

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: 28 MAY 2024
title: RIBBLE VALLEY IN BLOOM GRANTS
submitted by: ADAM ALLEN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF SERVICE, CULTURAL & LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the recommendations of the working group in relation to the allocation of grants for Ribble Valley in Bloom 2024.
- 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 can match fund with other external sources.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The purpose of Ribble Valley in Bloom Grants is to provide organisations with support for projects which enhance environmental aspects of their area.
- 2.2 The grant budget although small can be applied for by Parish and Town Councils as well as other constituted groups which are seeking to improve the local environment through a planting scheme.

3. ISSUES

- 3.1 It is encouraging to see how many communities in the Borough are taking such a pride in their local area, much of the work is carried out by volunteers, who do a tremendous amount, much of which goes unrecognised by the people who benefit from their work.
- 3.2 The scale of grants available is low in value, the overall budget is less than £2000, however the Council is one of the few organisations which recognise the importance of the work of volunteers to help in enhancing the environment of the Borough through flowers and shrubs and contributes financially to this work.

- 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. These grants often provide the additionality required by organisations which help them to get funds from national schemes.
- 3.4 Of the 13 applications received for funding, all have received an amount of the sum they requested. On average around 65% of the sum requested.
- 3.5 This Committee has set up a member working group to consider grant applications and to make recommendations for awards to the Committee.
- 3.7 That group is made up of Councillors Newmark, Robinson, Alcock, Street and Barnsley and an email was sent to all councillors on 20 February 2024 to elicit a response on the proposals for grant offers.

4. FINANCE

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

Grant	Original budget 2024/25 £	Reserve balance £	Total available budget £
Ribble Valley in Bloom	1,370	0	1,370
Christmas Lights	690	0	690
Total	2,060	0	2,060

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

Grant	Number of Applications Received	Total Value of Applications
	13	£2045

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Resources – the following sums are available for distribution:

	Original Budget 2024/25
Ribble Valley in Bloom	£1,370
Christmas Lights	<u>£690</u>
Total	£2,060

- 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

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

ADAM ALLEN
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Application Forms

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

Appendices

Proposed Grant Awards