

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: CORPORATE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL
DATE: 11 September 2008

RE: AREA BASED GRANT

Purpose

To provide Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel with information relating to the Area Based Grant.

Context

From the Local Government White Paper (October 2006) – “*Strong and Prosperous Communities*”, there have been two significant changes to funding from central government to local authorities and implemented through the 2008 Comprehensive Spending Review:

1. Funding is agreed for a three-year period
2. A number of grants have been transferred in to the Area-Based Grant. These grants are, for the most part, funding the council has received historically. However, some of these grants are reducing (Neighbourhood Element – now Stronger and Safer), some have been discontinued (Neighbourhood Renewal Funding) and some are new (Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Community Cohesion).

Based on guidance received so far, it is clear that the council is being encouraged to utilise Area Based Grant (ABG) within the Local Area Agreement (LAA), but this is a choice rather than a requirement. Irrespective of whether the Council pools funding or not, there will be an expectation the Council will engage its partners, through the Local Strategic Partnership (Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership [WBSP]), in terms of decision-making, in the use of this funding to meet priorities. The interpretation of priorities is not given and verbal clarification from GOWM suggests that this should include, but is not limited to, the new Local Area Agreement.

In essence, whilst in real terms there is no new money, there is an opportunity to use ABG more flexibly and for the Council, with its partners, to determine locally how best to apply this resource to meet priorities. Whilst there is no requirement to pool funding, it will be difficult to demonstrate partner involvement and taking advantage of increased flexibility if this is not undertaken at some point and with probable implications for future Comprehensive Area Assessment.

Attached at Appendix 1 is a breakdown of the funding streams transferred in to the ABG, with the allocations for Walsall for the next three years (2008 – 2011). It should be noted the funding for financial years 2009 / 10 and 2010 / 11 have not been confirmed.

Area Based Grant is a non-ring-fenced revenue grant, which is received by the Council.

Walsall Council is in the process of agreeing how resources are allocated to the key, jointly agreed, priorities in the Borough, contained in the LAA. It is anticipated this will be through Target Action Planning (TAP), which will bring partners together to identify existing activity and its cost, what is actually required using evidence-based needs assessment, where there are gaps / duplication in service and how existing resources can be utilised to deliver requirements.

Recommendations (if required)

Corporate Performance and Scrutiny Panel are requested to note the information.

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Appendix 1 – Walsall’s Area Based Grant Allocations 2008 – 2011

Gov’t Dep’t	Funding Title	2008/09 £	2009/10 £	2010 / 11 £
DCLG	Working Neighbourhoods Fund	5,462,858	6,453,802	6,707,916
DCLG	Community Cohesion	26,471	48,529	75,000
DCLG	Stronger, Safer Communities	413,000	258,000	0
DCLG	Supporting People (Admin)	158,067	145,588	124,789
DCLG	Supporting People	0	7,067,327	7,067,327
DCLG	Preventing Violent Extremism	145,000	175,000	193,000
Home Office	Young Persons Substance Misuse Grant	75,499	TBC	TBC
Home Office	Safer, Stronger Communities	330,111	330,000	
Transpor t	Detrunking	106,256	109,000	112,000
DoH	Adult Social Care Workforce	790,652	811,000	831,000
DoH	Carers	1,359,527	1,452,000	1,541,000
DoH	CAMHS	584,348	614,000	643,000
DoH	Learning Disability Development Fund	254,501	253,000	251,000
DoH	Local Involvement Networks	169,512	169,000	169,000
DoH	Mental Capacity Act and IMCAS	141,871	178,000	171,000
DoH	Mental Health	811,721	849,000	886,000
DoH	Preserved Rights	723,607	681,000	645,000
DCSF	Connexions	2,919,640	3,061,000	3,068,000
DCSF	Children’s Fund	947,592	948,000	948,000
DCSF	Positive Activities for Young People	504,256	733,000	896,000
DCSF	Teenage Pregnancy	314,000	314,000	314,000
DCSF	Children’s Social Care Workforce	114,513	114,000	114,000
DCSF	Youth Taskforce	0	0	0
DCSF	Care Matters	256,930	339,000	386,000
DCSF	Child Death Review Processes	45,337	47,000	48,000
DCSF	School Development Grant (LA Element)	1,457,233	1,457,233	1,457,233
DCSF	Extended School Start Ups	548,781	944,797	388,541
DCSF	Primary National Strategy: Central Co-Ordination	184,300	184,502	184,518
DCSF	Secondary National Strategy: Central Co-Ordination	199,176	199,585	199,768
DCSF	Secondary Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-Ordination	68,300	68,300	68,300
DCSF	School Improvement Partners	123,410	123,410	123,410
DCSF	Education Health Partnerships	88,715	89,000	89,000
DCSF	School Travel Advisers	34,000	34,000	34,000
DCSF	Choice Advisers	41,896	41,896	41,896
DCSF	School Intervention	81,300	81,300	81,300
DCSF	Flexible 14 – 19 Partnerships Funding	88,427	87,613	87,518
DCSF	General Duty on Sustainable School Travel	22,863	22,863	22,863
DCSF	Extended Rights for Free Travel	8,380	15,771	23,163
	TOTALS:	19,602,050	28,500,516	27,992,542