

Approval of Voluntary Sector Grants 2022 to 2025**Report by Joan Tranent, Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities****Report for Decision****1 Recommendations**

Council is recommended to make a decision on how the allocation of Voluntary Sector Grants for 2022-2025 are approved. The scoring panel who will assess and recommend allocations consists of council officers, cross party group of elected members and third sector representatives.

The two options proposed for approving grants are:

- a) To delegate responsibility for approving allocations to this sub group with a report to Council for noting

OR

- b) A report with recommendations from this sub group submitted to Council for approval

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

This report is asking Council to approve how voluntary sector grants are allocated and approved.

The current scheme of voluntary sector grant applications is scored by a panel of Council officers, cross party group of elected members, community and third sector representatives. This is in line with the TRACK principles of the Midlothian Compact. Following this process, a report with recommendations is submitted to Council for approval.

Council are asked to consider delegating responsibility for the approval of all large, small and community council grants to this sub group of officers, cross-party elected members and third sector/community representatives, with a report to Council for noting.

03 June 2021

Report Contact:

Karen McGowan 07990 136821
karen.mcgowan@midlothian.gov.uk

3 Background/Main Body of Report

- 3.1** The existing voluntary sector grants scheme ends on 31 March 2022 (see Appendix 1) and a new three year scheme will come into operation from April 2022 to March 2025
- 3.2** Small, large and Community Councils grants are the only grant streams included in this proposal (Appendix 2). The procedure for all other grant streams will continue in the current format.
- 3.3** Monitoring, scrutiny and support from officers will be reviewed and continued in order to meet the requirements of the Financial Regulations.
- 3.4** Consultation with key stakeholders has been undertaken on some aspects of the grants scheme. A small working group consisting of council officers, cross party elected members, community and third sector reps has been set up to use this feedback to review the outcomes, guidance, application forms and scrutiny arrangements for the new 3 year grant funding streams.
- 3.5** This working group will form the scoring panels for assessing all grant applications. This will ensure greater transparency, availability of a wider range of knowledge and expertise and more robust scoring of applications to ensure best value.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

None – funding has already been allocated within the Council budget. Elected members and officers time will be required.

4.2 Digital

None

4.3 Risk

None

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

This report does not recommend any fundamental change to policy or practice and therefore does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Background information/Links

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Insert text here

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- ☒ Holistic Working
- ☐ Hub and Spoke
- ☐ Modern
- ☐ Sustainable
- ☐ Transformational
- ☐ Preventative
- ☐ Asset-based
- ☒ Continuous Improvement
- ☐ One size fits one
- ☐ None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- ☒ One Council Working with you, for you
- ☐ Preventative and Sustainable
- ☐ Efficient and Modern
- ☐ Innovative and Ambitious
- ☐ None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

Best value delivery is a core principle of the Midlothian Council grants process.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The 2022-2025 Voluntary Sector Grants programme has been the product of engagement with community and third sector organisations. A survey on small changes to the grants stream is currently under consultation and will determine how the applications forms, scoring criteria and guidance is improved.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Involvement of elected members and community/third sector representatives will enhance the wider performance and outcomes of the Improving Opportunities Midlothian (IOM) strand of the Single Midlothian Plan and contribute towards the Child Poverty Action Report. It also embraces the TRACK values of the Midlothian Compact.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

A preventative approach is a key principle in addressing all outcomes of the grant streams.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

N/A

APPENDIX B

Background Papers/Resource Links

Appendix 1

Total Grant Allocations 2019 – 2022

	2019-20 Year 1 £	2020-21 Year 2 £	2021-22 Year 3 £
Large Grants allocation	480,000	480,000	480,000
CABs	243,380	243,380	243,380
Rents	127,512	127,512	127,512
Small Grants	80,000	80,000	80,000
Community Councils	10,000	10,000	10,000
Micro Grants	9,000	9,000	9,000
Gala Days	10,000	10,000	10,000
Poverty Stream (PB)	40,000	40,000	40,000
Total allocation	999,892	999,892	999,892

Appendix 2

Total Grant Allocations for the purpose of this report 2022 – 2025

	2022-23 Year 1 £	2023-24 Year 2 £	2024-25 Year 3 £
Small Grants	89,000	89,000	89,000
Large grants	520,000	520,000	520,000
Community Councils	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total allocation	619,000	619,000	619,000