

**Subject:** Performance Reward Grant

**Status:** For Publication

**Report to:** Cabinet  
Council

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**Report of:** Director of Customers and Communities

**Portfolio Holder:** Communities and Neighbourhoods

**Key Decision:** Yes – Recommendation to Full Council

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks Cabinet's approval of the recommendations put forward by the Local Strategic Partnership's Executive on the allocation of Performance Reward Grant.

## 2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

- Delivering quality services to our customers
- Delivering regeneration across the Borough
- Keeping the Borough clean, green and safe
- Promoting the Borough
- Encouraging healthy and respectful communities

## 3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

Failure to agree the proposed allocation of Performance Reward Grant could lead to under-performance of the Local Area Agreement targets and outcomes in Rossendale's Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.

## 4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Performance Reward Grant is allocated by Central Government for the achievement of the first set of Local Area Agreement 2006–2009 stretch targets. The level of reward grant is dependent upon the performance of individual stretch targets.

4.2 Lancashire County Council has agreed that 60% of the total Performance Reward Grant awarded by Central Government will be shared equally amongst the 12 districts in Lancashire.

The County Council has developed a protocol setting out the accounting arrangements and use of Performance Reward Grant which on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 Rossendale Borough Council's Cabinet adopted. (See Appendix 1).

- 4.3 It is estimated that Rossendale could receive in the region of £1m of Performance Reward Grant paid in instalments at the end of the financial years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 with a final payment in the financial year 2011/12.
- 4.4 A wide range of partners have been involved in and had responsibility for the achievement of the stretch targets. It is therefore a requirement of the protocol that the Local Strategic Partnership makes recommendations to Cabinet on what the funding is spent on. The Local Strategic Partnership has no legal status and therefore the recommendations made by them needs to be ratified by the Council.
- 4.5 In May 2009 all theme groups of the Local Strategic Partnership and the Community Network were invited to put forward project proposals for spending against the Performance Reward Grant by completing a brief expression of interest.
- 4.6 The Local Strategic Partnership received 21 expressions of interest, totalling £2,562,968 far exceeding the estimated £1m worth of Performance Reward Grant that Rossendale is likely to receive.
- 4.7 A sub-group of the Local Strategic Partnership met on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 and agreed in principle to short-list five projects totalling £610,000, which it felt would leave a lasting and sustainable legacy to Rossendale. The sub-group felt that it would be prudent when allocating funding to take account of the financial pressures on National and Local Government as they may affect the amount of Performance Reward Grant paid to Rossendale in year two.
- 4.8 It was therefore recommended, that only the first instalment of Performance Reward Grant is allocated which is due in April 2010. The sub-group invited the five projects to submit detailed business cases so that each project could be further assessed before the recommended allocation of the Performance Reward Grant was agreed.
- 4.9 On 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010 the sub-group met for the second time to assess the detailed business cases. According to the latest data provided by Lancashire County Council, the first Performance Reward Grant instalment is likely to be £488,000, subject to final audits and confirmation by Central Government. In light of this, the sub group made recommendations on which of the five projects to take forward or scale back from the £610,000 to £488,000.
- 4.10 Sub-group members were particular keen to fund capital based projects which they felt were sustainable and could act as a catalyst for further investment in the future. Members were also keen to ensure that project outputs were realistic, deliverable and measurable and that there was sufficient capacity for the lead organisation to drive the project forward through partnership working.

4.11 Sub-group members agreed to the following recommendations:

### **CCTV**

Community Safety Partnership submitted a detailed business case for an additional two camera sites to be fitted to the current CCTV system in Rawtenstall. The first camera would be fitted at the junction of Bocholt Way/Bury Road and the second at the junction of Bacup Road/Kay Street. The area covered by these cameras would incorporate the proposed new bus station, the health hub and would also allow views onto and off the M56 which is one of the routes used by travelling criminals coming into the area from Manchester.

**The sub-group recommended £40,000 capital funding for the two cameras to be installed and managed.**

### **Swimming Pool**

Cultural Board submitted a detailed business to support the development of a new swimming pool for Rossendale. The new pool will be located at Haslingden Sports Centre and would replace the current pool on East Bank Avenue, Haslingden. Emphasis was particular given to the long term impact this project would have on improving health and increasing physical activity.

**The sub-group recommended £250,000 capital funding towards the development of the new swimming pool.**

### **Community Allotment**

Health and Wellbeing theme group submitted a detailed business case for the creation of a community allotment site in Rossendale. The capital element was for the purchase and building of the allotment site and the revenue element for project management of the site.

Concern was expressed around capacity and resources to deliver the project and the need to identify a lead organisation committed to driving the project forward. The sub-group also suggested that alternative funding sources needed to be considered and the group need to explore how the project can be delivered through existing service providers with expertise and experience in delivering such a project.

**The sub-group recommended allocating £28,000 to an allotment project with the funding ring-fenced for spend by the Health and Well-Being theme group.**

## Adrenalin Gateway

Regeneration Board submitted a detailed business case consisting of both capital and revenue funding. The capital element was for improvements to the mountain bike trails and also installation of an artificial boulder (high performance climbing) at Lee Quarry. The revenue element was for a programme of activities to help raise the profile of the Adrenalin Gateway.

**The sub-group were very supportive of this project and agreed to allocate £90,000 capital funding towards the trails and boulders and a further £10,000 of revenue funding towards the marketing of the Adrenalin Gateway.**

## Improvements to Signage

Regeneration Board submitted a detailed business case for new signage and making improvements to existing signage to help promote Rossendale as a tourist destination and also to provide directional signage to key services in Rossendale. The types of signage proposed are destination (towns/attractions within Rossendale); brown tourism signs to key tourism attractions (e.g. Adrenaline Gateway, Lee Quarry & Halo); way marking on walking routes of national importance (e.g. Rossendale Way); accommodation providers, picnic sites and cycle routes; removal of redundant signs.

Members were very supported of this project and the links it has with almost all projects, services and attractions on offer in Rossendale e.g. adrenalin gateway, the Halo, town centres, leisure services, railway etc. The project is sustainable in the long-term and can bring in additional economic benefits through and increase in visitor numbers to the valley.

**The sub-group recommended £70,000 capital funding towards the project.**

**TABLE 1**

Project	Amount requested		Recommendations	
	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue
CCTV	40,000	0	<b>40,000</b>	<b>0</b>
Swimming Pool	250,000	0	<b>250,000</b>	<b>0</b>
Community Allotment	40,000	30,000	<b>28,000</b>	<b>0</b>
Adrenalin Gateway	90,000	60,000	<b>90,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
Signage	100,000	0	<b>70,000</b>	<b>0</b>
Total	520,000	90,000	<b>478,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>

Overall project total	610,000	<b>£488,000</b>
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4.12 The recommendations of the sub-group as detailed above were presented to the Local Strategic Partnership Executive on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010 where they agreed to the proposed allocation as detailed in table 1.

**COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**5. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

5.1 Financial implications are commented on in the body of the report.

**6. MONITORING OFFICER**

6.1 Legal implications are commented upon in the body of the report.

**7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

7.1 No Human Resource implications.

**8. CONCLUSION**

Performance Reward Grant represents a significant ‘one-off’ payment to assist in the delivery of projects that will help achieve the vision and outcomes outlined in Rossendale’s Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement and Corporate Plan. The allocation recommended by the Local Strategic Partnership Executive will bring tremendous benefits to both residents and visitors, leaving a sustainable and lasting legacy to Rossendale.

**9. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

9.1 That subject to confirmation of the funding from Lancashire County Council, Cabinet agrees to the recommendations put forward by the Local Strategic Partnership Executive as detailed in table 1 of the report.

9.2 Agree to delegate the establishment of monitoring arrangements for Performance Reward Grant to Overview and Scrutiny and the Local Strategic Partnership’s Executive.

**10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

10.1 Local Strategic Partnership Theme Groups, Community Network, Local Strategic Partnership Executive

**11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is a Community Impact Assessment required No

Is a Community Impact Assessment attached No

## 12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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