

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Growth Point housing targets. Replies to your questions are set out below.

1. How much money did Sheffield Council agree to pay to Rotherham as a result of the new growth point status?

Sheffield has acted as the lead authority for the Doncaster and South Yorkshire Growth Point bid and consequently Growth Point grant from the Government was paid to Sheffield City Council who then distributed the grant to the three other South Yorkshire districts. Sheffield has therefore essentially acted as administrator for the Growth Fund grant. In respect of financial year 2009/10, Sheffield paid Rotherham £323,896 towards capital expenditure and £20,940 towards revenue expenditure. For the financial year 2010/11 Sheffield is due to pay Rotherham £741,158 towards capital and £80,820 towards revenue. However, the new Government is ending the Growth Fund at the end of this financial year, so no further payments will be made from 2011/12 onwards.

2. How was this sum of money to be paid over to Rotherham Council ie was it paid in a lump sum or was it to be paid by instalments e,g over X years.

The money is paid in lump sums each year, once Sheffield has received the grant from central Government.

3. If the payments are in instalments, how much has been paid to date?

The amount paid to date is per the answer to question 1 above, i.e. a total of £344,836.

4. Can you provide an analysis of what was this money paid to Rotherham Council for e.g building homes (£x), infrastructure (£x) etc.

The money contributed to site remediation and preparation costs including some fees.

4. Can you provide a copy of the agreement between Rotherham and Sheffield City Council ie terms and conditions of the money given to Rotherham Council.

The terms and conditions relating to the use of Growth Fund grant are contained in the 'grant determination' which is issued by central Government (CLG), which is attached.

5. As the RSS targets have now been abolished, do Sheffield Council expect / have an agreement with Rotherham Council to pay back any of this money that has already been received?.

No, as all of the money paid to date has been accounted for and audited in accordance with the grant determination requirements. Following a recent High Court judgement, the RSS targets have been reinstated, although the Government has stated that it still intends introduce primary legislation that will abolish them by the end of 2011.

6. If Sheffield City Council are expecting any of this money back from Rotherham Council, how much has been paid back and /or is still outstanding?

See answer to question 5.

7. If Sheffield City Council are still intending to pay this money to Rotherham Council, why is this the case given that the RSS Housing targets have been abolished?

Whilst the RSS housing targets are likely to be abolished in 2011, all of the South Yorkshire local authorities still have plans for the development of new homes and it is intended that the remaining Growth Fund resources will be used to help facilitate this. Rotherham have adopted an interim housing target pending consultation next year on options for their Local Development Framework Core Strategy. This will include options for setting their housing target and we understand that this will include the option of retaining the RSS target, as well as the lower interim target.

8. Can you please provide me with up to 4 copies of any correspondence between Sheffield / Rotherham Council that shows that this money has been paid over or agreed in relation to new point status.

A copy of the 'claim' submitted by Rotherham and supporting audit statement signed by Rotherham's Director of Internal Audit & Governance is attached.

I hope this provides satisfactory answers to the questions you have raised but please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint, you should write to Mrs Susan Millington, Head of Strategy, Floor 4 Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield S1 2SH.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

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