

REPORT TO: Cabinet Urgent Business Committee

DATE: 13th January 2011

SUBJECT: Additional Grant Funding from Homes and Communities Agency to fund acquisitions in the Klondyke area of Bootle

WARDS AFFECTED: Litherland, Netherton and Orrell

REPORT OF: Alan Lunt - Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Tom Clay, HMR Programme Manager
0151-934 4849

EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY: To advise the Cabinet Urgent Business Committee of the offer from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to provide £1million to fund further acquisitions of properties to be redeveloped in the Klondyke area of Bootle and seek cabinet approval to enter into a Grant Agreement with the HCA and commit the expenditure accordingly.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director does not have delegated authority to make decisions relating to such matters.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Cabinet Urgent Business Committee agrees to accept the offer of £1 million of grant funding made by the HCA to fund further acquisitions in the Klondyke area of Bootle, and authorises the Acting Head of Corporate Legal Services to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency accordingly.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: N/A

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Upon the expiry of the call in period for the minutes of the meeting

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: The Council could refuse the offer of this grant. However, this would mean that the Council was unable to continue the acquisition of properties to be redeveloped in the Klondyke area until further resources had been identified.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: N/A

Financial:

	2010/2011 £	2011/2012 £	2012/2013 £	2013/2014 £
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>				
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	1,000,000			
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources: HCA Grant	1,000,000			
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	0			
Funded by:	0			
Sefton funded Resources	0			
Funded from External Resources	0			
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	31 st March 2011			
How will the service be funded post expiry?	Capital expenditure: N/A			

Legal:

The Council is legally able to enter into Grant agreements with the HCA for this purpose.

Risk Assessment: Acceptance of the grant will reduce the risk exposure of the Council.

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS
The Head of Corporate Legal Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report - LD00021/10.
FD 605: The Interim Head of Corporate Finance and Information Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		x	
2	Creating Safe Communities	x		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	x		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	x		
5	Environmental Sustainability	x		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	x		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy		x	
8	Children and Young People	x		

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Background

1. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has identified a further £1 million it is able to provide to Sefton MBC in the current financial year for acquisitions of properties in the Klondyke area of Bootle which are intended for demolition (Phases 2 & 3).
2. The funding is being made available on condition that it is spent on the agreed purpose within the financial year.
3. This is very fortuitous as the Council had, at 31st December 2010, almost committed its available funding for acquisitions in the Klondyke area from within the approved HMR budget, and there is currently no certainty over future funding after the 1st April 2011, and many remaining home owners wish to sell and have agreed terms.
4. The funding should enable the acquisition of up to a further 20 properties by 31st March 2011.
5. Consent to enter into a Grant Agreement with the HCA is required urgently to ensure that the acquisitions can be completed by 31st March 2011.