

Cabinet



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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| Title of Report: | Recommendation of the Grant Working Party: 5 September 2016 – Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme | |
| Report No: | CAB/SE/16/050 | |
| Report to and date: | Cabinet | 18 October 2016 |
| Portfolio holder: | Robert Everitt Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities Tel: 01284 769000 Email: robert.everitt@stedsbc.gov.uk | |
| Chairman of the Working Party: | Angela Rushen Grant Working Party Tel: 01284 386647 Email: angela.rushen@stedsbc.gov.uk | |
| Lead officer: | Davina Howes Head of Families and Communities Tel: 01284 757070 Email: davina.howes@westsuffolk.gov.uk | |
| Purpose of report: | On 5 September 2016, the Grant Working Party considered the following substantive items of business: (1) Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme: Update; and (2) Community Chest 2016/2017: Monitoring and Evaluation Recommendations emanating from discussions during Item (1) above are provided for Cabinet's consideration below. | |
| Recommendations: | It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that the criteria for the Rural Initiative Grant Scheme (RIGS) be amended so that the maximum amount that may be applied for under this scheme is reduced from £10,000 to £7,500, as detailed in section 1 of Report No: CAB/SE/16/050. | |

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| Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i> | | <i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Consultation: | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Holder and Grant Working Party | |
| Alternative option(s): | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To retain the existing maximum threshold that may be applied for under RIGS of £10,000; however the revised threshold of £7,500 would help to increase the number of projects that may receive funding from the finite ring-fenced capital allocation. | |
| Implications: | | | |
| <i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i> | | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for RIGS capital projects is required to be allocated from the funding pot available and within the minimum and maximum funding thresholds set in the approved criteria. | |
| <i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i> | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | |
| <i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i> | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | |
| <i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i> | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | |
| <i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i> | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | |
| Risk/opportunity assessment: | | <i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i> | |
| Risk area | Inherent level of risk (before controls) | Controls | Residual risk (after controls) |
| Excessive funding allocations of grants over £7,500 and up to £10,000 resulting in a rapid depletion of finite funding RIGS pot | Medium | Reduce maximum threshold to £7,500 to enable a greater division of the entire RIGS fund between a greater number of applicants. | Low |
| Ward(s) affected: | | All Wards | |
| Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i> | | None | |
| Documents attached: | | None | |

1. Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme: Update (Agenda Item 6 – Narrative Item)

- 1.1 On 5 September 2016, the Working Party received and noted a narrative item which provided an update on the Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme (RIGS) and the projects that had recently received funding.
- 1.2 RIGS is a one-off match-funding grant scheme which is available to match fund rural projects alongside other funding streams. Under the current criteria, grants of between £250 and £10,000 may be applied for, which must be used for a specific capital project and contribute to the Council's strategic priorities. Larger grants of over £4,000 are reserved for village halls and recreational facilities, but smaller grants can be used for a wide variety of other schemes which benefit rural communities.
- 1.3 A balance of £52,370.56 currently remains in the RIGS fund; however this budget allocation is a limited capital sum and once all funding has been allocated to projects, no additional monies will be forthcoming.
- 1.4 A suggestion was made at the meeting by the officers to reduce the maximum amount that may be applied for under this scheme from £10,000 to £5,000, which would help enable the total balance remaining to be allocated to a greater number of projects and for RIGS to continue for a longer period.
- 1.5 Match-funding for projects may therefore take longer to be sought; however, officers will continue to support parishes and community groups to access appropriate funding sources and dedicate sufficient time to ensuring other essential elements are in place for enabling the project to come to fruition.
- 1.6 The Working Party considered however, that a maximum of £5,000 was too low, as Members felt this could restrict the development of some projects altogether. An alternative proposal of £7,500 maximum funding was therefore agreed, as set out in the recommendation contained on page one of this report.