

<b>Cabinet Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda Item:</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	21 September 2015
<b>Report Title</b>	Members' Localism Grants
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Localism, Sport, Culture and Heritage
<b>SMT Lead</b>	Pete Raine
<b>Head of Service</b>	Emma Wiggins
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Brooke Buttfeld
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Classification</b>	Open
<b>Forward Plan</b>	<b>Reference number:</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	1. To distribute the rollover equally between all Members as per the original proposal put to Cabinet on 15 July 2015 and to reject the proposal from the Scrutiny Committee.

## **1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The report asks Cabinet to consider the proposal referred from Scrutiny Committee held on 9 September 2015 that only Members that had spent all their Member Localism Grant in 2014/15 and new Members have roll over grant distributed equally between them in 2015/16.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Cabinet considered the Financial Outturn report 2014/15 at its meeting on 15 July 2015. A resolution was made that the further revenue service rollovers from 2014/15, and the setting up of new reserves, as set out in Table 4 of Appendix I of that report, be approved.
- 2.2 This included a proposal to rollover £23,947 Members' Localism Grant from 2015/15 into 2015/16. This amount was broken down into £16,897 for projects that were already committed, £7,050 to distribute equally between Members, and £67 unallocated.
- 2.3 Cabinet agreed to this proposal, and the Financial Outturn report 2014/15.
- 2.4 At its meeting on 21 July the Scrutiny Committee identified two items within that resolution that they wanted the Cabinet to reconsider, and the Chairman agreed to call the items in. One was the proposal for Members' Localism Grants.

- 2.5 The call-in request was considered at the Scrutiny meeting on 9 September 2015. At that meeting the Committee asked the Cabinet to reconsider its decision and recommended the following: “That the £7,060 be allocated amongst new councillors and councillors who spent their full amount last year”.

### **3. Proposal**

- 3.1 To distribute the rollover equally between all Members as per the original proposal put to Cabinet on 15 July 2015, and to reject the proposal from the Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 The grant scheme is important to both Members and to the groups and activities it supports in the community. The rollover is a technicality to part-fund the 2015/16 Localism Grant Fund to ensure every member has the same level of funding as last year without calling further on Council Tax payers and, at the same time, ensuring a balanced budget.

### **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 To agree the proposal referred from Scrutiny Committee held 9 September 2015 that only Members that had spent all their Member Localism Grant in 2014/15 and new Members have roll over grant distributed equally between them in 2015/16. This is not recommended as this would risk returning to the previous position of Members or officers rushing to spend up to budget at end of the financial year, whether expenditure was in line with priorities or otherwise.

### **5. Consultation Undertaken or Proposed**

- 5.1 This report follows on from the consultation undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee.

### **6. Implications**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Corporate Plan	Members’ Localism Grants contribute towards the SBC corporate priority of ‘a Community to be Proud of’.
Financial, Resource and Property	£7,050 is available as rollover to be distributed. This equates to £140 per Member if distributed equally among all 47 Members, or £168 if the proposal is approved.
Legal and Statutory	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Crime and Disorder	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>

Sustainability	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Health and Wellbeing	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Risk Management and Health and Safety	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Equality and Diversity	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>

## **7. Appendices**

7.1 None.

## **8. Background Papers**

8.1 Cabinet 15 July 2015 report

<http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=1542&Ver=4>

8.2 Scrutiny Committee 21 July 2015 report

<http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=1589&Ver=4>

8.3 Scrutiny Committee 9 September agenda (Minutes will be added when finalised)

<http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=1590&Ver=4>