

**KEY DECISION NOT INCLUDED IN THE FORWARD PLAN
(GENERAL EXCEPTION RULE 15)**

The following information must be provided for the general exception rule to apply

- Clear reasons why it is impractical to defer the decision until it has been included in the next Forward Plan; and
- Confirmation that the Chief Executive has informed the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- 3 clear days have elapsed since that notification was given.

Date	28/01/2026
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Details of Decision to be taken:

If successful, to accept MHCLG's New System Plan Fund, which will commit the Council to commence plan-making early in the new plan-making system.

Clear Reasons why it is impractical to defer the decision until it has been included in the next Forward Plan:

On 15 January 2026 MHCLG announced funding for local authorities committed to bringing a plan forward early in the new plan-making system. Expressions of Interest were required by 28 January and authorities will be notified if they have been successful by 6 March with payments by 13 March 2026.

Given the short timescale to apply and accept the funding, it has not been possible to follow the standard forward plan process.

MHCLG expect funding to be divided equally across eligible local authorities with an anticipated award of around £120,000 each. However, subject to the number of applicants, the funding awarded could be more or less than this amount.

Authority to accept this amount of funding must be given by Cabinet and it is therefore proposed to include this decision on the Cabinet agenda for the 11th February 2026 meeting.

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Lead Member and Date Consulted: Cllr Alyson Barnes on 28th January 2026

Proposed Consultees and Method(s) of Consultation: Cabinet and Corporate Management Team

Documents to be considered by the decision taker: Report

Status – For Publication

Date the Chief Executive informed the Chair of the Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 28th January 2026

Where the above cannot be satisfied, the date on which written notice was given to all members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee: N/A

NOTES

Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A details of which are in this part of the General Folder.

1. **A Key Decision means an executive decision which is likely:**
 - a) to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are significant having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates, or
 - b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising of two or more Wards in the Borough.
2. For the avoidance of doubt, the Council would regard any of the following as 'significant':
 - Any decision by the Cabinet in the course of developing proposals to the full Council to amend the policy framework.
 - Any single item of in-budget expenditure or savings in excess of £100,000.
 - Any decision which is likely to have a permanent or long term (more than 5 years) effect on the Council and the Borough.
3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Committee and Member Services Manager

Date Notice Published: 28th January 2026