

**Appendix 2:**

**MINUTE EXTRACT FROM ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE HELD 15 MARCH 2004 RELATING TO THE PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT**

**1217. PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT**

(Report EA23 refers)

The Director of Development Services distributed additional appendices to the report that detailed the Government's announcement on this year's Planning Delivery Grant.

Members noted that the Council had received a grant of £570,445 which exceeded that given to Chichester, Oxford, Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils. The grant was based on performance within the Department and Members requested that their congratulations be passed on to all the staff involved.

The Director explained that proposals to spend the grant would be considered by Cabinet on 21 April 2004, but stated that the key spending areas would be enforcement, design statements, externalising appeals, urban design advice, legal reserves, recruitment and retention, administration support, a compliance officer, information technology and Local Development Frameworks.

Members approved the proposals but were concerned about increasing the staff establishment with funding purely from a one-off grant, but it was noted that the Government had indicated an intention to phase out the grant system and enable local authorities to charge higher planning fees and were consulting on this proposal.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Development Services staff be congratulated for their work and that the spending item proposals within the appendix of the report, tabled at the meeting, be recommended to Cabinet.