



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

A352

Cabinet 2 December 2009

Report of the Policy Development Committee: Parish Grants (Dec 09/10)

1. St Edmundsbury is one of a small number of district councils that gives grants to parish councils. The grant reduces the impact of the parish precept, and the scheme was set up as an attempt to redress the fact that rural areas inevitably had less access to certain Borough facilities than town areas.
2. The Policy Development Committee requested a review of the current scheme, as it felt it was a suitable time to review the scheme to ensure that it remained easy to understand and fair. There was also some concern that larger parishes may be benefitting from the scheme at the expense of smaller parishes.
3. Five members of the Committee were nominated to work with officers on the review, and at its meeting in August, the working group recommended that a cap of 9% should be introduced to the scheme. This would result in a reduction in grant to the three largest parishes, and all other parishes would see an increase in their grant. This was the purpose of the recommendation, since it had been agreed that the grant pot had been shared disproportionately in favour of the three larger parishes.
4. Consultation took place with all parishes on the proposal, and the responses received were discussed at the meeting of the Policy Development Committee.
5. The Committee **recommends that 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 9% of the total grant available.**

Contacts:

Ian Houlder, Chairman of the Policy Development Committee, (01284-714248)
Charles Bradbury, Vice Chairman of the Policy Development Committee, (01284-762965)
Liz Watts, Chief Finance Officer, (01284-757252)
Adriana Stapleton, Scrutiny Manager, (01284-757613)