

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2012
title: PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT - COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING
submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: DAVID INGHAM – PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 This report invites committee to consider and ratify the final allocation of funding to schemes within the Community Food Growing project, one of the projects funded by the Performance Reward Grant of 2010/11 as outlined and agreed at the Policy & Finance Committee meeting of 23 March 2010 and updated at successive meetings.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- The corporate ambitions of the council are closely linked with those of the Ribble Valley Partnership and the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The projects funded from the Performance Reward Grant (PRG) 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 PRG funded projects are all consistent with the SCS.
- Other Considerations – None

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Community Food Growing Project in Ribble Valley was developed after an extensive consultation with Ribble Valley Parish Councils and Community Groups.

2.2 The objective was to provide new community food growing sites in Ribble Valley and food growing sites on primary school and senior school sites in the district.

2.3 There have been issues that have delayed the project and this document outlines its status and proposes a conclusion to this phase of the scheme.

2.4 The Ribble Valley Community Food Growing project will develop and share the good work started in many of the schools. There is a willingness to develop the sustainable living ethos but it is not part of the curriculum as yet. The project along with its partners and volunteers has generated a considerable amount of interest in food growing and

sustainable living but is important not to extend the funding option beyond March 2013 so that the unused resources can be reallocated.

- 2.5 The Borough Council has a role in supporting sustainable living in the district and supporting the community partnerships that deliver this project.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 Not surprisingly many of the primary schools in Ribble Valley have already embarked on achieving eco-school status and are developing the spare land that surrounds the schools, particularly in the rural villages, for community food growing projects and gardening clubs. The schools listed in Appendix 1 have applied for resources, which can be sourced locally, under the scheme.

Total Proposed for Allocation £6,120

- 3.2 Senior Schools Food Growing Sites have been identified at the following schools: St Augustine's propose to create a fenced area adjacent to the school for their food-growing site and St Cecilia and Longridge High, who share adjacent playing fields, have identified an area between the two schools. Bowland High has a food-growing site but the school would like to expand this and Clitheroe Grammar have also designed a site. It is anticipated that the High schools will be able to bring some match funding to the project. The plans and specific requirements are being finalised for each site and formal requests for funding to the Council have been produced. It is proposed that each site be offered £5,000 (£2,000 to Bowland High) payable when the schemes have been completed with a final cut off date of claiming funds by March 2013.

Total Proposed for Allocation £17,000 (£5,000 to Longridge, St Augustine and CRGS, £2,000 to Bowland High)

- 3.3 There is a perceived shortage of allotments in Ribble Valley and many of our parishes have received an expression of interest from local residents and have gone as far as organising initial meetings and identifying potential sites for land share. These meetings have resulted in a plan to produce four new sites in Ribble Valley: Gisburn, Sabden, Whalley and Calderstones. Unfortunately the offer of the sites at Gisburn, Sabden and Calderstones has been subsequently withdrawn and the Whalley group has still to be organised. The other groups are looking for alternative sites and this committee will be asked for ratification of any proposed schemes prior to their implementation.

Total Proposed for Allocation £15,000 as contingency until March 2013 for the organisations at Gisburn, Sabden and Calderstones should they find alternative sites.

- 3.4 This project review is important as it outlines the approach taken to allocate the funds made available from the Performance Reward Grant monies to Community Food Growing.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – The allocation and monitoring of the PRG budget require 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 on the spending on the remainder of the allocated PRG funds.
- Reputation – The Council is a key member of the Ribble Valley Partnership and its association with these projects will enhance the Council's reputation.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Agree the approach set out in the report and approve the remaining allocations concerning projects, which would be in receipt of funds from the Performance Reward Grant.

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PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1

For further information please ask for David Ingham, extension 4549

REF: DI/250912/P&F

APPENDIX 1

Primary Schools	Application for funds
Barnacre Road Primary School, Longridge	6 Raised beds 1.2m x 0.9m £480 Polytunnel 15'x 8' £500 Shed 6'x 4' £200, Compost Bins £150, Wormery £110 Total £1440.00
Bolton-by-Bowland C E Primary School	Greenhouse £860 Greenhouse £860.00
Gisburn Primary School	Polytunnel 15'x 8' £500, 4 Raised Beds 12'x 4' £140.00, 2 Compost Bins £150, Fruit Bushes – Total £790.00
Grindleton C E Primary School	Fencing around raised beds and fruit trees/bushes Total £840.00
Sabden County Primary School	Polytunnel 12'x 6' £300, raised Beds £120, Water Butt £42 Trough Planters £128 Shed 6'x 4' £200 Total £790.00
St Michael & St John's R C Primary School, Clitheroe	Polytunnel 15'x 8' £500, Shed 6'x 4' £200 Total £700.00
Thorneyholme RC Primary School Dunsop Bridge	Polytunnel 15'x 8' £500, Shed 6'x 4' £200 Total £700.00
Total Allocated	£6,120.00