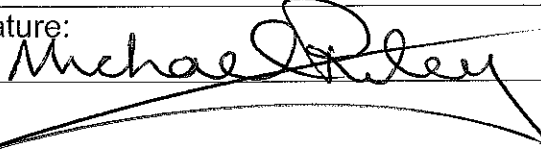


RECORD OF URGENT CABINET DECISION

The following is a record of an urgent cabinet decision which cannot be delayed until the next meeting of the Cabinet (as set out in Rule 12 of the Cabinet Procedure Rules):

Officer: Michael Riley	Signature: 
I can confirm that consultation has taken place with the following:	
• Leader	Date Consulted: 20/9/2010
• Deputy Leader	Date Consulted: 23/09/2010
• Relevant Portfolio Holder plus one of the following:	Date Consulted: 20/9/2010
• Chief Executive or	Date Consulted: 20/9/10
• Deputy Chief Executive in the absence of the Chief Executive or if the Chief Executive is a decision taker	Date Consulted:
• Monitoring Officer in the absence of the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive or if one is absent and the other is a decision taker	Date Consulted:
In the absence of the Leader, Deputy Leader or Portfolio Holder (if any) the consent of another Cabinet Member will be required. If so, please give details here:	

Details of Decision and Reasoning:	<p>A recommendation was made by Cabinet on 17th March 2010 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet support the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny that following continuation of the value for money exercise with the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Help Direct and Rossendale Borough Council, consideration should be given to adjusting the funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau in quarters 3 and 4 of 2010 – 2011.
------------------------------------	---

	<p>Rossendale Council, CAB and Help Direct have positively embraced the Overview and Scrutiny recommendation made in March 2010 to explore more effective and efficient methods of working in partnership. This work has been progressing in an atmosphere of positive and proactive collaboration which has resulted in a developing Action plan to achieve efficiencies.</p> <p>Due to this ongoing work, it is requested that CAB funding is not reduced this financial year (2010 – 2011) as identified by overview and scrutiny as all organisations in receipt of Grant to Outside Bodies funding are being contacted in order to share the challenges of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. This will result in Organisations understanding that funding may need to be amended to reflect available resources.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>That the present level of funding (£75,000) to the CAB for the financial year 2010 – 2011 is maintained at its present level.</p>
--	--

<p>Details of the reason for the use of the urgency procedure:</p>	<p>As we are entering into the third quarter of 2010 - 2011 a decision needs to be taken to either reduce or maintain the present level of Grant to Outside Bodies funding to the CAB.</p>
--	--

<p>Decision to be taken by:</p>	<p>The Leader of the Council.</p>
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------

<p>Impact on Corporate Priorities:</p>	<p>The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering quality services to our customers
--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing value for money services
--	--

<p>Consultees and Method(s) of Consultation:</p>	<p>Consultation has taken place with the CAB, Help Direct, Rossendale Council's Management Team, Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder and Shadow Portfolio Holder.</p> <p>To ensure proactive consultation takes place the Communities Manager has been asked to enter into immediate discussions with those community groups and organisations that have previously been in receipt of grant to outside bodies money in order that the challenges of the Council's medium term financial strategy are shared.</p> <p>To tackle the challenge of identifying c£2million worth of savings as part of the Council's 'Medium Term Financial Strategy' the Portfolio Holder for Resources and the Section 151 Officer as part of their 2011 to 2012 budget consultation may:</p> <p>Consider a reduction in the grant allocation in 2011 to 2012 to those organisations in receipt of money agreed in 2009 as part of a three year funding agreement (2009 to 2010, 2010 to 2011 and 2011 to 2012).</p> <p>Consider that no one off grant to outside bodies is given in 2011.</p> <p>Consider freezing the allocation of grant to outside bodies for the remainder of the Council's three year medium term financial strategy (2011-2013) in years 2012 and 2013.</p>
--	--

<p>Documents to be considered by the decision taker:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet report dated 17th March 2010 on Grants to Outside Bodies 2010/11 • Three year agreement total committed for 2010/2011 • Groups that applied to the Grants to Outside Bodies grant, the amount requested and the recommendations of the Grants
--	--

	<p>Advisory Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The types of projects/services funded by the Council and those who benefited from the grants • The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Task and Finish Group's report's <p>All of the above can be viewed at</p> <p>www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/item D1 Grants to Outside Bodies 2010-11 .pdf</p>
--	--

<p>Implications:</p>	<p>A recommendation to continue the same level of Grant to Outside Bodies funding to the CAB for 2010/11 this is in line with the Council's budget resources.</p> <p>Other considerations with regard to future funding to the CAB and others in receipt of grant funding can be incorporated into the council's budget consultation mechanisms.</p>
----------------------	--

<p>Status:</p> <p>Please indicate if this is "for publication" or "not for publication".</p> <p>For advice please contact the Committee and Member Services Manager</p>	
---	--

INSERT NAME OF DECISION TAKER <i>LEADER OF COUNCIL</i>	
Date:	<i>20-9-2010</i>

INSERT SIGNATURE OF DECISION TAKER
<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>

Publication Date: *6/10/10*

Subject: Grants to Outside Bodies - Value for Money.

Status: For Publication

Report to:

Date:

Report of: Director of Customers and Communities

Portfolio

Holder: Leader of the Council

Key Decision: No

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Cabinet of the work undertaken since the Cabinet Grants to Outside Bodies determination on 17th March 2010.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

- Delivering quality services to our customers
- Providing value for money services

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

3.1 The risk of not evaluating and benchmarking the allocation of the Council's Grant to Outside Bodies against value for money and use of resources principles could leave the Council open to the challenge that they are not working in the best interests of the people they represent.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 The report takes account of the recommendations of the Value for Money Task and Finish Group presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. That report was subsequently submitted to Cabinet for their consideration on 17th March 2010 and their recommendation is outlined below.

- Cabinet support the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny as outlined in their report at 9.1 and 9.2, and that following continuation of the value for money exercise with the Citizens Advice Bureau, Help Direct and Rossendale Borough Council, consideration should be given to adjusting the funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau in quarters 3 and 4 of 2010 – 2011.

Background post Cabinet meeting of 17th March 2010

- 4.2 Community Grants account for a significant element of Council expenditure. Each year Rossendale Borough Council allocates over £200,000 in grants, operated through two discreet funds, Neighbourhood Forum Grants and Grants to Outside Bodies.
- 4.3 Rossendale Council, CAB and Help Direct have positively embraced the Overview and Scrutiny recommendation made in March 2010 to explore more effective and efficient methods of working in partnership. This work has been progressing in an atmosphere of positive and proactive collaboration which has resulted in the development of a 'Value for Money Action Plan' which will enable efficiencies to be realised.
- 4.4 Throughout this exercise the CAB have recognised that it is prudent to evaluate their own business practices and that the value for money review has presented them with an opportunity to scrutinise their own ways of working.
- 4.5 Regretfully the challenge the Council faces in meeting its medium term financial strategy has not allowed it the luxury of time. As well as internally challenging itself to find c£2 million savings over the next three years the Council has already had to deal with external cuts this year, some examples are listed below:
- North West Development Agency - £90,000
 - Housing Market Renewal Funding - £333,000
 - Performance Reward Grant - £478,000
 - Planning Delivery Grant - c.£100,000
 - Community Cohesion Funding - £63,000
- 4.6 In Rossendale a 1% raise in council tax equates to approximately £56,000 in income. If in 2011 we had set a council tax increase in line with inflation, approx 3%, we could have increased our income by just short of £170,000. This is placed into context when as an authority in 2009 – 2010 we allocated £188,260 as part of our allocation to Grants to Outside bodies.
- 4.7 We face a very different financial landscape than we did back in March 2010 when the original Overview and Scrutiny Management and Cabinet reports were presented. This report therefore rightfully takes account of the challenges the Council's 'Medium Term Financial Strategy' presents.

- 4.8 Rossendale Council has identified the need to find c£2million in savings as part of a three year 'Medium Term Financial Strategy'.
- 4.9 In tackling the challenge of identifying this saving the Portfolio Holder for Resources and the Section 151 Officer as part of their 2011 to 2012 budget consultation may:
1. Consider a reduction in the grant allocation in 2011 to 2012 to those organisations in receipt of money agreed in 2009 as part of a three year funding agreement (2009 to 2010, 2010 to 2011 and 2011 to 2012).
 2. Consider that no one off grant to outside bodies is given in 2011
 3. Consider freezing the allocation of grant to outside bodies for the remainder of the Council's three year medium term financial strategy (2011-2013) in years 2012 and 2013
- 4.10 To ensure proactive consultation takes place the Communities Manager has been asked to enter into immediate discussions with those community groups and organisations that have previously been in receipt of grant to outside bodies money in order that the challenges of the Council's medium term financial strategy are shared.
- 4.11 Due to this ongoing work, it is requested that the CAB funding is not reduced this financial year (2010 – 2011) as identified by overview and scrutiny as all organisations in receipt of Grant to Outside Bodies funding are being contacted in order to share the challenges of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. This will result in organisations understanding that funding may need to be amended to reflect available resources.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 The recommendation (9.2) for 2010/11 is in line with the Council's budget resources. Other considerations at 4.9 with regard to future funding can be incorporated into the Council's budget consultation mechanisms.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 Any 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 Any human resource implications are commented upon in the body of the report.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 We are clearly in a different economically challenging position since the original Cabinet report back in March 2010. The requirement to save c£2million in the next 3 years will require potentially unpopular decisions. Making those decisions will be tough but they cannot be avoided.
- 8.2 The work of the voluntary, community and faith sector is recognised by this Council as being extremely important. The services/projects provided by the sector and the support it gives to individuals and groups across Rossendale is highly regarded. Even at a time when money is tight it should still be possible to find different ways of delivering services. As such the Council looks forward to exploring better ways of working together with our colleagues in social enterprises and the community voluntary sector as a whole.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 That Cabinet recognises and supports the progress made since March 2010 by the CAB and Help Direct to work towards delivering different and more cost effective ways of delivering services.
- 9.2 That Cabinet continues the present level of funding (£75,000) to the CAB for the financial year 2010 – 2011.
- 9.3 That contact is made with all organizations in receipt of a Grant to Outside Bodies to make them aware of the financial challenges facing the council and the potential impact on future years funding.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 To be carried out as outlined at paragraph 4.10.

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

Contact Officer	
Name	Michael Riley
Position	Communities Manager
Service / Team	Communities Team
Telephone	01706 252412
Email address	michaelriley@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Background Papers	
Document	Place of inspection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet report dated 17th March 2010 on Grants to Outside Bodies 2010/11 • Appendix 1: Three year agreement total committed for 2010/2011 • Appendix 2: Groups that applied to the Grants to Outside Bodies grant, the amount requested and the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Group • Appendix 3: The types of projects/services funded by the Council and those who benefited from the grants • Appendix 4: The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Task and Finish Group's report's 	http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/Item_D1_Grants_to_Outside_Bodies_2010-11_1_.pdf