

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: 14th MARCH 2023
title: RECREATION/CULTURE, SPORTS AND ARTS GRANTS
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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.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To be a 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 specially to increase peoples' opportunities to access cultural activities and improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Other Considerations – Some of the grants provide a multiplier impact as the organisations receiving a Council grant are able to match fund with other external sources.

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

- 3.2 Although the scale of grants is relatively low in monetary value, compared to say the lottery, they are none the less well received by the individuals and organisations in receipt of them.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Of the 46 applications received for Arts Excellence grants, 15 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 may perhaps receive grant aid in the future.
- 3.5 All 16 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. Further applications were received after the closing date which were not awarded funding.
- 3.6 Committee set up a member working group to consider the applications and to make recommendations for awards.
- 3.7 That group is made up of Councillors Newmark, Atkinson, Alcock and Fletcher and it met on 28 February 2023 to measure applications received against the qualification criteria set by this committee under each heading.
- 3.8 The group was advised by the Councils' Sports Development Officer, Arts Development Officer and the Head of Cultural and Leisure Services.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Every application was discussed/debated and the conclusions reached at the end of the group's deliberations form the recommended awards included in the appendixes 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.
- 3.11 Five applications made to the Voluntary Organisations Grant scheme were transferred to the Recreation grants scheme. One scheme is being put forward to be offered funding.

4. FINANCE

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

Grant	Original budget 2023/24 £	Reserve balance £	Total available budget £
Recreation and Culture including Arts Development	34,740	3,100	37,840

Grant	Original budget 2023/24 £	Reserve balance £	Total available budget £
Sporting Excellence	3,720	40	3,760
Arts Excellence	4,280	85	4,365

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

Grant	Number of Applications Received	Total Value of Allocations
Recreation and Culture inc Arts Development	14 + 5 passed from Voluntary Organisations	£37,400
Sporting Excellence	17	£3,650
Arts Excellence	46	£4050

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:-

- Resources – the following sums are available for distribution:
Recreation and Culture - £37,840
Sporting Excellence - £ 3,760
Arts Excellence - £ 4,365
- 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.
- Equality and Diversity – the grant scheme is open to all and people from all sectors will benefit from the grants proposed to be distributed.

6. 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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Application Forms

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