

<b>Subject:</b>	Rossendale Council and Neighbourhood Forum Grants	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Corporate Scrutiny Committee	<b>Date:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2013
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Customers and Communities	<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	Yes	Attached: No
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
1.1	That Corporate Scrutiny note and approve the consultation process to be used.
1.2	That a consultation response group, through the scrutiny process, be established to respond formally to the consultation.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

2.1 To update Scrutiny Members on the consultation to be carried out in relation to the future of Rossendale Council and Neighbourhood Forum Grants.

**3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

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

- **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.

**4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The purpose of the report is to enable members to approve detailed consultation. Undertaking transparent and detailed consultation is essential and will mitigate the risk of challenge and importantly reinforces the culture of engagement and empowerment.

**5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS**

5.1 In June 2011, Rossendale Borough Council announced that the Rossendale Council Grants pot of £115,650 per annum would be allocated with a commitment of three years funding which ceases in 2013/14. All grant recipients have been informed of this and have been asked what the impact may be on them if they did not secure funding from Rossendale Borough Council beyond 2013/14.

5.2 All groups have also been informed of the need for Rossendale Borough Council to cut its budget by c£1.5m, in accordance with the medium term financial strategy.

5.3 In addition to the Rossendale Council Grants, in 2011/12 a sum of £70,000 was allocated to Neighbourhood Forum Grants annually for a period of three years. Because this pot of funding was drawn from an external grant which came to Rossendale Borough Council, once it is fully allocated this funding will cease and will no longer be in the revenue budget beyond the current year. See Appendix 1.

**COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**6. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

6.1 Financial implications are noted on the report.

6.2 Members are aware of the Councils need to reduce its annual cost base by £1.5m.

**7. MONITORING OFFICER**

7.1 No additional comments.

**8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

8.1 Any Human Resources implications will be understood and responded to as a consequence of the consultation process.

8.2 The equality impact will need to be understood – informed via the consultation process and considered as part of the final decision making process.

The Equality Act 2010 established the Public Sector Equality Duty, the duty requires the Council to give due regard to :

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

The amount of regard that is 'due' (that is, the degree of attention demanded by the needs) is set out in section 49 of the Equality Act and will depend on the circumstances of the case, the greater the potential impact of a decision, the greater the regard that must be had.

**9. CONCLUSION**

9.1 The Council must remain focused on identifying and delivering c£1.5m of cuts over the medium term and ensure that all budget resource allocations are core to the function of the district council and have clear links to its Council Priorities.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection

Or

No background papers (*delete where applicable*)