

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

DECISION

meeting date: 9 MARCH 2022  
title: RECREATION & CULTURE / ARTS DEVELOPMENT, SPORTS AND  
ARTS EXCELLENCE 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 the allocation of grants under Recreation/Culture/Arts Development, Individual Sporting Excellence, 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 Sporting Excellence grants seek to assist talented young sports people in their chosen sport, helping towards the expenses associated with competition, training and equipment.

2.3 Arts Excellence grants are similar to Sporting Excellence and are awarded to people in the performing arts.

**3 ISSUES**

3.1 The number of grants awarded across all categories has increased again this year following the Covid-19 pandemic and the situation broadly returning to 'normal'.

3.2 It is encouraging to see the range of grants for different projects in the recreational and arts sectors that have been submitted with a good spread across the whole of the Borough.

3.3 Although the scale of grants is relatively low in monetary value, compared to say the lottery, they are none the less very well received by the individuals and organisations in receipt of them.

- 3.4 The ease of application and relative speed with which organisations receive an answer often helps where the Council funding is a part of a larger basket of funding being put together. This pump prime effect and the added boost they provide cannot be overestimated. These grants often provide the additionality required by organisations which help them to get funds from national schemes.
- 3.5 Of the 40 applications received for Arts Excellence grants, 17 achieved the standard set out in the criteria required to receive a grant. The remaining ones will be encouraged to continue to pursue their activity and perhaps receive grant aid in the future.
- 3.6 All 21 applicants who applied under the sporting excellence grant scheme were at least competing at County level and are therefore all recommended to be awarded a grant according to the criteria.
- 3.7 Committee set up a member working group to consider the applications and to make recommendations for awards.
- 3.8 That group was made up of Councillors Newmark, Atkinson, Alcock and Robinson and it met on 22 February 2022 to measure the applications received against the qualification criteria set by this committee under each heading.
- 3.9 The group was advised by your Sports Development Officer, Art Development Officer, Democratic Services Officer and the Head of Culture and Leisure Services.
- 3.10 The group was impressed with the quality of many of the applications but recognised – as in previous years – the difficulty of allocating limited resources by assessing comparative values of (for the most part) applications that deserve more support than the Council can give.
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 Five applications made to the Voluntary Organisations Grant scheme were transferred to the Recreation grant scheme as they fell better under this heading. However, none of these applications qualified under the criteria.
- 3.12 Of the Arts Development applications, further evidence is required in some cases before a decision can be reached. These will come to a future meeting of committee.
- 3.13 There were several schemes/events in 2020/21 that were postponed due to the Covid pandemic and as such their monies were requested to be carried forward into 2021/22. These grants will all be paid out before the end of the current financial year.

#### 4 FINANCE

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

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Original Budget 2022/23 £</b>	<b>Reserves Balance £</b>	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE BUDGET £</b>
Recreation & Culture	31,140	0	31,140

Sporting Excellence	3,720	220	3,940
Arts Excellence	4,280	580	4,860

4.2 Summarised below are the number of applications received for each grant category along with total value of the applications.

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Number of Applications Received</b>	<b>Total Value of Allocations</b>
Recreation and Culture	19 Rec + 5 passed from Vol Orgs	£31,140
Sporting Excellence	21	£3,900
Arts Excellence	40	£4,775

#### 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 - £31,140  
Sporting Excellence - £3,940  
Arts Excellence - £4,860  
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.