

Report to: Community Protection Panel

Date: 19 January 2009

Subject: Funding Announcements:- Housing

Report of: Executive Director - Environmental Services

Contact officer: Peter Layland 01942 828983 (Ext: 3983)

Purpose / summary: To inform Panel of a number of housing funding announcements

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: Report is for information

Recommendation / decision: To note the report

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 19 January 2009

Risks / Implications:

Financial:	None at this stage
Staffing:	None at this stage
Policy:	Housing Strategy
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	No
Wards affected:	All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

NO

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

NO

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population? NO

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure? NO

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **N/A**

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **N/A**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only:

Categorisation of the report:	X
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	X
Discussion	
Decision	
Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
19/12/09			

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer Martin Kimber

Date 19 December 2008

1. Background:

1.1 At this time of year there are a number of funding announcements from Government and associated agencies with regard to housing investment. These include

- Announcements on the 2009/10 Housing Allocation for Private Sector Housing
- Announcements on the 2009/10 Disabled Facilities Grant Allocations
- Announcements by the Homes and Communities Agency re New Affordable Housing

2. Current Position

2.1 At the time of writing the Council has yet to be informed of the Housing Allocation for Private Sector Housing and this will be provided verbally at the meeting.

2.2 The announcement for Disabled Facilities Grants has been made and Wigan's funding for 2009/10 is £1.176m. This represents a slight increase and the allocation is now the third highest in the North West. Despite this, demand for grants is extremely high and in past years "top up" funding has been required.

2.3 The new Homes and Communities Agency (formerly the Housing Corporation) have announced a new initiative called Homebuy Direct. This national £400m initiative seeks to provide affordable housing on a shared equity basis to first time buyers / people re-entering the property market.

A number of approved schemes are located in the borough potentially providing over 80 additional affordable housing units. The following developments have been agreed

Bovis Homes	Byrom Fields	Wigan	22
Gladedale	Gin Pit	Tyldesley	16
Morris	Lea Wood Edge	Winstanley	3
Persimmon	Atherton Gardens	Atherton	5
	Greenfields	Billinge	8
Stewart Milne	Trenchfield Mill	Wigan	26

2.4 A couple of bids have also been made by Housing Associations for new socially rented housing. We have yet to be informed of these bids and again the results will be provided verbally to Panel.