



meeting           **CABINET**

date               **8 July 2009**

agenda item number

## **THE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND PROPERTY**

### **COUNCILLORS' DIVISIONAL FUND**

#### **1. Purpose**

To propose a revision to the Electoral Division Initiatives arrangements.

#### **2. Information and advice**

- 2.1 The Electoral Divisions Initiative scheme was set up by way of Cabinet approval in September 2003. The scheme has been very popular with Members of all parties and has stimulated a great variety of local activity for the benefit of people of Nottinghamshire. During the financial year 2008/09 virtually all Members spent the full allocation of £7,500 per Member with only limited amounts of carry forwards. A copy of the Guidance Notes is attached to the report for the benefit of new Members
- 2.2 Having recently reviewed in detail the expenditure of all Councillors during the 2008/09 financial year I have been impressed by the range and diversity of schemes supported and its clear to me that the scheme is a most valuable source of funding which Members can use to stimulate activities in their local areas.
- 2.3 Its therefore proposed that the annual allocation per Member should be increased from £7,500 per annum to £10,000 per annum and that the scheme should in future be known as the Councillors' Divisional Fund as this more appropriately reflects the nature of the scheme. I would intend to retain the carry forward limitation that exists at present. The current carry forward rule sets a maximum that can be rolled forward over the financial year end at 10% of the annual amount. Where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated the normal carry forward rules may be varied by approval of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property.

### **3. Statutory and Policy Implications**

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder, human rights and those using the relevant service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

### **4. Recommendation**

That the annual allocation per Member in respect of the Electoral Divisions Initiative be increased from £7,500 per annum to £10,000 per annum in the financial year 2009/10.

**COUNCILLOR REG ADAIR  
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND PROPERTY**

#### **Background Papers Available for Inspection**

Nil.

#### **Legal Services comments (JMF 16.6.09)**

Cabinet has the delegated authority to agree the recommendations.

#### **Comments of the Service Director – Finance (AS 16.6.09)**

The additional cost for increasing the Electoral Divisions budget as outlined in the report will be £167,500. This will be met by an allocation from the General Contingency in 2009/10 and will be built into the annual budget process for 2010/11 and beyond.