
RURAL SERVICES GRANT

Committee: Commercial Services Committee

Date: 15 March 2016

Author: Director (Commercial & Corporate Services)

[Q218]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To consider the allocation of the Rural Services Grant of £122,000 announced for 2016/17 to fund rural initiatives within the District.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members are requested to:

- i) Approve the recommendation as set out in paragraphs 3.7-3.9 of this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 On 25 February 2016 Full Council (Ref: Agenda Item 12) approved the allocation of the £122,000 Rural Services Grant to be used to fund rural initiatives within the District and tasked Commercial Services Committee to create a framework that would enable the distribution of this Rural Services Grant.

3.2 Officers have reviewed the settlements that could potentially benefit from the Rural Services Grant. The Local Plan (2015) was used to identify these settlements.

3.3 The schedule at Appendix 1 provides information relating to individual settlements; area, local council, population (taken from the Local Plan (2015)), new dwellings, amount of CIL transferred to date, amount of CIL to be transferred in April 2016, amount of CIL to be transferred post April 2016 (invoiced issued but not yet received by ECDC) and the amount of CIL that is projected over the plan period.

3.4 The information at Appendix 1 allows the settlements to be split into three categories; category 1- no-low growth areas, category 2- low-moderate growth areas and category 3- high growth areas.

3.4.1 **Category 1- 28 settlements**

Aldreth, Ashely, Barway, Blackhorse Drove, Brinkley, Burrough Green, Chettisham, Chippenham, Coveney, Dullingham, Kennett, Kirtling and Upend,

Little Thetford. Lode and Longmeadow, Pymoor, Queen Adelaide, Reach, Snailwell, Stetchworth, Stuntney, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior, Upware, Wardy Hill, Wentworth, Westley Waterless, Witcham and Woodditton.

3.4.2 **Category 2- 14 settlements**

Bottisham, Cheveley, Fordham, Haddenham, Isleham, Little Downham, Newmarket Fringe, Mepal, Prickwillow, Stretham, Sutton, Wicken, Wilburton and Witchford.

3.4.3 **Category 3- 4 settlements**

Burwell, Ely, Littleport and Soham.

3.5 The intention of the Rural Services Grant is to provide communities with an opportunity to fund, in whole or in part, a scheme that will benefit the community. Settlements within category 3 will receive a higher level of CIL than those in category 1 and 2 and as such should not benefit from the Rural Services Grant and therefore the Rural Services Grant should only be available to settlements within categories 1 and 2.

3.6 There are 42 settlements within categories 1 and 2. 11 of these settlements do not have their own local council.

3.6.1 Settlements that do not have their own local council:

Settlement	Local Council
Aldreth	Haddenham Parish Council
Barway	Soham Town Council
Black Horse Drove	Littleport Parish Council
Chettisham	City of Ely Council
Newmarket Fringe	Cheveley Parish Council & Woodditton Parish Council
Prickwillow	City of Ely Council
Pymoor	Little Downham Parish Council
Queen Adelaide	City of Ely Council
Stuntney	City of Ely Council
Upware	Wicken Parish Council
Wardy Hill	Coveney Parish Council

3.7 It is recommended that the Rural Services Grant of £122,000 (once received by the District Council) is split equally between each of the 42 settlements, i.e. those within category 1 and 2 (above). The Rural Services Grant will be distributed to the local council of each individual settlement.

3.8 The settlements identified in 3.6.1 of this report do not have their own local council. Where there is an established community council the Rural Services Grant will be paid to the community council. Where there is no established

community council, the Rural Services Grant will be paid to the local council identified in 3.6.1 and the local council will spend the money only within the individual settlement. For example, Prickwillow, the local council is City of Ely Council. City of Ely Council can only spend the grant on community initiatives in Prickwillow.

3.9 The Rural Services Grant can only be spent on initiatives that benefit the community and each local council is required to submit an annual report to the District Council to demonstrate how the Rural Services Grant has been spent.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 £122,000 to be split equally between 42 settlements as set out in 3.7-3.9 of this report.

4.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) is not required.

5.0 APPENDICES

5.1 Appendix 1- Settlement Information

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Full Council- 25 February 2016- Agenda Item 12	Room 106, The Grange,	Emma Grima
Full Council- 25 February 2016- Agenda Item 12	Ely	Director (Commercial & Corporate Services)
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