

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 17th February 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 Cabinet of a further offer from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to provide £849,000 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:

- 1) Agrees to accept the offer of a further £849,000 of grant funding made by the Homes and Communities Agency to fund further acquisitions in the Klondyke area of Bootle;
- 2) Authorises the Acting Head of Corporate Legal Services to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency accordingly; and
- 3) Agrees, because of the timescales for utilising this funding, to delegate authority to the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director to approve the individual additional acquisitions to be funded, up to this amount.

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	849,000			
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources: HCA Grant	849,000			
<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 - LD 00052/11
 FD:655 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

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Background

1. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has identified a further £849,000 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. The Council has now committed its available funding for acquisitions in the Klondyke area from within the approved HMR budget and from the additional £1 million reported to Cabinet on the 13th January 2011. 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 16 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.