

Report for Resolution

Report to	Cabinet 15 February 2012	Item
Report of	Director of Regeneration and Development	14
Subject	Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) - additional funding	

Purpose

To seek approval to use additional funding to be made available in 2011/12 from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for a range of projects and to delegate approval of the detailed management of the funding to the Capital Programme Board

Recommendation

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the use of up to £525,000 additional funding to be made available from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for a range of projects to meet the objectives of the Norwich and HCA Strategic Partnership;
- (2) Delegate the detailed expenditure and management of this funding to the Council's Capital Programme Board.

Financial Consequences

The financial consequences of this report are the availability of a further £525K for the Norwich and HCA Strategic Partnership.

Risk Assessment

The main risk is a reputational one related to the ability to spend the funding in the timescale available.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority "Strong and prosperous city – working to improve quality of life for residents, visitors and those who work in the city now and in the future" and the service plan priority to bring forward the development of Bowthorpe.

Cabinet Member: Councillor Arthur

Ward: Bowthorpe

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

Norwich and HCA Strategic Partnership- Collaboration and Investment Agreement-
September 2009

Report

1. In September 2009 the Council entered into a partnership agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). This brought a total of £8M funding for Norwich to achieve the following objectives:
 - to accelerate the delivery of affordable homes;
 - to increase the supply of private homes;
 - to improve the quality of existing homes;
 - to maximise the opportunities for local employment;
 - to deliver early outputs;
 - to create sustainable communities; and
 - to deliver strategic regeneration projects within the City of Norwich (such as eco retro fit programmes or estate renewal)
2. HCA has recently secured some additional “windfall” funding for Norwich- specifically for work related to deliver essential infrastructure at the Threescore site in Bowthorpe and a “Vision Plan” for the regeneration of the South City Centre. (This is subject to final approval from the HCA Project Executive). Up to £525,000 is available and this needs to be spent by 31st March 2012. This additional funding is to be welcomed as it allows the Council to accelerate projects already identified within the Partnership as a priority.
3. Officers are working with HCA to produce a detailed programme of projects that meet the HCA requirements and meet the Partnership’s objectives. Discussions on potential projects include works to the undercroft to the Memorial Gardens to bring this space into public use. Given the short timescales involved it is recommended that the identification of projects, management and expenditure of this funding should be delegated to the Council’s Capital Programme Board.