

North Lanarkshire Council

Report

Policy and Strategy Committee

approval noting

Ref LMcM/EW

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Grant Awards Programme

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Executive Summary

The Grant Awards Programme seeks to support community and voluntary organisations' contribution towards achieving outcomes included in the *Plan for North Lanarkshire*.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Policy and Strategy Committee firstly with an overview of the organisations requesting funding for 2019–2020 and seek approval of recommendations for grant awards, and secondly to seek approval to explore the establishment of a commissioning approach to funding third sector community organisations as an alternative to the current arrangements, particularly for anchor third sector community organisations currently in receipt of significant levels of grant funding.

Reports on the grant awards programme would usually be considered by the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee. However, due to the recent budget decision to reduce funding for the programme by 20%, and the consequential impact of this on third sector community organisations, it was considered prudent to reach a position to be able to inform applicants prior to 1st April 2019, as to the outcome of their application.

The report also sets out the funding award allocations for Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL) and clubsportnl, to which a 20% reduction has been applied.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee:-

- (1) approve the funding recommendations for the 2019-2020 grant awards programme, VANL and clubsportnl as outlined in Appendix 1 of this report;
 - (2) approve the review of the programme to explore the establishment of a commissioning framework to replace the current programme together with a small grants scheme to support participatory budgeting;
 - (3) authorise the Head of Communities to prepare a report on the proposed scope of review and submit to a future meeting of the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee; and
 - (4) authorise the Head of Communities to prepare a revised Service Level Specification with VANL and submit this to a future meeting of the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee for consideration.
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Supporting Documents

The Plan for North Lanarkshire The Council's Grant Awards Programme supports all five of the priorities together with the following high level of ambition statements in particular:-

Ambition 19: Improve engagement with Communities and delivery their capacity to help themselves.

Appendix 1 Discretionary Funding to Support Voluntary and Community Organisations – Annual Funding Recommendations 2019-2020

1. Background

1.1 Grant Awards Programme

At its meeting on 20 August 2013, the former Learning and Leisure Services Committee approved the arrangements for the introduction of the Grant Awards Programme together with an associated scoring system against which all applications are assessed.

1.2 Grant Awards Programme – Budget 2019/20

At its meeting on 21st February 2019 the council approved a package of budget reductions which included a reduction in the Grant Awards Programme budget of 20% (£162,169). The budget available to support the 2019/20 programme is £648,678.

2. Report

2.1 Grant Awards Programme 2019/20

A total of 71 applications have been received for the 2019–2020 programme, 12 of which are new applications to the programme. At this stage 53 applications have been scored and the remaining 18 (including 2 new applicants) are still under consideration. The outcome of these assessments will be the subject of a report to a future meeting of the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee.

All applications are assessed by council officers then scored by a panel comprising; officers from council services and the third sector interface (VANL). The scoring system which, along with the findings from the assessments and ongoing monitoring, informs prioritisation of the applications in relation to their impact on addressing council priorities and public sector equality duties

2.2 Applications from Currently Funded Organisations

Recommendations for currently funded organisations have been made on the following basis:-

- Scores of 1 to 3 – a reduction in their current funding of 22%
- Scores of 4 and above – a reduction in their current funding of 26%

Of the 43 applications in this category, 38 scored 1 to 3 (88%) and 5 scored 4 or more (12%).

2.3 **New Applicants**

Each year the Council receives applications from organisations which are new to the programme.

Recommendations for new applicants have been made as follows:-

- Scores of 1 to 3 – awards 15% of request
- Scores of 4 and above – no award

Of the 10 applications in this category, 6 have scored 1 to 3 and 4 have scored 4 or more.

2.4 **Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire**

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire is the third sector interface (TSI) organisation operating within North Lanarkshire. In a similar way to 22 other local authority areas in Scotland, VANL operates as an umbrella organisation providing information, advice and support to the third sector (voluntary groups/organisations and volunteers). VANL also represents and facilitates representation from the third sector in community planning. The strategic aims for VANL are to:-

- maximise volunteering;
- build the capacity of individuals and communities in North Lanarkshire;
- develop the confidence of the voluntary sector;
- develop confidence in the voluntary sector; and
- develop the social and economic impact of the sector.

The recommended level of funding for VANL for 2019/20 is £189,261 reflecting the recent Council budget decision.

2.5 **clubsportnl**

clubsportnl is a North Lanarkshire organisation comprising all of the former sports councils within North Lanarkshire. It provides a 'one stop shop' to support the voluntary sport sector. The organisation assists its member clubs to achieve their aims and objectives through the provision of a wide range of services.

The following services are provided by clubsportnl and monitored by the Council on an annual basis:-

- the provision of small grants to member organisations in respect of development, competition and equipment;
- the provision of financial support to talented athletes to compete at international competition via scholarships;
- access, for members, to reduced cost transport;
- free generic training opportunities for members, and
- support for member organisations to improve their governance through the provision of information, advice and training.

It is proposed that the Council allocate £11,200 to clubsportnl reflecting the recent Council budget decision. Accordingly, a revised Service Level Specification will be developed for 2019-20

2.6 Review of Grant Awards Programme – Third Sector Commissioning and Community Empowerment

The current approach taken to grant giving is now out of step with the Council's drive to achieve inclusive growth through involvement of communities and citizens in planning, self-determination and delivery of services and outcomes through empowerment mechanisms such as; participation requests and participatory budgeting in line with Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 duties, the Fairer Scotland Action Plan and more general public service reform.

North Lanarkshire's community organisations, supported by Council funding, contribute significantly to the Plan for North Lanarkshire priorities and ambitions through the provision of, for instance; adult learning, youth work, transport, health and wellbeing, employability, social care, arts, sport and physical activity. Such services, much valued by communities, are delivered by organisations who are vulnerable to public sector budget pressures, and are as a consequence unable to plan ahead.

In order to strengthen the Council's vital relationship with third sector community organisations it is proposed to explore a new approach comprising a commissioning model for 'anchor third sector community organisations' with a small grants programme sitting alongside as part of the Participatory Budgeting Framework.

3. Equality and Diversity

3.1 Fairer Scotland

An integrated Fairer Scotland/Equality Impact assessment on the budget saving option to reduce the funding for the Grant Awards programme was carried out and published on the Council's website. Higher scoring applications as assessed have been prioritised in terms of the funding allocations.

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

An integrated Fairer Scotland/Equality Impact assessment on the budget saving option to reduce the funding for the Grant Awards programme was carried out and published on the Council's website. Higher scoring applications as assessed have been prioritised in terms of the funding allocations.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Impact

Details of grant award applications assessed to date and recommendations, are listed in Appendix 1. These total £547,091 set against a total budget of £648,678.

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

None

4.3 **Environmental Impact**

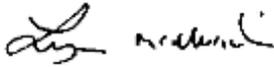
Many of the organisations funded via the Grant Awards programme deliver programmes/services that impact positively on the environment of North Lanarkshire communities.

4.4 **Risk Impact**

None

5. **Measures of success**

5.1 Outcomes delivered by the Grant Funded Organisations meet those set out in their applications and assessed.



Lizanne McMurrich
Head of Communities

GRANT AWARDS PROGRAMME 2018-2019

DISCRETIONARY FUNDING TO SUPPORT VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS – ANNUAL FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2018-2019

Organisations currently funded or previous applicant	Area or Locality	2018-19 Award	2019-2020 Request	2019-2020 Recommendation
Airdrie Craft Group	Airdrie	£2,503	£5,424	£1,952
Bazooka Arts	NL Wide	£6,813	£42,836	£5,314
Bellshill & Mossend YMCA	Bellshill	£18,783	£25,000	£14,651
Craigneuk Lifelong Learning Association	Motherwell	£26,990	£37,000	£19,973
Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland – Lanarkshire Team	NL Wide	£2,075	£7,500	£1,536
Deafblind Scotland	NL Wide	£4,582	£4,666	£3,574
Elutheria Ltd.	Coatbridge	£16,621	£50,000	£12,964
Family Mediation West	NL Wide	£6,446	£10,000	£4,770
Focus Youth Project	Bellshill	£149,590	£149,590	£116,680
Glenboig Development Trust	North	£17,002	£50,000	£13,262
Glencassels Community Development Project	Motherwell	£16,948	£40,670	£13,219
Headway North Lanarkshire	NL Wide	£4,521	£6,179	£3,527
Jackson Youth Club	Airdrie	£1,130	£4,500	£1,000
Kilsyth Old People's Welfare Committee	North	£1,000	£2,000	£1,000
Kirkshaws Neighbourhood Centre	Coatbridge	£67,314	£67,314	£52,505
LAMH Recycle Ltd.	Motherwell	£13,488	£34,766	£10,520
Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust	NL Wide	£6,497	£15,900	£5,068
Lanarkshire Chinese Association	NL Wide	£1,433	£2,000	£1,060
Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Partnership	NL Wide	£15,061	£49,930	£11,748
Lanarkshire Deaf Club	NL Wide	£7,988	£25,678	£6,231
Lanarkshire Ethnic Minority Action Group	NL Wide	£1,410	£2,500	£1,100
Lanarkshire Hindu Welfare Association	NL Wide	£1,002	£2,250	£1,000
Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre	NL Wide	£8,916	£19,425	£6,393
Lead Scotland	NL Wide	£34,579	£35,760	£26,972
Longriggend Village Association	Airdrie	£3,290	£4,800	£2,566
MADE4U IN ML2	Wishaw	£18,802	£50,000	£14,666
Nifty Fifties	Coatbridge	£1,000	£2,000	£1,000
North Lanarkshire Disability Access Panel	NL Wide	£1,717	£2,000	£1,339
North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance	NL Wide	£6,319	£8,700	£4,929
One Parent Families Scotland	NL Wide	£1,379	£43,400	£1,076
Parent Action for Safe Play	Coatbridge	£56,843	£56,843	£44,338

Organisations currently funded or previous applicant	Area or Locality	2018-19 Award	2019-2020 Request	2019-2020 Recommendation
Parkinson's Self Help Group (Motherwell)	Motherwell	£5,762	£9,000	£4,494
Parkinson's Self Help Group (North Lanarkshire)	Airdrie	£9,128	£9,128	£7,120
Radio Clyde Cash for Kids	NL Wide	£4,712	£10,000	£3,675
Reeltime Music	NL Wide	£13,123	£35,000	£10,236
Relationships Scotland – Lanarkshire Couple Counselling	NL Wide	£1,542	£3,000	£1,203
Scottish Waterways Trust	North	Nil	£20,240	Nil
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland	NL Wide	£3,639	£7,500	£2,838
St Aidan's Youth Club	Wishaw	£1,000	£6,000	£1,000
The Haven Caring Counselling Communication Centre	NL Wide	£3,686	£20,122	£2,875
Utheo Ltd.	Bellshill	£62,078	£62,000	£48,421
Viewpark Family Centre Association	Bellshill	£26,078	£50,000	£20,341
VIP Arts and Sports Academy	Bellshill	£7,280	£50,000	£5,678
Total				£513,814
New Applicants				
New Applicants	Area or Locality	2018-19 Award	2019-2020 Request	2019-2020 Recommendation
Airdrie Citizens Advice Bureau	Airdrie	n/a	£30,537	£4,581
Crossreach	NL Wide	n/a	£7,281	Nil
Enable Scotland	NL Wide	n/a	£40,421	£6,063
Garrion People's Housing Co-operative	Wishaw	n/a	£42,600	£6,390
Getting Better Together – Shotts Healthy Living Centre	Wishaw	n/a	£42,000	£6,300
Lanarkshire Recovery Consortium (REACH Advocacy)	NL Wide	n/a	£35,000	Nil
Make and Create Arts	Airdrie	n/a	£2,940	Nil
ML2 Action Sports Group (Socialtrack)	Motherwell	n/a	£49,620	£7,443
Ponies Help Children	NL Wide	n/a	£10,000	£1,500
Voice of Experience Forum	NL Wide	n/a	£3,824	£1,000
Total				£33,277

Organisation	Area or Locality	2018-2019 Award	2019-2020 Recommendation
Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire	NL Wide	£236,576	£189,261
clubsportnl	NL Wide	£14,000	£11,200