

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

meeting date: 14 SEPTEMBER 2021
title: CONCURRENT FUNCTION GRANTS
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the allocation of concurrent function grants for 2021/22.
- 1.2 To consider whether the Council's concurrent functions grant scheme might be amended to include installations for stand-alone CCTV systems as being eligible for support.
- 1.3 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and Priorities:
 - In accordance with the corporate strategy objective "to protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area". This report will provide a means for providing a high quality environment, including safe, clean parks and open spaces.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Concurrent functions are services provided in some parts of the borough by the borough or county council and in others by a parish or town council.
- 2.2 The council's concurrent functions grant scheme was approved by Policy and Finance Committee in November 2008 and:
 - Supports parish and town council's with net revenue expenditure on the following concurrent functions
 - Burial Grounds
 - Bus Shelters
 - Footpaths
 - Footway Lighting
 - Litter Collection
 - Dog waste bins
 - Parks and play areas
 - Parish lengthsman (*from 2017*)
 - Reimburses councils with 25% of expenditure that is net of other methods of support, VAT and any administration costs
 - Supports revenue expenditures only that occurred in the previous financial year i.e expenditure incurred in the day to day activities of the organisation or for ongoing maintenance or repairs
 - Excludes capital expenditures or large one off items of expenditure
- 2.3 Reimbursement is subject to the cost of claims under the overall scheme to the Borough Council not exceeding the annual approved budget, which for the 2021/22 financial year is £33,200. If claims were to exceed this amount then they would be scaled back to the funds available.

3 CCTV EXPENDITURE

- 3.1 At their meeting in March 2021 Community Committee considered a report setting out CCTV options for the Ribble Valley, and along with other recommendations it was resolved that committee:

Ask Policy and Finance committee to consider whether the Council's concurrent functions grant scheme might be amended to include installations for stand-alone CCTV systems as being eligible for support.

- 3.2 Committee are therefore being asked to consider whether the list of concurrent functions currently supported within the scheme and detailed at 2.2 should be expanded to include CCTV expenditures, and if this should be effective from the current financial year onwards.
- 3.3 We have made preliminary enquiries with parish and town councils by inviting them to include claims for CCTV **revenue** expenditures within this year's grant applications, so that should committee resolve to amend the scheme, the associated revenue costs can be included within the final calculation of support payable.
- 3.4 Chipping Parish Council also included a request with their application for grant support of £585 for the installation of CCTV equipment at a cost of £2,340. As the council's scheme doesn't support capital expenditures or large one off items of expenditure, this is currently excluded from the proposed grant allocations set out in the annex to this report.
- 3.5 Members may choose an amendment to the current scheme to allow for the wider inclusion of "CCTV installation costs", if so, officers will write out to all parish and town councils advising them of the scheme amendment and inviting applications for associated grant support for committee to consider all CCTV installation costs (including those at Chipping) at a future meeting.
- 3.6 Members are asked to be mindful of the current funding terms within the concurrent function grant scheme when making their decision. These currently set out that should an occasion arise where claims were to exceed the approved budget, then all claims would be scaled back to the value of the funds available.

4 CURRENT YEAR APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT

- 4.1 In July 2021 all parish and town councils were invited to apply for a concurrent function grant to support net revenue expenditure that occurred during the 2020/21 financial year.
- 4.2 As set out in Annex 1, 25 application forms were returned to the council, claiming for net revenue expenditure as follows:

	Current scheme £	CCTV revenue expenditure £	Total £
Net Expenditure	79,092	168	79,260
Grant Support	19,776	42	19,818

- 4.3 Should committee resolve to approve the highest grant support allocation of £19,818, then this would leave a £13,382 underspend from the current year's budget, which would be available to support further eligible parish and town council expenditure of £53,528.

4.4 All grant applications must be submitted with documentation, such as invoices, to support all expenditures, and must be certified by the Chair of the parish or town council.

4.5 Due to unforeseen circumstances, one parish council that would ordinarily apply for grant support was temporarily unable to access their financial records and as such has been unable to return an application. It is anticipated that a further report will be brought to committee at a later date in the financial year to request support for this parish once the application and supporting documentation has been received.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – a total budget of £33,200 is available to fund the revenue grants requested and the proposed expenditure is within this balance. Should the councils grant scheme be amended to include grant support for CCTV installations then there is a risk that requests for grant support may exceed approved budgets. Under the current scheme this would mean that all claims would be scaled back to the value of the funds available.
- Technical, environmental and legal – no implications identified
- Political – no implications identified
- Reputation - the matter covered links to the Council's ambitions and priorities to protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.
- Equality and Diversity – the scheme is open to all parish and town councils.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Committee approve the payment of grants to parish and town councils under the current scheme conditions and totalling £19,776.

6.2 Committee consider amending the councils concurrent function grant scheme to include CCTV expenditure as a concurrent function from the current year onwards, and that associated grant support of £42 be approved for payment.

6.3 Committee consider a further amendment to the grant scheme to allow for the inclusion of CCTV installation costs from the current year onwards.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF50-21/VT/AC
27 AUGUST 2021

CONCURRENT FUNCTION GRANT APPLICATIONS – 2021/22

Parish / Town Council	Burial Grounds	Bus Shelters	CCTV	Foot-paths	Footway Lighting	Litter Collection	Dog Waste Bins	Parks and Play Areas	Parish Lengths-man Gross	Sub-Total	External funding	Net Total	Grant at 25% Without CCTV	Grant at 25% With CCTV
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 Aighton Bailey/Chaigley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,997	0	3,997	-705	3,292	823	823
2 Barrow	145	0	0	0	0	390	0	408	1,500	2,443	0	2,443	611	611
3 Billington & Langho	1,590	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,425	3,353	11,369	0	11,369	2,842	2,842
4 Bowland Forest(Higher)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,249	375	3,624	-600	3,024	756	756
5 Chatburn	0	0	0	0	0	929	0	1,853	0	2,782	0	2,782	696	696
6 Chipping	0	40	48	37	0	0	0	3,915	0	4,040	0	4,040	998	1,010
7 Clitheroe	0	0	0	323	0	713	0	2,033	1,591	4,660	-323	4,336	1,084	1,084
8 Gisburn	0	0	0	465	0	0	0	1,360	1,430	3,255	-465	2,790	698	698
9 Grindleton	0	0	0	102	0	0	0	0	578	680	0	680	170	170
10 Longridge	0	0	120	0	0	3,932	0	3,090	0	7,141	0	7,141	1,755	1,785
11 Mellor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,813	0	2,813	-500	2,313	578	578
12 Newton in Bowland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	1,390	1,890	-600	1,290	323	323
13 Pendleton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	500	0	500	125	125
14 Ramsgreave	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	328	328	0	328	82	82
15 Read	0	0	0	0	0	195	1,326	97	612	2,229	0	2,229	557	557
16 Ribchester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	1,498	1,798	0	1,798	450	450
17 Rimington & Middop	0	0	0	222	0	0	0	0	54	276	-222	54	14	14
18 Sabden	400	0	0	128	0	0	164	815	4,000	5,507	0	5,507	1,377	1,377
19 Salesbury	0	0	0	156	0	15	0	0	0	171	0	171	43	43
20 Simonstone	0	0	0	0	0	347	177	375	735	1,633	0	1,633	408	408
21 Waddington	0	40	0	0	27	210	99	2,988	5,367	8,731	0	8,731	2,183	2,183
22 West Bradford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	632	590	1,222	0	1,222	305	305
23 Whalley	920	0	0	0	0	0	0	140	3,224	4,284	0	4,284	1,071	1,071
24 Wilpshire	0	0	0	270	0	0	0	2,316	4,145	6,731	0	6,731	1,683	1,683
25 Wiswell	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	574	0	574	144	144
Sub-Total	3,129	80	168	1,703	27	6,730	1,766	37,304	31,769	82,676	-3,415	79,260	19,776	19,818