

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

DECISION

meeting date: 24 AUGUST 2021  
title: RECREATION/ARTS DEVELOPMENT, SPORTS AND ARTS GRANTS  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE

**1 PURPOSE**

1.1 To present the recommendations of the working group in relation to a second tranche allocation of grants under Recreation/Culture/Arts Development, and Individual Arts Excellence grants.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To be well-managed Council providing efficient and responsive services based on identified customer need.
- Corporate Priorities - To make people's lives safer and healthier and more specifically to increase peoples' opportunities to access cultural activities and improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Other Considerations – None

**2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The purpose of Recreation/Culture and Arts Development grants is to provide organisations with support for projects which enhance recreational and cultural provision as well as helping arts organisations with activities which have a specific arts focus.

2.2 The Council's Arts Excellence grants seek to assist talented young people in their chosen performing art, helping towards the expenses associated with competition, training and equipment.

**3 ISSUES**

3.1 The number of grants awarded in March 2021 across all categories was lower this year due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic with less participation in activities and events not yet taking place. It was suggested that a second tranche of funding be made available later in the year with a 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline of 31 July 2021.

3.2 Committee set up a member working group to consider the applications and to make recommendations for awards.

3.6 That group was made up of Councillors Newmark, Atkinson, Alcock and Robinson and it met on 10 August 2021 to measure the applications received against the qualification criteria set by this committee under each heading.

3.7 The group was advised by your Arts Development Officer, Democratic Services Administration Officer and the Head of Culture and Leisure Services.

3.8 Every application was discussed/debated and the conclusions reached at the end of the group's deliberations form the recommended awards included in the appendices 1 – 3. It is worth noting that, although there was debate about the relative merits of some applications, the group was satisfied at the conclusion of the process with the overall balance of its recommendations.

#### 4 FINANCE

4.1 Listed below are the sums available for distribution, categorised by grant:

| <b>Grant</b>         | <b>AVAILABLE BUDGET LEFTOVER AFTER 1<sup>ST</sup> TRANCHE<br/>£</b> |
|----------------------|---|
| Recreation & Culture | 7,276   |
| Arts Excellence      | 3,530   |
| Arts Development     | 3,620   |

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – the following sums are available for distribution:  
Recreation / Culture and Arts Development £41,692 + £4,620  
Sporting Excellence £3,940  
Arts Excellence £5,780  
The distribution recommended by the working group is within budget.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – A grant condition is that awards must be to residents and organisations which primarily benefit residents of the Ribble Valley.
- Political – none identified
- Reputation – the grant programme is well received in the communities of the Ribble Valley and gives the Council an opportunity to support a range of organisations and individuals who otherwise might not be able to access public funds.

#### 5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

Endorse the recommendations of the working group outlined in appendices 1 - 3 as attached to this report.

MARK BEVERIDGE  
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

Applications forms.

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge, extension 4479.