

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

DECISION

meeting date: 9th MARCH 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 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 is 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 2nd deadline of 31 August 2021.

3.2 However, 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 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 Edge (substituting for Cllr Newmark), Atkinson, Alcock and Robinson and it met on 23 February 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 Sports Development Officer, Art Development Officer, Democratic Services Administration Officer and the Head of Culture and Leisure Services.
- 3.8 The group felt that an added bonus of £100 per applicant for this year only under the excellence grant schemes should be applied to enable the young people 'returning' to their activity post Covid.
- 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 It was agreed that grants should also be paid to those applicants requesting grant aid for coaching for one-year only as a 'back to sport participation' incentive following the Covid pandemic. These applications are not normally supported as they are a revenue cost.
- 3.11 Every application was discussed/debated (some more vigorously than others) 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 The table showing the payments made under the Recreation/Art Development scheme in 2020/21 is shown at Appendix 4. There were several schemes/events that were postponed due to the Covid pandemic and as such their monies are requested to be carried forward into 2021/22 to fund them (shown in red).

4 FINANCE

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

Grant	Original Budget 2021/22 £	Reserves Balance £	TOTAL AVAILABLE BUDGET £
Recreation & Culture	31,140	10,552	41,692
Sporting Excellence	3,720	220	3,940

Arts Excellence	4,280	1,500	5,780
Arts Development	3,000	1,620	4,620

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

Grant	Number of Applications Received	Total Value of Applications £
Recreation, Culture and Arts Development	12	£35,816
Sporting Excellence	8	2,300
Arts Excellence	9	3,150

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 if 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 including the carry forward of monies outlined in appendix 4.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Applications forms.

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