

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive

7th January 2010

Use of Performance Reward Grants

1 Purpose of the Report

To agree the principles for use of LAA Performance Reward Grants.

- 2 At the last Executive meeting we had a reasonable time to discuss the Performance Reward Grants and clearly around the table there was no single majority opinion about how best to use the money. There were a number of items that seemed to receive some acknowledgement, including affordable housing, economic opportunities and efficiency and innovation.
- 3 Since our last meeting the position on public finances have become even clearer. We know that the quantum of cash available is going to reduce. What we don't know is by how much and where it is going to hit the hardest. Any sensible commentator would see that Local Government will be a target and within Local Government whilst certain services may well be ring fenced or given some preferential treatment much of Local Government's responsibilities will be subject to a reduction in overall public sector grant.
- 4 At the same time as the reduction in grant there will be no let up on the demand for those public services. The key ones on the street will be environmental issues, policing, making sure that children are properly educated and have opportunity, and particularly for North Yorkshire the ever increasing number of vulnerable older people who live here and who will be calling off services particularly from adult care and health but also the rest of the services that District Councils have to offer.
- 5 My conclusion having talked to the County Council's Executive here and listened to a number of people as well as our own meetings is that we should be pragmatic about the available cash. Remembering it is a one off pot of money that should be used at this particular time to support the real priorities of the Thematic Partnerships, our Thematic Partnerships embrace all of our corporate bodies and our agreed countywide priorities. If the money is invested through the Thematic Partnerships then everyone in the county benefits from the reward. This will include citizens by giving service providers and appropriate groups some financial incentives. The local third sector and LSPs who are part of the priorities of particular Thematic Partnerships will also benefit.
- 6 Therefore my proposal is that we seek approval to allocate 10% to the third sector through the York and North Yorkshire Community Foundation (to create an endowment fund) and that the remaining is allocated to the Thematic Partnerships where the reward has been generated.

- 7 I appreciate that this is the position is largely where I think I was in October but I have given a good deal of thought to the alternatives but I can personally see no option but to reinforce our agreed key priorities and make sure that that money is used to drive innovation and efficiency. The control over the allocation and indeed monitoring the outcomes should be the responsibility of the NYSP Executive.

8 Recommendation

That the NYSP Executive recommends to the County Council that the LAA Performance Reward Grants should be allocated:

- 10% to the third sector through the York and North Yorkshire Community Foundation (to create an endowment fund)
- 90% to the Thematic Partnerships where the reward has been generated

with the NYSP Executive having responsibility for control over the allocations and monitoring the outcomes.

John Marsden
Chief Executive, North Yorkshire County Council
Chair, NYSP Executive

17 December 2009