

REPORT

Cllr Brown: Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport

PARISH SKIP AND STREET CLEANSING GRANTS

1. Summary:

The purpose of the report is to suggest options for reducing the Parish Skip and Street Cleansing Grants to meet a revised budget target for 2005/2006.

It is necessary to review the criteria for allocating street cleansing grants because of population growth in several Parishes. Three options are put forward. The first is to withdraw the grant from some or all of the Town/Parish Councils receiving it. The second involves setting new population criteria for eligibility and dividing the reduced budget equally between those entitled to claim the grant. The third option is to offer the funding to the Area Committees for their discretionary fund for allocation to litter cleaning initiatives.

With regard to reducing the Parish skip grant budget three options are suggested. The first is to withdraw the grant completely, the second involves reducing the grant offered and the third involves reducing the grant and limiting it to the smaller Parishes.

2. Background:

- 2.1 When the budget for 2004/2005 was set Cabinet resolved to reduce the funding for grants which are offered to all Town and Parish Councils for refuse skips and seven Town and Parish Councils for additional street cleansing. The target is to reduce the overall skip and street cleansing grant budget by £10,000 from 2005/2006 onwards.
- 2.2 In suggesting options to achieve the required saving it has been assumed that each budget would be reduced by £5,000. However, there are a variety of ways of implementing the budget reduction. For example, there could be a large reduction in the street cleaning grant to compensate for a smaller reduction in the skip grant budget.

3. Street Cleansing Grant:

- 3.1 This is a fixed maximum sum of £1,932.00 per year and is currently made available to Amesbury and Wilton Town Councils and Downton, Durrington, Bulford, Mere and Tisbury Parish Councils. The grant has been in existence for a considerable period of time and the original basis of the scheme is not known.

- 3.2 The total budget for 2004/2005 is £12,500 and if the maximum grant was claimed by those entitled this would be exceeded. It is assumed that the budget will reduce to £7,500 from 2005/2006 onwards.
- 3.3 It is also necessary to consider reviewing the criteria for eligibility to grant. If it is based on population, using Tisbury as the baseline, there are now ten local councils which would be included based on the 2001 census figures.
- 3.4 There are a number of options for implementing the revised budget but the principal choices appear to be as follows.
- 3.4.1 Withdraw the grant from some or all of the Town/Parish Councils currently receiving it.
 - 3.4.2 Set new population criteria for eligibility, using Tisbury as the baseline and divide the revised budget equally between those entitled to claim.
 - 3.4.3 Divide the grant budget between the four Area Committees to be placed in their discretionary fund, to be bid for by Town/Parish Councils or voluntary groups for litter clearing initiatives.

4. Skip Grants:

- 4.1 The total budget for 2004/2005 is £13,640 and grant is made available to Town and Parish Councils on a sliding scale as follows.

Population	£
Up to 1,000	398
1,000 to 2,000	530
Over 2,000	662

- 4.2 Not all Parishes claim each year but, if they did, the budget would be overspent. As an indication of the level of take up of grant, claims for 2003/2004 were as follows.

Population band	Number of claims
Up to 1,000	35
1,000 to 2,000	1
Over 2,000	7

- 4.3 There are a number of options for revising the grant scheme, particularly as there are now two household waste recycling centres in the district, one at Salisbury and a new one at Amesbury. However, as total claims in 2003/2004 exceeded the budget by £3,000 it will be necessary to make significant amendments to the scheme to keep within a revised budget of £8,640.

4.4 Based on the number of claims received last year the principal options would seem to be as follows.

4.4.1 Withdraw the grant completely.

4.4.2 Have a standard grant of £200 irrespective of population. The estimated cost of this option is £8,600.

4.4.3 Reduce the grant to £245 and limit entitlement to Parishes of less than 1,000 population. The estimated cost of this option is £8,575.

4.5 Skip grant claims are currently approximately £80 per skip and the options suggested would therefore cover the cost of two to three skips per year.

5. Recommendation:

The Cabinet is requested to determine how the street cleaning and skip grant schemes should be amended to meet the revised budget target for 2005/2006.

6. Implications:

6.1 Financial: Depending on the option taken the amount of reduction in the budget will be different, however, any of the options suggested are likely to achieve the required budget reduction.

6.2 Legal: None

6.3 Personnel: None

6.4 Environmental: The street cleansing grant aims to encourage local involvement in litter control and the Parish skip grant is intended to help residents dispose of bulky waste.

6.5 Core values: Being environmentally conscientious

6.6 Wards affected: All wards