

**Report to Concurrent Functions Cabinet Panel May 2015**

**Payment of 2015-16 Grants**

**Submitted by** Head of Finance

**Portfolio** Finance and Resources

**Wards Affected** All

**Purpose**

To recommend the amount of concurrent functions grant to be paid to Parishes for 2015/16.

**Recommendations**

- a) That the concurrent functions grants payable to Parishes for 2015/16 be considered and recommendations be made regarding the amounts to be paid to each Parish to enable the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources to decide the amounts payable.
- b) That recommendations be made with regard to the timing of the payment of the grants.

**Reason**

The Panel has been established to consider and recommend the amount of grant to be paid to each Parish, within the amount included in the General Fund Revenue Budget.

**1. Background**

1.1 Please refer to the previous item on your agenda.

**2. Issues**

2.1 Concurrent functions grants payable to Parishes are calculated by reference to the Parish council tax base multiplied by £4 (with the exception of Keele). The 2015/16 General Fund Revenue Budget makes provision for concurrent functions grants to be paid to Parishes as set out in the table below. These are the maximum amounts which can be paid. If it wishes, the Council can pay a lesser amount as there is no legal obligation for these payments to be made.

Parish	Grant 2015/16 (taxbase x £4)
Kidsgrove	25,548
Loggerheads	7,436
Audley	9,800
Betley, Balterley & Wrinehill	2,256
Chapel & Hill Chorlton	776
Keele *	2,000
Madeley	5,652
Maer	1,012
Whitmore	3,212
Silverdale	5,640
Total	63,332

\* Keele is based on a fixed amount of £2,000 unless £4 x tax base is greater

2.2 In previous years Parishes have been paid in full the amount of grant included in the revenue budget at the start of each financial year. In 2013/14 and 2014/15 Parishes have been required to supply details of their actual and forecast expenditure in respect of the grants paid to them by the Council. This information was requested on a quarterly basis to enable ongoing monitoring of their use of the grant. Now that a more closely monitored system will apply, the Panel needs to consider whether the full amount can be paid.

2.3 Henceforth, the payment of grant is dependent on Parishes providing evidence of whether the previous year's grant has been used in full and what it has been spent on. After considering this information, the Panel may decide to reduce the amount of grant payable (up to the amount of the shortfall in spend in the previous year or the amount of any inadmissible non-concurrent function spend). Whether a reduction is recommended on this account or for any other reason is up to the Panel to determine. It does not have to recommend a reduction (or a full reduction) if it feels that there are reasons why this should not be done. Ultimately the Panel is to decide upon the amount of grant to be recommended, taking account of whatever evidence it believes relevant.

2.4 Appendix 1 sets out for each Parish the amount of grant paid in 2014/15 and the use made of the grant. When considering whether the grant has been used to fund concurrent functions only, the guide is that these must be functions, the nature of which the Borough Council itself can carry out. In some cases the expenditure shown exceeds the amount of the grant paid to the Parish for the year and it is assumed that these Parishes have used reserves to finance the excess or they may have financed it out of their precept.

2.5 The panel may also wish to make recommendations as to the timing of the grant payments. Once the amount of grant payable for 2015/16 has been decided by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, this can be paid in full, immediately upon notification of the Portfolio Holder's decision. Alternatively, the grant may be paid in stages, say half immediately and half at a later date. In making recommendations as to timing of payments regard needs to be had to the cash flow implications for the Parishes.

### 3. Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.1 The payment of grant as set out at paragraph 2.1 is included in the 2015/16 revenue budget. If any of the 2015/16 grant to an individual Parish is permanently withheld this will constitute a saving to the Borough Council.

**3. Earlier Cabinet/Council Resolutions**

Cabinet 25 March 2015 – Establishment of Cabinet Panel

Council 25 February 2015 - Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Tax

Cabinet 14 January 2015 - Update on the Scrutiny Review of Concurrent Functions and Funding for Town/Parish councils

Cabinet 5 February 2014 - Parish/Town councils - Review of Concurrent Functions and Funding

**4. Appendices**

Appendix 1. Parish expenditure funded from Borough contribution 2014/15.

<b>Parish Expenditure Funded From Borough Council Contribution 2014/15</b>		
<b>Items of Expenditure</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure (01/04-31/03)</b>	<b>Contribution for Year</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Audley</b>		<b>9,692</b>
Contribution towards grass cutting 8 x toddler Play areas (16 cuts)	9,280	
Playground inspection monthly reports and litter picking	900	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>10,180</b>	
<b>Betley</b>		<b>2,264</b>
Memorial Gardens Maintenance	1,085	
Memorial Garden Planting	680	
Churchyard Maintenance	500	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,265</b>	
<b>Chapel and Hill Chorlton</b>		<b>744</b>
Landscape Grass Cutting	777	
Community Council	25	
OPCC fishing donation	50	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>852</b>	
<b>Keele</b>		<b>2,000</b>
Litter Collection Parish contribution 50%	746	
Yew tree maintenance - irrigation service/switch on/off	707	
war memorial grounds maintenance	260	
Keele Hawthorns Appeal	241	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,954</b>	
<b>Kidsgrove</b>		<b>25,036</b>
Caretaking, maintenance and services including power and water.	-	
Council Tax, Victoria Hall.	7,765	
Allotment Maintenance	1,050	
Decoration of Victoria Hall	14,902	
Barrier Planters	-	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>23,717</b>	
<b>Loggerheads</b>		<b>7,356</b>
Grass cutting, maintenance of recreation grounds	5,700	
Playgrounds (4) and bus shelters (2) inspection and maintenance	3,551	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>9,251</b>	
<b>Madeley</b>		<b>5,652</b>
April- Dec play area daily litter pick/inspection and swing security	1,261	
Monthly Bus shelters cleaning April - Dec Parish Council	783	
Damaged bus shelter Bevan Place (£935) New Rd (£250) - Parish Council	1,185	
Signs for play areas x 2	320	
Madeley Pools signs installation and supply (net)	245	
3 x Signs for Madeley pool and wording for 6 signs (net)	345	
Contribution towards enhanced Youth activities	3,872	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>8,011</b>	

Items of Expenditure	Actual Expenditure (01/04-31/03)	Contribution for Year
	£	£
<b>Maer</b>		<b>980</b>
April 2014 - War memorial landscape maintenance	180	
May 2014 - War memorial landscape maintenance	135	
July 2014 - War memorial landscape maintenance	135	
August 2014 - War memorial landscape maintenance	180	
October 2014 - War memorial landscape maintenance	90	
November 2014 - War memorial landscape maintenance	135	
December 2014 - War memorial landscape maintenance	225	
February 2015 - War memorial landscape maintenance	45	
March 2015 - War memorial landscape maintenance		
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,125</b>	
<b>Silverdale</b>		<b>4,960</b>
Park Rd Allotment Association	250	
Shelutions (Scot Hay Rd Bus Shelter)	2,874	
Broxap (Sear on The Parade at Silverdale)	542	
NBC (Installation of Bench)	102	
Shelutions (Silverdale Rd Bus Shelter)	3,714	
Shelutions ( Bus shelter on Bonfiglio Land - Silverdale Rd)		
PB Installations (Concrete base for above bus shelter)		
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>7,482</b>	
<b>Whitmore</b>		<b>3,232</b>
Maintenance of formal grass areas	3,952	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3,952</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,790</b>	<b>61,916</b>