

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
7 FEBRUARY 2020

PART I

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| Report Title | Report of the Rural Aid Spotlight Review Group Councillors Purser (Chairman), H Cox, Hocking, Nuttall, Tume. |
| Purpose of Report | To consider the findings of the Review Group, and recommend what savings can be made elsewhere in the overall budget to fund a Rural Aid grant as set out below. |
| Recommendation(s) | <p>Referring to the terms of reference detailed in paragraph 1.2 below the Committee RECOMMENDS to Executive:</p> <p>1) That the Rural Aid Grant continue and be included in the budget proposals 2020/21 to 2022/23 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The grant be £26,000.• Parishes in Teignbridge with a precept of £20,000 or less, with no more than 75% of the respective parish precept cash reserves be eligible to apply.• The maximum grant awarded be £2,000 per annum.• The grant be awarded primarily for tangible items only, such as new equipment, or building repair and refurbishment.• Applications be considered on their individual merit, taking into account Rural Aid grants awarded to Parish Councils in recent years. <p>2) Savings which can be made elsewhere in the overall budget to fund a Rural Aid grant as set out above.</p> |

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| Financial Implications | See paragraph 2.1 below Chief Finance Officer Email: martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk |
| Legal Implications | No direct legal implications. Solicitor and Monitoring Officer Email: Karen.Trickey@teignbridge.gov.uk |
| Risk Assessment | See paragraph 2.3 below Trish Corns Democratic Services Officer trish.corns@teignbridge.gov.uk |
| Environmental/ Climate Change Implications | See paragraph 2.4 below Environmental Protection Manager and Climate Change Email: David.Eaton@teignbridge.gov.uk |
| Report Author | Report of the Review Group Cllrs Purser (Chairman), H Cox, Hocking, Nuttall, Tume. Trish Corns Democratic Services Officer trish.corns@teignbridge.gov.uk |
| Portfolio Holder | Cllr Wrigley, Portfolio Holder Communities and IT |
| Background Papers | Minutes of Executive 7 January, 2020 Initial budget proposals 2020/21 to 2022/23 |

1. REPORT DETAIL

- 1.1 The Review Group met on 20 January, 2020. All Members of the Council were invited. Councillors Bullivant, Daws and Taylor were in attendance.
- 1.2 The term of reference for the Review Group was as follows:
To investigate an alternative scheme, with a reduced budget but which will assist rural parish councils, to be considered by Council as part of the budget process.
- 1.3 The Review Group gave consideration to Parish precepts 2019/20, Rural Aid grants awarded to Parish Council's in recent years, information on how parish councils utilise the fund, and written representations from members unable to attend the meeting.

2. IMPLICATIONS, RISK MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

2.1 Financial

The initial budget proposal 2020/21 to 2022/23 does not include a Rural Aid Grant. The grant has been £40,000 in previous years. A proposal adds additional expenditure of £26,000 to the formulated budget proposals and over 3 years creates an additional £78,000 of savings to be found. Alternative savings proposals will need to be identified

2.2 Legal

There are no legal implications.

2.3 Risks

Not all Parish Councils eligible to apply for grant will be successful, if all grants awarded are at the maximum amount of £2000.

2.4 Environmental/Climate Change Impact

The grant aid could assist Parishes in becoming more energy efficient such as funds towards a new Community building heating system.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Review Group considered alternative options on all issues. The group made recommendations as detailed above with their justifications for the recommendations after having considered alternative options.

4. CONCLUSION and JUSTIFICATION

The Review Group considers the Rural Aid grant is valuable financial assistance for rural communities. The proposed scheme at a reduced budget would continue to provide financial assistance, and offers a saving towards balancing the 2020/21 budget.

Councillors Purser (Chairman),
H Cox, Hocking, Nuttall, Tume.