

Your Ref:
Our Ref: SH/EG

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Date: 19 June 2007

Letter to Blandford Forum Town Council

Dear Town Clerk

I have enclosed a DRAFT document, the intention of which is to set out the financial implications of Local Delivery Phase II (ie moving in to 2008/09). I am interested in your comments on how useful the document and the information contained within is likely to be to the Town Council and enable you to make informed decisions.

The document is a paper setting out the Financial plan for Local Delivery Phase II (in line with the District Council's Medium Term Financial Plan), the suggested Negotiating Position for the District Council and the likely (at this stage) Preferred Options that I believe we are aiming towards for agreement in principle by end June 07.

The Town Council has indicated the following service priorities: leisure centre, public conveniences, street cleansing, markets and car parking. I have enclosed a copy of the Pen Portraits for these services that were prepared during 2006 as part of Local Delivery Phase I. The Project Framework (see 2 below) compares the Town Council's priorities with the District Council's medium term financial plan to establish which services that are a priority for funding post April 2008.

You have already been issued with financial (2006/07) information relating to the services included in the Local Delivery project; I have also enclosed up to date information, breaking down service costs per Town, based on 2007/08 budgets. I intend to issue similar information to all Town Councils and community partnerships in the next two weeks and then similar information to Parish Councils to enable the Town and Parish Councils and community partnerships to discuss options and where necessary take reports to their committees with the aim of reaching agreement in principle on future service provision.

I have also enclosed the following information which has previously been circulated at the Local Delivery Working Group:

- 1) the Phase II Project Plan (addendum) that was prepared and circulated November 06;
- 2) the Phase II Project Framework (this sets out the terms of reference for the Local Delivery Working Group during Phase II and also the terms of reference for the Town area based groups);

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We have established the Local Delivery Working Group as the group that provides direction, receives updates and monitors progress on each of the Local Delivery services, concentrating initially on those services targeted for savings moving in to 2008/09. The Working Group will also monitor Phase I through the SLA.

Phase II has established a group within each Town area with representatives from District, Town and community partnerships. The intention being that these Town groups will provide direction, receive updates and monitor progress on each of the services within each area. Most Town group meetings have met on two occasions since the start of Phase II (ie October 2006) and, now that elections are behind us, I have asked that the next round of these meetings is scheduled.

There are then various working groups established to develop options and propose a preferred option for each of the services at risk.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN HILL
GENERAL MANAGER (DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCES)

c.c. Cllr Peter Webb
Cllr David Milsted
Joyce Guest
Derek Higton, Dorset County Council
Steve Adamson, DT11
Jo Rose, Community Development Worker
Hilary Ritchie
Wilbert Smith
Vic Smith