

**Bolsover District Council**

**Council**

**9 January 2019**

**Council Tax Support Grant for Parish Councils**

**Report of Cllr B Watson, Portfolio Holder Finance and Resources and  
Renewable Energy**

This report is public

**Purpose of the Report**

- To seek Council approval to pay Parish Councils the remainder of the Council Tax Support Grant during 2019/20 rather than over two financial years as previously agreed.

**1 Report Details**

- 1.1 When Council Tax Support was introduced in 2013/14, the Council received a grant for this from the Government as part of their Revenue Support Grant (RSG), of which a proportional element was to be transferred to Parish Councils. During the first year this was £423,487. Given that RSG is scheduled to come to an end in 2019/20, it was agreed that this grant would be phased out with the final payment to be made during 2020/21. The total amount of grant remaining is £167,933. Council have previously agreed to pay the grant in line with the schedule in appendix 1.
- 1.2 Transfer of the grant is an administrative burden for the Council and receiving a different amount each year has proven confusing for Parish Councils. In order to alleviate both these issues and following consultation with Cabinet members, officers propose that the remainder of the grant be paid to Parish Councils during 2019/20 in line with the schedule in appendix 2. There is no additional cost to the Council of this proposal.

**2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the remainder of the Council Tax Support Grant of £167,933 be paid to Parish Councils during 2019/20 rather than over two financial years as previously agreed. This will alleviate the administrative burden on the Council and give certainty and clarity to Parish Councils.

**3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

- 3.1 Consultation has taken place with Cabinet members, many of whom also represent Parish Councils.

#### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 An alternative option would be to continue with the previously agreed scheme of paying the remainder of the grant over the two financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21 which has been rejected so that certainty and clarity is given to Parish Councils as well as reducing the administrative burden on the Council.

#### **5 Implications**

##### **5.1 Finance and Risk Implications**

- 5.1.1 These are considered throughout the report.

##### **5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection**

- 5.2.1 There are no Legal implications arising directly from this report.

##### **5.3 Human Resources Implications**

- 5.3.1 There are no Human Resources implications arising directly from this report.

#### **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 That Council approve to pay the remainder of the Council Tax Support Grant to Parish Councils in full during 2019/20, in line with the schedule in appendix 2.

#### **7 Decision Information**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</b>	Yes
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	All

8 **Document Information**

Appendix No	Title
1	Previously agreed schedule of payments to Parish Councils
2	Proposed schedule of payments to Parish Councils
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Report Author	Contact Number
Dawn Clarke – Head of Finance & Resources	7658