

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
17 July 2012

Subject: GRANTS

**All Ward(s)
Scrutiny Committees
Cabinet Member for Resources and Deputy Leader: Councillor R Kirk**

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 Between June 2010 and February 2011 the Prosperity and Places Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a review of Hambleton District Council's Grant Funding. The terms of reference were:-

- Establish the grant funding currently available;
- Examine the eligibility criteria for grant funding.

1.2 The review resulted in a set of recommendations:

- Single grant pot;
- Single set of criteria;
- Single application process.

1.3 The purpose of this report is to identify how these recommendations can be implemented.

1.4 The total budget for revenue grants is £488,186 as follows:

Revenue grants reserve (uncommitted)	£405,826
Grants contained with service budgets	£ 82,360

1.5 The grants contained within the service budgets tend to be service specific and are the responsibility of the relevant service manager. It is suggested that that these grants be left intact and the future need for them is challenged as part of each annual budget round.

1.6 The current revenue grants reserve is £405,582. If grants continue to be committed at the current level (£116,520) the reserve will need to be reviewed for 2015/16, as shown in the Table in 6.1.

1.7 To implement the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee a grants application process and guidance notes have been created (a copy is available in the Members' Lounge). Applications will be invited for:

- Small community grants - (£100 - £500)
- Medium Community Grants - (£501 - £1,000)
- Large Community Grants - (£1,001- £5,000)

1.8 A grants assessment process has been developed (a copy is available in the Members' Lounge) to determine all applications.

2.0 PROPOSALS:

- 2.1 Officers will write to all organisations currently in receipt of a grant to advise them of the new guidance and processes to be implemented in 2013/14.
- 2.3 The revenue grants reserve budget will be used as a single pot for organisations applying for grants from April 2013 and the core grants within the service budgets will be reviewed as part of the annual budget process.

3.0 DECISIONS SOUGHT:

- 3.1 That the Council writes to all organisations in receipt of a grant from the revenue grants reserve and advise them of the new process and guidance, commencing April 2013.
- 3.2 The Council promotes the new approach via its website.
- 3.3 The Council reviews the position of the revenue grants reserve before 31 March 2015.

4.0 LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES:

- 4.1 The proposed changes relate to the Council's priority of encouraging our residents to become more involved in decisions and delivering services which impact on their local communities.

5.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:

- 5.1 The overall risk of not reviewing and implementing a process to manage grants outweighs the risk of agreeing the implementation of a single pot. There are a limited amount of funds within the revenues grant reserve and the Council needs to have robust measures in place to enable these to directed to deliver community benefit.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES:

- 6.1 Overall the revenue effects of this will be as follows:-

Revenue Effects	2012/13 £	2013/14 £	2014/15 £	2015/16 £
Cost of Grants	<u>116,520</u>	<u>116,520</u>	<u>116,520</u>	<u>116,520</u>
Financed by:				
Revenue Grants Reserve	<u>116,520</u>	<u>116,520</u>	<u>116,520</u>	<u>56,266</u>
Impact on Reserve	<u>289,306</u>	<u>172,786</u>	<u>56,266</u>	<u>(60,254)</u>

7.0 RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 7.1 It is recommended that in line with the proposals from the Scrutiny Committee:
- (1) A single process guidance and application form is adopted for the awarding of grants.
 - (2) The Council contacts all organisations in receipt of grants and advises them of the revised process.
 - (3) Grants are solely funded from the Revenue Grants Reserve from April 2013 using a single process for all organisations.

- (4) The core grants within service budgets are reviewed as part of the annual budget process.
- (4) The revenue grants reserve is reviewed during 2014/15 to determine an appropriate level of investment.

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Background papers:

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