

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

16TH APRIL 2014

ALLOCATION POLICY RE GRANT FUNDING TO WARD MEMBERS

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Mike Webb
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	Yes

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To propose a policy to distribute funds to ward members as approved at the Council meeting on 26th February 2014.
- 1.2 The proposed scheme will enable the allocation of the £45k funds received by the Council as part of the Government settlement for 2014/15 in relation to the impact on Parish Councils from the Council Tax Support Scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members agree the proposed scheme for allocation of funding for 2014/15.
- 2.2 That delegation is given to the Executive Director of Finance and Resources to approve requests and make the formal payments in relation to the allocation of funds.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 As discussed at Cabinet and Council on 24th February 2014 an element of funding was passed to the District as part of the final Government Settlement for 2014/15.
- 3.2 In 2013/14 £52k was allocated by Central Government to mitigate the impact of the changes to Council Tax support for Parish Councils. Following approval by Council £40k of this was distributed to Parish Councils in 2013/14 to fund the actual impact arising from the changes. The remaining £12k was used to fund projects in non parished areas eg Town Centre bridge repairs.
- 3.3 In 2014/15 the Government stated that the parish grant would continue to be included in the Settlement but there would be no separate

amount detailed to show the actual figure. An estimate of £45k (from the prior year £52k) was made to reflect the overall reduction in Grant Settlement for 2014/15 for the District. This figure represented the amount that would be due to Parish Councils to cover the shortfall in Council Tax income as a result of the changes to the Discount Scheme.

- 3.3 The amount was discussed at Council and Members approved that the funds be allocated equally across all members to undertake projects within their wards that would benefit the residents and wider community and help deliver the Councils strategic purposes.
- 3.4 The total per member would be £1,155 (£45,000 / 39) for use in 2014/15. It is anticipated that ward members will have the ability to “pool” their resources to provide more financial support towards a particular scheme.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the policy for allocation of funds be approved. A draft statement of criteria is attached for members consideration at Appendix A.
- 3.6 It is also proposed that delegation is granted to the Executive Director of Finance and Resources to approve final payments based on the requests for funding.

Legal Implications

- 3.7 The scheme as proposed complies with relevant legislation.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.8 There are no specific service operations as the funds are to be requested and utilised by the ward members.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.9 It is assumed that the funding will be used by ward members to support projects for their residents and community.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 There are no significant risks arising from this report.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed scheme for request/ payment of funds

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

7. KEY

N/A

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jayne Pickering

E Mail: j.pickering@bromsgroveandredditch.co.uk

[Tel: 01527 881207](tel:01527881207)