

**Small Grants and Community Council Grants 2022-2023****Report by Joan Tranent, Chief Officer Children's Services, Communities and Partnerships****Report for Decision****1 Recommendations**

Council is recommended to:

- Approve the allocation of small grants detailed in *Appendix 1* for 35 organisations totalling £89,000.
- Approve the allocation of £9,545 for community council grants detailed in *Appendix 2*.

**2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary**

The Council's small grants scheme is available to voluntary and community organisations on an annual basis to deliver services across four funding streams to meet the priorities and outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership and the Single Midlothian Plan. The themes are reducing carbon emissions and reducing inequalities in health, learning and economic circumstances.

Grants to Community Councils are open on an annual basis to assist them with general running costs and to deliver new projects.

This report asks Council to approve the recommendations of the scoring panels for the period 2022 to 2023.

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### **3 Background/Main Body of Report**

- 3.1** In September 2020, Council approved the funding available to voluntary and community groups for large, small grants and Community Councils for a three year period from 2022 to 2025. The allocation to small grants is £89,000 a year for 3 years, a total of £267,000. The allocation to Community Councils is £10,000 a year for 3 years, a total of £30,000.
- 3.2** There are four grant streams in the small grants scheme which align with the priorities of the Single Midlothian Plan for small grants: reducing carbon emissions (a new stream), reducing inequalities in health, learning and economic circumstances. Organisations can apply for a maximum of £3,000 per annum.
- 3.3** Community Councils and the Federation of Community Councils can apply for up to £300 annually as a contribution towards general running costs. They can also apply for additional funding to support new or existing projects.
- 3.4** Clear guidance was issued with the application forms detailing the information required under each section. Offers of advice and support were made to anyone considering making an application from Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability (CLLE) staff and Midlothian Voluntary Action (MVA).
- 3.5** A core group of council officers from CLLE facilitated and recorded the sessions but did not score applications. A cross-party group of elected members were involved in scoring all streams and were supplemented by other council officers and representatives from health with specific remits and expertise, members of the Third Sector Interface (TSI) and volunteer community members.
- 3.6** Panel members were asked to declare if they had a vested interest or potential conflict of interest in advance of the panels. Those who declared this were asked to leave whilst the application was scored.
- 3.7** Due diligence was carried out by the Panel to ensure that there was no duplication of funding for organisations who had applied across large and small grant schemes; that no organisation received more than £33,500 per annum across all funding streams; and that there was a spread of awards across small, local community organisations and larger organisations.
- 3.8** All assessments followed clear scoring criteria and were scored out of 35.
- 3.9** Unsuccessful applicants can ask for detailed feedback on their application on request.

### **4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital, Risk and Equalities)**

#### **4.1 Resource**

The recommended awards for small grants and community council grants are included in *Appendices 1* and *2* of this report. A total of 53 applications were received for small grants totalling £137,140 from a budget of £89,000. A total of 14 applications were received for Community Council grants totalling £9,545 from a budget of £10,000.

## **4.2 Digital**

A web based form was used to ensure that it was simple to complete online and support was provided.

## **4.3 Risk**

The existing grants programme has been risk assessed and these risks are included in the Council's Risk Register. The programme is subject to internal audit that helps reduce the risks associated with managing the programme. The processes associated with awarding grants includes robust risk assessment procedures to ensure compliance with Following the Public Pound guidance.

Grants are paid in advance on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. An end of year report including evidence of financial spend is required at the end of the grant period. Further grant offers will not be considered until this is assessed and the organisation has demonstrated the difference the grant has made.

The closing date for small grants was extended to 5 January 2022 to allow organisations that were not successful with their large grant application to apply.

The amount of funding available and the amount of applications received represents a potential risk to the funding of the voluntary sector who contribute to meeting the outcomes of the Single Midlothian Plan as not all projects can be funded. MVA and CLLE staff are available to offer continued support with accessing alternative funds.

## **4.4 Ensuring Equalities**

The integrated impact assessment concluded that the grant programme will have a positive impact on equality groups across Midlothian. The scoring criteria specifically references the impact on protected characteristics groups, how the organisation will promote equalities and the targeting of the 3 geographic priority areas of Dalkeith/Woodburn, Gorebridge and Mayfield/Easthouses.

## **4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)**

### **Appendices**

**Appendix A - Additional Report Implications - none**

**Appendix B - Background Information/Links**

- **Appendix 1 - Recommended list of awards for Small Grants**
- **Appendix 2 – Recommended list of awards for Community Councils**

## APPENDIX A – Additional Report Implications

### A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The grant streams are aligned to the four outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership and Single Midlothian Plan. Applications were assessed on how they met each of the outcomes of the plan and the differences they would make.

### 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

### A.4 Delivering Best Value

The grants programme will help maintain a vibrant voluntary sector in Midlothian. With challenges to statutory funding, the voluntary sector has a key role to play in developing communities, reducing inequalities and supporting sustainable development and contributing to meeting the outcomes of the Single Midlothian Plan. Scoring all applications against key criteria has ensured that Best Value was a key part of the assessment process. One of the questions assessed focused on whether the project was good value for money and demonstrated realistic costs.

### A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The application forms and criteria were co-produced with the voluntary sector and designed based on feedback from previous and potential applicants about the process and information available. Scoring panels included a wide range of council officers, representatives from health, cross-party elected members, community and voluntary sector representatives. Both CLLE staff and MVA staff offered support to organisations making applications.

## **A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

By supporting the voluntary sector the grants recommendations will have a positive impact on the performance and outcomes of the Council and the Community Planning Partnership and contribute towards meeting the four key priorities.

## **A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

The successful organisations will continue to support the voluntary sector to undertake preventative work by reducing inequalities, carbon emissions, social isolation and the impact of poverty, improving mental and physical health and wellbeing, developing communities and supporting people into learning and employment. Without this valuable contribution, many of these services would not be delivered in Midlothian.

## **A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development**

Reducing carbon emissions was a new stream introduced into the grants programme for 2022 to 2025. There were only a small number of applications to this funding stream and some did not demonstrate clearly the difference they would make to reducing carbon emissions, raising awareness of climate change issues or developing local initiatives to reduce carbon emissions. The criteria for this stream will be reviewed and refined in the light of this for the next grants programme.

Supporting the voluntary sector through the grants programme will ensure that they play a key role in supporting sustainable development.

**APPENDIX B****Background Papers/Resource Links (if applicable)****Appendix 1 – Recommended list of Small Grant Awards 2022-23**

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNDING FOR</b>	<b>REQUESTED (£)</b>	<b>AWARDED (£)</b>
<b>Bonnyrigg Rose Football Club</b>	<b>Football camp for targeted young people and support for Mum's Walk Group supporting positive mental</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,750</b>
<b>Anam Cara</b>	<b>Support for the development of the befriending service and training volunteers</b>	<b>2,640</b>	<b>2,640</b>
<b>Lasswade High School PHAB Club</b>	<b>Contribution to running costs – club provides social opportunities for Midlothian vulnerable adults</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club</b>	<b>Container and goals to support the growth of the club</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Mayfield and Easthouses Youth 2000 Project</b>	<b>Weekly healthy living group for young people</b>	<b>2,627</b>	<b>2,627</b>
<b>Kidz United</b>	<b>Contribution to running costs for Peer Support Group for Midlothian families of children with disabilities</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Carrington Village Hall Association</b>	<b>Contribution to running costs – providing opportunities to reduce social isolation in a rural area</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Roslin Men's Shed</b>	<b>Contribution to running and advertising costs to develop the shed which reduces social isolation for older members of the community</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project</b>	<b>Staffing costs to support the continuation of a poverty project with young people</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Touchdown UK</b>	<b>3 month trial of weekly American Football</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>

	sessions for P5 – S1's in the Gorebridge area		
Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club	Contribution to sessions for children and young people with additional supports needs and their siblings, to access grassroots sports and provide a sports specific pathway as well as personal development	3,000	3,000
Newtongrange Development Trust	Contribution to employ a part time volunteer development worker who will recruit, support and coordinate volunteers from the community	3,000	3,000
Dalkeith Thistle Community Football Club	Contribution to Football Development Officers salary and coach education pathway training to assist with the growth and sustainability of the club	3,000	3,000
Team United	Contribution to running costs associated with the delivery of weekly sport and physical activity sessions and to support outreach project work for young people with additional support needs	3,000	3,000
Growing Families	Support for Midlothian breastfeeding peer support network	3,000	3,000
Newbattle Beekeepers Association	To install a Defibrillator at the Teaching Apiary in the grounds of Newbattle Abbey which will be used by all groups accessing the grounds	2,679	2,679
Rosewell Development Trust Community Company Ltd	Contribution to the running costs of the lunch club that supports elderly, disabled and isolated senior residents of Rosewell	2,848	2,848
<b>TOTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES</b>		<b>£45,294</b>	<b>£45,044</b>
Food Facts Friends Project	Contribution to start-up costs for new pantry	3,000	3,000
MAEDT	Contribution to stock for pantry	3,000	3,000
Midlothian Foodbank	Contribution to rent/let	3,000	3,000

<b>Penicuik CAB</b>	<b>Bus day tickets for vulnerable individuals and/or those on low income in crisis to access services or undertake day to day tasks</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,550</b>
<b>Play Midlothian</b>	<b>Contribution towards Stay for Play service – a free, weekly, supported play session for children aged 0-4, with their parent(s)/carergiver(s) in Mayfield</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES</b>		<b>£14,550</b>	<b>£14,550</b>
<b>Dalkeith History Society and Museum</b>	<b>Contribution to running costs of the museum and a promotional video to help with publicity</b>	<b>2,988</b>	<b>2,988</b>
<b>St David's Brass Band SCIO</b>	<b>Contribution to the running costs to make facility more accessible</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Lasswade High School PHAB Club</b>	<b>Contribution to cooking and craft sessions for Midlothian vulnerable adults</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>
<b>2466 (Loanhead) Squadron Air Training Corps</b>	<b>IT equipment to support assistive technology and upgrade to internet access</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>1st A Loanhead Brownies</b>	<b>Contribution to the delivery of the new programme - Know myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action and Skills for my future</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>1,109</b>
<b>Pathhead SWI</b>	<b>Contribution to hall rental to allow the group to meet and reduce social isolation in a rural area</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>249</b>
<b>Penicuik Community Arts Association</b>	<b>Contribution to singing workshops that will focus on fun, familiarity and confidence building whilst enhancing mental and physical health</b>	<b>2,990</b>	<b>1,191</b>
<b>Volunteer Midlothian</b>	<b>Creation of a 'gadget group' where people can create their own mini electronics projects and mentor less experienced</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>2,342</b>



	<b>participants</b>		
<b>Midlothian Community Media Association</b>	<b>Contribution to the running costs of Black Diamond radio</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Esk Valley Trust</b>	<b>Training and equipment to support a citizen science project on River Esk</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Play Midlothian</b>	<b>Early years group play project that will enable disabled children aged 0-4 and their families to meet, learn and play together</b>	<b>2,307</b>	<b>2,307</b>
<b>TOTAL LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>		<b>£27,176</b>	<b>£23,486</b>
<b>PlayBase scio</b>	<b>Resource boxes to support and promote learning for sustainability which will be borrowed by Early Learning and Childcare settings in Midlothian</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Gorebridge Community Development Trust</b>	<b>Funding to continue Growgetters - monthly child and family growing sessions focusing on growing your own food, connection to nature and the outdoors, and gardening for wildlife</b>	<b>2,920</b>	<b>2,920</b>
<b>TOTAL CARBON EMISSIONS</b>		<b>£5,920</b>	<b>£5,920</b>

## Appendix 2 – Recommended list of Community Council Grant Awards 2022-23

ORGANISATION	REQUESTED (£)	AWARDED (£)
Mayfield and Easthouses Community Council	300	300
Tynewater Community Council	300	300
Danderhall and District Community Council	300	300
Loanhead and District Community Council	300	300
Moorfoot Community Council	400	400
Damhead and District Community Council (running costs & environmental project costs)	1,395	1,395
Midlothian Federation of Community Councils (noticeboards and workshops)	1,200	1,200
Midlothian Federation of Community Councils	300	300
Dalkeith and District Community Council	300	300
Rosewell & District Community Council (running costs and contribution to community calendar)	700	700
Roslin & Bilston Community Council	300	300
Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council	300	300
Tynewater Community Council (community networking event)	340	340
Roslin and Bilston Community Council (information noticeboard)	2,110	2,110
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL GRANTS</b>	<b>£9,545</b>	<b>£9,545</b>