



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# A58

## **Cabinet** **24 June 2009**

### **Report of the Policy Development Committee: Parish and Town Council Revenue Support Grants (Jul09/14)**

1. A sub-group of the Policy Development Committee has undertaken a review of the current Parish and Town Council Revenue Support Grant Scheme. The Scheme exists to reduce the impact of the precept in those areas that receive it.
2. The rationale for the review was that there was some concern that larger parishes may be benefiting from the Scheme at the expense of smaller parishes, and the Scheme was therefore, reviewed to ensure it remained both easy to understand, and fair.
3. Members of the sub-group felt strongly that the grants provided a significant level of support to residents in rural areas. However, it was noted that significant cuts would need to be made in the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 budgets, and that this might mean that the overall provision available to fund the Parish Grant Scheme would need to be reduced. If such a reduction was unavoidable, it would be important to phase it in over 2 to 3 years.
4. Five options were considered in detail by the sub-group, which are set out in Report A27. The financial implications of each option were assessed for each parish, as was the overall ease of application and fairness.
5. Following lengthy discussions and analysis, Members of the Sub-group came to the conclusion that Option 5 should be recommended to the Committee, in order that the larger parishes did not benefit at the expense of the smaller ones. Members also acknowledged that a reduction in the total grant budget of £17,500 a year in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 should be included as part of the Dynamic Review-Innovation Value and Enterprise (DR-IVE) savings to be considered later in the year.

The Committee **RECOMMENDS:- That,**

- (a) a reduction of £17,500 a year in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 (from a total grant budget of £175,000) be included as part of the Dynamic Review-Innovation Value and Enterprise (DR-IVE) savings to be considered by the Cabinet later in the year and subject to the budget setting process; and**
- (b) the scheme of grants to parish councils be maintained as it currently exists, except that the 10% cap on grant payable to any parish council be decreased to 7.5% of the total grant available.**

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