

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2011
title: RIBBLE VALLEY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (RVSP) PERFORMANCE
REWARD GRANT (PRG) AND SECOND HOMES COUNCIL TAX
PROJECTS
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: DAVID INGHAM – PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

1.1 This report provides an update on existing projects.

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 and the Second Homes Council Tax 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 Members will recall that the endorsement of the 2011/12 PRG projects was deferred from the previous meeting of the Committee, whilst further information on the existing, agreed projects was brought to committee. One of the projects was agreed, relating to the Clitheroe Castle Grounds Activities project which is currently being implemented. The remaining projects will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

3 PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT

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

3.2 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".

3.3 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 status of these projects is outlined in Appendix 1.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – The allocation and monitoring of the PRG/RVSP budget requires a degree of staff time. None of the proposed expenditure requires the use of currently unallocated RVBC budgets.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Policy and Finance Committee has the role of ratifying the recommendations of the RVSP Board on the spending of the funds.
- Political – Ratification of the funding allocation offers the Council the opportunity to have a major influence on projects which address issues of community concern and service delivery including those beyond its direct control.
- Reputation – The Council is a key member of the Strategic Partnership and its association with the projects will enhance the Council's reputation.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Note the status of projects allocated funding from the Performance Reward Grant in 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 1.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

APPENDIX 1 STATUS OF PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS 2010/11

Project	Amount Allocated	Spent & Committed	Comments
Management Costs	£36,000	0	To be drawn down.
Tourist Information Kiosk	£80,000	0	Matching funding not available so far Funds "ring fenced" for Tourism Projects
Community Food Growing	£50,000	£30,000 (to be spent by 31/3/12) £20,000 (to be spent by 31/3/12)	Plans developed for Primary and High School sites Plans developed for land share sites at Sabden, Calderstones, Whalley and Gisburn Detailed site requests currently being drawn up.
Mobile Resource Centre (STAN)	£75,000	£16,876 (2010/11) £17,000 (Year2) £17,000 (Year3)	Three year project now entering second year. Working budget of £8,000 per year likely to be underspent
Hydro Power Generation Survey	£15,000	£15,000	Research completed
Gisburn Mountain Bikes Trails	£35,000	£35,000 (to be paid by 31/3/12)	Planning permission for site granted, claim for funding received
Domestic Violence Worker	£42,000	£42,000	In final year of two year funding
Ribble Valley Village Amenities Development	£100,000	£4,000 £10,000 £5,000 £6,000 £5,000 £7,500 £6,500 £10,000 £10,000 £10,000 £5,000 £5,000 £10,000 £6,000	<u>Completed schemes</u> Chatburn - Play Area Chipping – Play Area Gisburn - Play Area Longridge- Station Buildings Rimington – Village Hall Newton – Village Hall Downham – Village Hall Sabden- Village Hall Mellor Brook - Village Hall <u>Schemes to Completed by March 2012</u> Dunsop Bridge – Village Footpath Ribchester – Village Hall Ribchester – Play Area Grindleton - Pavilion Unallocated
Whalley Playing Fields Sports Facility	£8,000	0	Project team established preparing scope of feasibility study anticipated completed by March 2012
One Stop Voluntary Sector Hub Centre in Clitheroe	£5,000	0	Unlikely to be spent by March 2012
Ribble Valley Foods Event	£12,500	£12,500	Two street markets completed

Strategy			
Air Pollution Monitoring	£5,500	0	Money no longer needed as production has been scaled back Funds to be re allocated to new projects
Dog Waste Bins	£13,370	£13,370	Project implemented

Summary

Amount Spent	£163,746
Amount Committed	£302,124
Amount available for re-allocation	£11,500
Unallocated from last year	£11,630
Total	£489,000