



Report to:

Resource & Audit Sub-Committee

30th October 2007

Item No:

13d

Title:	Resource Pool Panel Decisions		
Date:	1 st October 2007		
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Confidential:	No		
For: (Please tick action required)	NOTING	DISCUSSION	APPROVAL ✓
PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To summarise the decisions made to the Resource Pool for consideration at their meeting on 8 th October.			
RECOMMENDATION			
Sub-Committee are asked to approve these requests and to recommend to the Board that the budget be varied to reflect the decisions made by the Panel.			
IMPLICATIONS			
Equality & Diversity:	A number of the requests directly impact on service delivery with equality and diversity implications		
Financial:	All the requests have a financial impact that needs to be assessed against value for money		
Staffing:	There should be no direct impact on staffing as permanent staffing proposals are not considered through this mechanism		
Decency Target:	Some requests may enhance the delivery of the Decent Homes Programme		
Governance:	The proper management of the Pool is a key part of governance		
Risk Assessment:	There are no specific risk implications of the pool which is there for service enhancement.		

Equality & Diversity Implications (Please tick where relevant):

BME	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elderly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Parents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young	<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alcohol / Drug Mis-users	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consultation/Consideration:

	Yes, No or N/A:	Name:	Date:
Sub-Committees:	No		
Area Panel:	No		
Task Groups:	Yes	Resource Pool Panel	8 th October
Ward Councillors:	N/A		

Resource Pool

1. Following the completion of the year ended 31st March 2007, the Resource Pool contains £457,000 from surpluses in the two financial periods (figures ignoring pension adjustments) and cashable efficiencies.
2. The section from the Financial Regulations relating to this process has been attached also as the Terms of Reference for the group.
3. 42 requests were received by the Panel and considered at a meeting held on 8th October.

Decisions

4. The Panel approved the following requests:

	£
Neighbourhood Services	
Empty Homes Coordinator	19,814
Additional Environmental Works	150,000
Youth Diversionary Activities	5,000
Sports Development Officer	10,000
Rehousing	
Membership of Homeswapper	2,700
Resident Involvement	
Open and Fun Day Equipment	700
Cheetwood Estate Activity Day	750
Cheetham Hill Road	
Office Carpets	11,000
Decorating of Office	5,000
White Moss Road	
Office Carpet	16,598
Neighbourhood Wardens	
Youth Strategy Budget	10,000
Crime Prevention Packs	5,000
Retirement and Caretaking Schemes	
Transport	7,000
Health Trainer Initiative	1,000
Staff Uniforms	3,000
Welcome Packs	1,000
Taylor Bins	1,200
Retirement Scheme Focus Groups	800
Lounge Carpets	4,000
Garden Enhancement at Schemes	1,000

	£
Surveying	
Desks and Cabinet Replacement	6,000
Repairs and Improvements Task Group	500
Community Room Blinds	1,779
Regeneration	
Community Radio Station Contribution	1,000
Governance	
Tenant's Conference	7,000
TOTAL	271,841

Process

5. It was clear as part of the decision making process that some suggestions for funding were better prepared than others. The paperwork had intentionally been kept simple but specific proposals with tangible outcomes were better received than more general ones.
6. In addition proposals to adjust budgets to match current spending were not looked on favourably.
7. There were also a number of requests from Retirement Housing in respect of refurbishment, equipment and enhancements to communal areas, foyers and lounges. It was agreed that a proper piece of work in planning expenditure on these areas needed to be carried out as part of the longer term financial planning and budget processes.

Recommendation

8. Overall the Panel concluded that the process had been a success and that the allocation of around £272,000 was appropriate.
9. Sub-Committee are asked to approve these requests and to recommend to the Board that the budget be varied to reflect the decisions made by the Panel.

Extract from Financial Regulations

6 Resource Pool

- 6.1 A Resource Pool shall be created from budget efficiency savings (see 2.3 above), savings identified through the year on particular projects and/or expenditure headings that are not subject to virements and from half of any surplus generated in any financial period (see 4.8 above).
- 6.2 The first call on the Resource Pool shall be any shortfall for funding the payroll budget since there is a timing difference between the inflation increase in the Management Fee and the payroll inflation index.
- 6.3 Budget Holders and Teams are able to put forward service development bids to the Resource Pool for funding at any time during the year.
- 6.4 Bids for funding are for in-year schemes only and therefore permanent staffing proposals are not considered through this mechanism.
- 6.5 Each quarter (or more often if necessary), a Resource Pool Panel comprising the Chair, Vice Chair, Chair of Resources & Audit, the Chief Executive and the Director of Business Services will review funding requests to the Resource Pool and will make decisions on additional resources to be made available. This part of the Budget Setting Process is delegated to the Panel provided decisions fall with relevant financial authority limits.
- 6.6 Bids for funding to the Resource Pool will be assessed based on the value for money provided by the proposal and the potential enhancement to tenant facing services. Consideration will also be given to the authority given to Northwards through the Delivery Plan.
- 6.7 The decisions of the Resource Pool Panel will be reported to the Resource & Audit Sub-Committee.