Responsible Authority' for the Growth Point Partnership.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1. This report summarises the award of monies from the Growth Fund and requests that Executive Board recommend that Council amends the Capital Programme to reflect the receipt of the capital element of the award.
- 3.2. As previously reported to Members on the 13th December 2007 and 6th March 2008, Halton, together with St.Helens and Warrington submitted expressions of interest in being awarded Growth Point Status in October 2007. DCLG subsequently conferred this status, jointly on the 3 authorities in July 2008, and after the preparation and submission of a bid document (the Programme of Development) we were successful in securing an award of monies from the Growth Fund.
- 3.3. Details of Growth Point Status, the Growth Point Partnership Board, bids submitted, monies awarded and ongoing work and actions are contained in a separate report to this meeting.

3.4. The Growth Fund and Programme of Development

3.5. In total the national Growth Fund for the initial 2 years of the programme is £100m. Our 'Mid-Mersey' Programme of Development identified approximately £14m of potential projects for this initial period and resulted in an allocation of approximately £4.2m. Given that we are one of 20 new growth points bidding for funding, this allocation should broadly be considered a success. However, in July 2009, DCLG informed all Growth Points that, in order to fund the Governments Housing Pledge, there would be a reduction in capital grant to Growth Points next financial year. For Mid Mersey this will mean a reduction in notified grant of £999,289, giving a revised total allocation of funding to our Growth Point of £3.2 million. A summary of the revised funding allocation is as follows

	Initial 'Start Up' Allocation	Revised DCLG Allocation [July 2009]		
		2009/10	2010/11	Total;
Capital		£1,450,124	£1,302,980	£2,753,104
Revenue	£150,000	£123,180	£164,241	£287,421
		£1,573,304	£1,467,221	£3,040,525
Total	£ 150,000	£1,573,304	£1,467,221	£3,190,525

3.6. Initial priorities for future action / funding

On the 2nd February, the Growth Point Partnership Board considered a report setting out the details of the financial allocation and recommending priorities for immediate action and funding support.

3.7. Initial priorities for capital funding during 2009/10 include:

Project	Cost	Reason
Affordable Housing Subsidy	£1,000,000	Identified in PoD as the key priority for the early years of our GP programme. A Housing Thematic Group is being established to make recommendations to the Board on how this should be administered.
General Capital Improvement fund	£ 450,124	General fund for Capital works. An Infrastructure Thematic Group is being established to make recommendations to the Board on how this should be administered.

NB: Revenue priorities are contained in the Growth Point Initial Progress report being presented to this Board.

3.8. Executive Board members are asked to support the initial priorities and delegate approval of detailed expenditure to the Growth Point Board.

3.9. Halton has agreed to act as 'responsible authority' for the Growth Point Partnership Board and as 'responsible authority' will receive and

manage (in accordance with HBC standing orders) funding in respect of the Growth Point.

3.10. Accounting Arrangements

As the 'Responsible Authority', Halton will handle the financial arrangements on behalf of the Growth Point Partnership Board and this will be done in line with the Council's Constitution and Standing Orders. As the Growth Fund includes a Capital Award, the Council's Capital Programme needs to be amended to reflect this. Members are asked to recommend to Council that the Capital Programme is amended accordingly.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

No implications arise from the amendment to the Capital Programme to reflect the Growth Fund award.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No other implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

No implications arise from the amendment to the Capital Programme to reflect the Growth Fund award.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

No implications arise from the amendment to the Capital Programme to reflect the Growth Fund award..

6.3 A Healthy Halton

No implications arise from the amendment to the Capital Programme to reflect the Growth Fund award.

6.4 A Safer Halton

No implications arise from the amendment to the Capital Programme to reflect the Growth Fund award..

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

No implications arise from the amendment to the Capital Programme to reflect the Growth Fund award..

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

Halton is the 'responsible authority' for the Mid-Mersey Growth Point Partnership Board and as such will be accountable for financial procedures relating to the receipt and dispersal of Growth Fund monies.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality and diversity issues contained in the report.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
The Housing Green Paper (July 2007)	Rutland House	Alasdair Cross
Merseyside Expression of Interest (Halton & St.Helens)	Rutland House	Alasdair Cross
Warrington Expression of Interest	Rutland House	Alasdair Cross
Mid-Mersey Letter to GONW 9 th January 2008	Rutland House	Richard Tully
Mid-Mersey Letter to GONW 14 th January 2008	Rutland House	Richard Tully
Mid-Mersey Letter to GONW 31 st January 2008	Rutland House	Richard Tully
GONW Letter conferring Growth Point Status 8 th August	Rutland House	Richard Tully
Mid-Mersey Community Infrastructure Bid	Rutland House	Richard Tully
Mid-Mersey Programme of Development	Rutland House	Richard Tully
DCLG Assessment Pro-forma	Rutland House	Richard Tully
DCLG Growth Fund allocation announcement - 8 th December 2008	Rutland House	Richard Tully
Growth Point Partnership Board Committee pack 2 nd September 2008	Rutland House	Richard Tully
Growth Point Partnership Board Committee pack 20 th October 2008	Rutland House	Richard Tully
Growth Point Partnership Board Committee pack 2 nd February 2009	Rutland House	Richard Tully
Growth Point Partnership Board Committee pack 20 th August 2009	Rutland House	Richard Tully