

London Borough of Haringey

Capital resource allocation policy

Following the introduction of the prudential regime in April 2004, councils have had greater flexibility regarding capital expenditure. The removal of controls on the levels of borrowing was helpful in terms of flexibility and local autonomy, but that the key determinant is the affordability, which is still effectively controlled by government. Allocations of revenue support for capital expenditure are still being made by individual Government departments.

In the preparation for this strategic context, a revised resource allocation policy was adopted by Executive on 21 October 2003 and an updated version is set out here for approval:

- *that the framework for determining the Council's priorities, and therefore resource allocation, will remain the Community Strategy, given effect in the Council Plan via the business planning process;*
- *that housing and education will be allocated their (revenue support derived) borrowing limits and ring-fenced grants;*
- *that other services are allocated their ring-fenced grants;*
- *that all other (revenue support derived) borrowing limits and grants are allocated through the business planning process and the capital programme appraisal framework;*
- *that increases in revenue formula grant for supported borrowing are earmarked to fund the actual costs of this in the revenue budget;*
- *that PFI is retained as an option for delivering capital investment;*
- *that unsupported (prudential) borrowing should be considered for 'invest to save' proposals, or where the revenue borrowing are proven to be contained within existing budgets;*
- *that capital receipts are managed corporately and applied in accordance with the business planning process;*
- *that best consideration will be sought for all disposals, except in the case of agreed discounting to social housing providers;*
- *that the spending power derived from capital receipts is maximised through the use of the offsetting provisions for pooled (non-right to buy) housing receipts.*