

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2011  
title: STATUS OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY PERFORMANCE REWARD  
GRANT (PRG) FUNDS  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: DAVID INGHAM – PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

1.1 This report informs members of the status of projects funded by this borough's Lancashire Local Area Agreement (LAA) Performance Reward Grant (PRG) 2010/11 allocation.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – The corporate ambitions of the council are closely linked with those of the Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership (RVSP) and the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The projects funded from the PRG all contribute to the achievement of the objectives contained within the SCS and its associated action plans.
- Community Objectives – The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and its associated action plans form the basis of the sense of place and common vision of the communities in the Ribble Valley. The projects are predominantly from the community.
- Corporate Priorities – In its role as community leader the Council has been instrumental in developing and shaping the SCS. The projects, which are to be funded by the PRG, are all consistent with the SCS.
- Other Considerations – None.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 PRG is money payable by Central Government for the achievement of targets contained within the LAA.

2.2 The Government savings package for 2010/11 included savings of LAA Reward Grant of £125m nationally. The reasons behind this were that the focus on reducing the deficit, whilst protecting front line services, meant that the Government looked carefully at programmes such as LAA Reward and concluded that the programme should be reduced. The announcement stated that "Areas will receive 50% of the reward achieved on any target".

2.3 Areas with LAAs that ran from 2006-2009 (including the Lancashire Partnership), had already submitted their claims, 50% of which was paid in the Last financial year. The whole claim for the Lancashire Partnership was £19.1m, of which 50%, £9.5m was received in 2009/10. It was agreed by the Lancashire Partnership that 40% of the LAA Reward Grant would be allocated to the Lancashire Partnership, with the remaining 60% divided equally between the 12 District LSPs. Ribble Valley received this first tranche which amounted to

£489,000. The Government's announcement however means that Lancashire Partnership did not receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of grant.

- 2.4 The principles relating to the use of the Grant followed a protocol which provided for bids to be made to the RVSP who made recommendations for its use to the Policy and Finance Committee. Seven projects were endorsed by the Committee on 23 March 2010. These are set out in Appendix 1 which shows the current status of each project.
- 2.5 A number of the projects outlined continue to be subject to ammendment, detail and further discussions relating to matters such as long term sustainability, methods of delivery, project outputs and outcomes and timescales. The Partnership Officer monitors progress on a regular basis and will keep Committee informed of any issues as appropriate.
- 2.6 Particular attention is drawn to the Ribble Valley Village Amenities Improvement Project which has proved a successful part of the Healthy Valley activity. The projects' status are in Appendix 2.
- 2.7 The Healthy Valley project has recently been the recipient of the "2011 North West Together We Can" Award for Community Empowerment in recognition of the role of the partnership working involved in improving access to services in rural parts of Ribble Valley. A copy of the award booklet giving more information on the awards has been placed in the level D members room for reference.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for David Ingham, extension 4549.

**STATUS OF PROJECTS**

- Management Costs 7.5% of Total (RVBC)

£36,000 will be passed to the council to cover management and administration for the Grant

- Tourist Information Kiosk £80K (RVBC)

Project put on hold due to lack of match funding from Lancashire and Blackpool Tourism Board. Funds have been “ring fenced” for Tourism.

- Community Food Growing £50K

There are proposals for new food growing sites in ten primary schools and Four secondary schools along with four new allotment sites. A detailed funding plan is being prepared.

- Mobile Resource Centre £75K (RVBC)

Money has been committed to running “STAN”, the mobile resource van, for three years. An allocation of £75,000. This was made up of a payment of £15,000 per year to Rossendale Borough Council and a budget of £10,000 per year for RVBC purposes to cover contingencies such as weekend and evening work.

- Hydro Energy Generation Survey £15K (Forest of Bowland AONB)

The study has been commissioned and we are awaiting the first phase of surveys where the viability of the sites for hydro power generation will be evaluated. Following discussions with site owners, two or three viability reports will be prepared for Ribble Valley sites. The sites with the most potential at this stage would be at Whalley and Waddow weirs.

- Gisburn Mountain Bike Trails £35K (Forestry)

Detailed planning application for the car park and change of cycle tracks will be submitted to RVBC within the next two weeks. The grant will be paid on this application being approved.

- Domestic Violence Worker £42K (HARV)

The first year payment of £21,000 has been made. A further £21,000 has been allocated for 2011/12.

- Ribble Valley Village Amenities £100K

The bids were made to this project, which provided funds to maintain halls and play areas in the villages under the aims of the “Healthy Valley” Project.

- Whalley Playing Fields Sports Facility      £8K

There has long been a need to initiate a project within the Whalley Sports Club at the QE2 Playing Fields to provide facilities for all age groups and Increase participation in sport. There is an opportunity to access various funding streams and effect a significant improvement to the site, in particular to build changing rooms, provide a multi purpose resource centre and of course coordinate the subsequent maintenance of the amenities. The project has not been progressed yet as the current reaction to local planning issues may hinder the progress of the initial meetings.

- One Stop Voluntary Sector Hub Centre in Clitheroe      £5K

There are approximately 280 Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector groups and organisations in the Ribble Valley operating from a variety of different offices mainly in Clitheroe. They are finding it increasingly hard to maintain that presence. A number of these organisations have started to investigate how they could work together both more effectively and economically, operating from one building developing a partnership approach to delivering services. The work is continuing with varying funding streams being approached before any commitment of the PRG funding is made.

- Ribble Valley Food Events Strategy      £12.5K (Clitheroe Chamber of Trade)

Building on the success of the Ribble Valley Food Trail the project aims to promote the Ribble Valley, and Clitheroe in particular, as Lancashire's principle fine food destination. There are two strands to the project, the main one being the establishment of a food festival in Clitheroe, along with satellite events in Longridge and Whalley. The project was launched by holding a fine foods and craft street market in Clitheroe in August 2010.

- Air Pollution Monitoring      £5.5K (RVBC)

The project is to undertake local air quality monitoring of small particulates (dust particulates under 10 microns) in order to confirm compliance with national Air Quality objectives as identified in the Tri-annual air quality. The assessment has not progressed at this time.

- Dog Waste Bins      £13.37K (RVBC)

The funds have been passed to the relevant department to provide and Empty 20 additional dog waste bins in suitable locations across Ribble Valley.

**Village Amenities Project**

- Ribchester Play on Project

A sum of £5,000 was allocated which would be spent on a specified part of the upgrade. We await details of what work is going to be carried out.

- Ribchester Village Hall

To make the hall more sustainable through improved insulation and upgraded heating. £5,000 was allocated and it was anticipated that this would be spent on insulation improvements. We await details of what work is going to be carried out.

- Chatburn Play Ground

The refurbishment of equipment and the surface in required £4,000 towards a total project cost of £15,500 which was matched by other funding sources. Equipment has been identified and installation work is due to commence shortly.

- Gisburn Playing Fields

£5,000 was allocated towards a total project cost of £12,500 to complete the third phase of developing the Gisburn playing fields with a section designed for teenagers consisting of a zip wire and shelter. Match funding is available and work is due to commence shortly.

- Downham Village Hall

£6,500 was allocated for an upgrade of the village hall kitchen equipment. This project is completed.

- Grindleton Pavilion

£10,000 was requested towards a total project cost of £200,000 for a new community room and replacement of changing facilities in Grindleton replacing the current changing rooms on the playing fields. Significant match funding is already in place but the grant will not be released until the project goes ahead.

- Mellor Brook Community Centre

£10,000 was allocated towards a total project cost of £95,000 for a new extension/entrance and refurbishment of the toilets. Some of the match funding has been secured and part of the refurbishment will start in the next few months.

- Rimington Memorial Institute

£5,000 was allocated to improve the insulation of the hall through installing double glazed windows. The work has been completed.

- Chipping Play Area

£10,000 was allocated for the refurbishment of the play area. The total project cost is estimated at £25,000 and the outstanding funding has been secured. Work on the project will start shortly.

- Dunsop Bridge Woodland Walks

£10,000 was allocated to a total project cost of £19,250 for the provision of new woodland paths around Dunsop Bridge. The matching funds were secured and so the £10,000 will be paid when work is completed.

- Sabden and Heyhouses Community Hall

£10,000 was allocated towards the £20,000 needed for improvements to the energy efficiency of the community building. When the the match funding is shown to be available the funds will be released.

- Longridge Station Buildings

£6,000 was allocated towards a total project cost of £14,370 to fit out the Station Buildings with furniture and equipment. The match funding was in place and the £6,000 has been paid.

- Newton Village Hall

£7,500 was allocated towards insulating the hall, improving lighting and creating additional storage space. The work has been completed.

Total amount allocated across all projects was £94,000