

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 13

meeting date: 7 NOVEMBER 2017  
title: CHANGES TO CONCURRENT FUNCTION GRANTS SCHEME  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES  
principal author: LAWSON ODDIE

### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To agree the revision of the concurrent functions grant scheme to include the grant previously awarded separately under the Parish Lengthsman Scheme by Planning and Development Committee.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- In accordance with the corporate strategy objective "to protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area". This report will provide a means for providing a high quality environment, including safe, clean parks and open spaces.
- In accordance with the sustainable community strategy a key priority is "to maintain, protect and enhance all natural and built features that contribute to the quality of the environment", this report will provide the means for supporting Parish/Town Councils with maintaining and protecting the quality of the environment.

### 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Concurrent Grant Scheme, which was approved a number of years ago by this committee, gives grant assistance for those Parishes and Town Councils who provide services in their areas, which elsewhere are provided by the Borough Council.

2.2 The Council agreed to support Parish and Town Council net revenue expenditure on the following concurrent functions.

- Burial Grounds
- Bus Shelters
- Footpaths
- Footway Lighting
- Litter Collection
- Dog waste bins
- Parks and play areas

2.3 Support was set at a rate of 25% of eligible net revenue expenditure in the previous year subject to the overall cost to the Borough Council not exceeding £20,000p.a.

### 3 PREVIOUS PARISH LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

3.1 A separate Parish Lengthsman Grant scheme previously operated under Planning and Development Committee and from this financial year this grant has been moved to fall under the Concurrent Function Grant Scheme.

3.2 The award criteria for this grant scheme was less specific, but was to help fund the employment of a Parish Lengthsman and was awarded to a number of parishes. The amounts paid in 2016/17 are shown below, the total budget being £10,000.

Parish	£
Sabden	2,000
Whalley	2,000
Newton	2,000
West Bradford	500
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest and Sawley	2,000
Gisburn	1,000
<b>Total for all Parishes</b>	<b>9,500</b>

- 3.3 The amalgamation of these two grant schemes has created a single concurrent function grant pot of £30,000 in 2017/18.

Grant Scheme	£
Concurrent Function Grant Scheme	20,000
Parish Lengthsman Scheme	10,000
<b>New Total Concurrent Function Grant Scheme</b>	<b>30,000</b>

- 3.4 In the past, any Parish Lengthsman Grant received by a parish was netted off their expenditure before any calculation of concurrent function grant that they may be eligible to claim.
- 3.5 The scheme was only paid to a selection of parishes based on historic associations with a past Lancashire County Council Parish Lengthsman grant scheme.

#### 4 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 It is proposed that we now invite applications from all parishes.
- 4.2 Once these have been received we will consider the total available funding request against the total grant pot available (**i.e. including the parish lengthsman grant pot**). A report will then be brought back to this committee regarding recommended allocations and how this may impact on the method in which grants are allocated in the current scheme.
- 4.3 Until we know the full potential impact of merging these two schemes which were previously allocated differently we will be unable to recommend any prescriptive changes.

#### 5 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications
- Resources – no further resources are proposed other than those already available
  - Technical, environmental and legal – no implications identified
  - Political – no implications identified
  - Reputation - the matter covered links to the Council's ambitions and priorities to protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.

- Equality and Diversity – the scheme is open to all parish and town councils.

6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Approve the next steps suggested in section 4 of this report.

HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF70-17/LO/AC  
27 October 2017

Background papers:

For further information please ask for Lawson Oddie