



**Subject:** Pennines Township Funds 2016/17      **Status:** For Publication

**Report to:** Pennines Township Delegated and Funding Sub Committee      **Date:** Monday, 4 July 2016

**Cabinet Member:** Cabinet Member for Neighbours and Community

**Report of:** Director of Neighbourhoods      **Author:** Sharron Worrall

**Author Email:** sharron.worrall@rochdale.gov.uk      **Tel:** Tel: 01706 924802

**Comments from Statutory Officers:**      Monitoring Officer: Yes/No  
Section 151 Officer: Yes/No

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Members to be updated on revenue and capital expenditure, commitments and balances of Pennines Township Funds 2016/17 and enable the allocation of funds to proposed projects.
- 1.2 Review of the Town Centre Fund and Shop Frontage Scheme and agree the future remit of the funds.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Committee note the expenditure, commitments and balances for Pennines Township revenue and capital funds in Appendix 1 and 2.
- 2.2 Members note decisions made under delegated authority as detailed in Appendix 3.
- 2.3 Committee notes the Principal Townships Officer has assessed proposed projects to be considered for funding against the criteria of the Pennines Township Fund, priorities of the Township and any specific risks have been identified (information detailed in Appendix 4).
- 2.4 Members consider and approve, defer or refuse the allocation of revenue and capital funds to proposed projects listed in Appendix 4.
- 2.5 The Principal Townships Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, be given delegated authority to make decisions on any deferred projects.
- 2.6 Members consider the suggestions for the Town Centre Fund and Shop Frontage Scheme in Appendix 5 and agree the future remit of the funds.

## **Reasons for recommendation**

- 2.7 Management of the Pennines Township Fund is delegated to the Pennines Township Delegated and Funding Sub Committee.
- 2.8 Pennines Township Funds are allocated to projects that benefit the Township's community and environment, and realise the Township's priorities.
- 2.9 To enable Committee to monitor and review the use of the Pennines Township's Funds to ensure continued efficient and effective use of the Township's Funds.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Members are asked to note expenditure, commitments and balances of Pennines Township's Funds 2016/17 in Appendix 1 and 2. Actual/committed spend for revenue funds is 34.55% and capital funds is 21.80%.
- 3.2 Delegated decisions will be reported for information to each Committee to ensure Members are aware of the projects that have been agreed within their Ward. Members are asked to note the decisions made under delegated arrangements since the last Committee in Appendix 3.
- 3.3 Projects have been identified for funding from Pennines Township's Funds 2016/17. Members are asked to decide whether to approve, reject or defer the allocation of revenue and capital funds to these proposed projects listed in Appendix 4.
- 3.4 To reduce the potential carry forward of funds during 2016/17, Members are asked to agree to the Principal Townships Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, being given delegated authority to make decisions on any deferred projects.
- 3.5 Pennines Township received funds of £25,000 in 2015/16 from Rochdale Council's Economic Affairs Unit for the purpose of assisting the town centres within the Township to grow, prosper and diversity. Grants were made available to support creative ideas and to generate increased business and interest in shopping at local town centres/high streets in Pennines Township and improvements to frontages of businesses. Members agreed at Pennines Township Delegated & Funding Sub Committee on 17 June 2015 to establish a Shop Frontage Scheme with £15,000 of the funds available. The Shop Frontage Scheme aimed to enhance the appearance and appeal of the main shopping areas in Littleborough and Milnrow with independent traders invited to apply for a grant of a maximum of £1,000 with the condition they provide match funding of a minimum of 50% of the grant required.

A launch event was held in Littleborough and Milnrow in August 2015 to provide an opportunity for local businesses to find out information about the grants available and discuss their ideas. In addition, the Town Centre Fund and Shop Frontage Scheme featured in the local press and online media in August and September 2015. These activities generated interest in the fund/scheme from the business and voluntary community, but limited completed applications have been received and only one project approved from the Town Centre Fund in 2015/16, ie Littleborough Food Festival 2016 awarded £3,250.

Members are asked to consider the suggestions as detailed in Appendix 5 and agree on the future remit of the Town Centre Funds. The Terms and Conditions and application forms will be amended, to reflect decisions made by Members, and provided to the Chair and Vice Chair for approval following the meeting.

## **Alternatives considered**

- 3.6 In considering the report, Members will decide whether or not to approve the allocation of funds to projects as appropriate.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Committee will receive regular reports to enable Members to monitor the use of the Pennines Township's Funds to ensure best use of available resources.
- 4.2 Township funds are monitored on a monthly basis and financial monitoring reports will be presented to future Committees.
- 4.3 Monitoring information will be provided to Public Health concerning its contribution of funds to Pennines Township. Projects that support improved physical, mental health and wellbeing of people in our local communities will be identified and reported to the Council's Public Health Team on a quarterly basis.

### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Under the Borough of Rochdale Compact with the voluntary sector the Council has made a commitment to consider the impact on service users of any changes to the funding arrangements for the voluntary sector and to provide them with at least three months' notice of any changes and liaise with them and any relevant stakeholders to mitigate the impact of reduced funding. Therefore, if members are inclined not to continue funding a the provision of a service provided by the voluntary sector, Members should be mindful of their obligations under the Compact.

### **6. Personnel Implications**

- 6.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

### **7. Corporate Priorities**

- 7.1 The purpose of the Township Funds is to enable Township Committees to meet their respective Township priorities and deliver actions to meet those priorities. This report asks Members to consider how Township Funds 2016/17 are allocated in order to do this.
- 7.2 The Vision and Blueprint for Rochdale Council retains Township Committees and will devolve a range of services to Township direction, managed through annual Township Plans which are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

### **8. Risk Assessment Implications**

- 8.1 There are no specific risk issues arising from this report.

### **9. Equalities Impacts**

#### **9.1 Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment**

There are no workforce equality issues arising from this report.

## 9.2 Equality/Community Impact Assessments

Careful consideration has been given to the potential equality impact of the proposed projects. No adverse impacts are expected and it is anticipated that the projects will benefit all sections of the community.

| <b>Background Papers</b> |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Document</b>          | <b>Place of Inspection</b> |
|                          |                            |