

**Agenda item 16a**

Shropshire Council  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY2 6ND

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear,

**REVISED ENVIROMENTAL MAINTENANCE GRANT**

Following the revision of the Environmental Maintenance grant please find attached the revised application form.

In line with the recommendations from this Council's Task and Finish Group which were presented to Scrutiny on 27/17/2017 and subsequently endorsed by Cabinet on 13/12/2017, the application criteria and approval process for the allocation of the Environmental Maintenance Grant ("the Grant") has substantially changed this year. The detail of the changes are as set out below and in addition please see the report that was agreed at the Council's cabinet meeting via the following link -

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MID=3666>

This year, the Grant will only be available to Parish and Town Councils who have a population of less than 10,000. Any Parish and Town councils who apply for the Grant where they have greater than this number of residents will not be considered as recipients for the Grant.

The total Grant budget has been reduced from £150,000 per annum to £75,000. This means that the maximum annual grant available to be applied for is now £1,500. It is a requirement that any Parish/Town Council wishing to apply for the grant must be in a position to provide match funding at a minimum of 1:1; therefore, if the activity you wish to undertake under the grant will cost £1000 you will be required to also pay a minimum of £500 towards the total cost and a grant of £500 applied for. Applicants must be able to provide evidence that they can provide the required minimum match funding. Any application where the match funding offered by an applicant is greater than 1:1 will be scored higher when assessed. If the activity is to be carried out over several years Shropshire Council may agree annual payments up to 2020/21. This approach may allow for multiyear contracts to be sought by applicants and therefore provide opportunity for greater savings to be achieved.

The criteria which must be met in order to be eligible for the Grant is

- Maximum amount of Grant available is £1,500 per annum
- The applicants must have a population of less than 10,000
- Applicants must provide match funding
- Works may only be undertaken on Shropshire Council land

- Applicants must demonstrate value for money i.e. collaborative contract arrangements, creates social value etc and the application will be scored accordingly
- The Grant must not be used to top up core budgets

In addition to being able to comply with the above criteria, applicants must also demonstrate how their use of the Grant will contribute to the following:

- supporting Shropshire Council's status as a Level 3 Asset Management Authority i.e. by conducting works which will increase the life span of the highway by, for example, clearing gullies, drains and ditches to eradicate standing water;
- the betterment of existing services;
- increasing highway safety;
- enhancing the local economy e.g. tourism;
- the use of volunteers;
- the Shropshire pound

If you are unable to evidence and meet the above criteria we politely ask you to reconsider applying as we will be unable to approve the application.

Should you have any queries relating to this matter, or if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team.

Yours sincerely

**Steve Brown**

Highways, Transport & Environmental Maintenance Commissioning Manager

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