

Voluntary Sector Grants 2021- 2022**Report by Joan Tranent, Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities****Report for Decision****1 Recommendations**

Council is recommended to:

- Approve the voluntary sector small grants awards for the period 2021-2022 as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.
- Approve the remaining provision in the 2019-2022 voluntary sector grants programme be allocated by an additional round of Poverty funding for the period 2021-2022 to address the impact of COVID.
- Approve the formation of a grants panel for the Poverty funding to include representation from elected members, the community and the third sector and delegate responsibility to this Panel to make awards.
- Acknowledge that due consideration is given to the requirement for voluntary sector funding beyond 31st March 2022.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

This report is requesting Council to approve voluntary sector grant awards and variations to the administration of the grants programme.

As a result of the COVID pandemic, there is an urgent need to address the emerging financial difficulties and the predicted large increase in the unemployment rate for Midlothian residents.

This report seeks to have the remaining allocation from the 2019 - 2022 grants programme of £123,676 be distributed via an additional round of Poverty funding for 2021 – 2022.

Date 30 November 2020

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3 Background

- 3.1** In 2018, Council approved the new small and large grants scheme for 2019-2022 (Appendix 1).
- 3.2** The grant awards recommended in this paper (Appendix 2) are a key part of the Council's overall contribution to the voluntary sector. The grants programme represents an opportunity to build on the positive relationships the Council has with the voluntary sector and ensure that we continue to work in partnership to achieve the best outcomes for local residents.
- 3.3** The poverty stream of both large and small grants has been undersubscribed every year and at the Council meeting of 25th August 2020 (Appendix 3), it was agreed that the PB poverty budget for 2021/22 could be allocated using a small grants approach alongside revised outcomes for the poverty stream.
- 3.4** A round of Poverty funding took place in September 2020 with responsibility for awards delegated to the grants panel that included representation from elected members (Appendix 4).
- 3.5** Due to the impact of the Covid pandemic it is vital that poverty, and in particular child poverty, is at the heart of the local authority response to recovery and renewal. Research shows that women and households with children who were already at increased risk of poverty, have been particularly impacted by Covid. It is reported that 7 out of 10 families on Universal Credit or Child Tax Credit have had to cut back on food and other essentials and have been pushed to borrow money with many relying on expensive forms of credit. 51% have fallen behind on rent or other household bills. (Source: Save the Children and Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2020).

The financial impact of Covid for Midlothian are:

- Significant rise in those claiming out of work benefits with further uncertainty as furlough comes to an end.
 - Increased costs in food, energy and learning resources due to lockdown.
 - Food insecurity.
 - School and childcare closures.
 - Increased levels of debt.
 - Digital exclusion.
 - Increase in poverty related inequalities having an impact on health and wellbeing.
- 3.6** There is an urgent need to address these emerging financial and wellbeing concerns and the predicted large increase in the unemployment rate for Midlothian residents.
- 3.7** CLL propose that the remaining provision of grant funding of £123,676 be allocated through a further round of Poverty funding for 2021/2022.
- 3.8** The criteria, guidance and conditions of grant will remain the same as those used for the 2020 allocation of Poverty funding with a minimum and maximum award of £5,000 and £20,000 respectively (Appendix 5). Key changes will be:

3.8.1 Timeline for 2021/2022 Poverty applications:

- Applications open: 21st December 2020 – 22nd January 2021
- Applications reviewed by panel: February 2021
- Funds paid out: 1st April 2021

3.8.2 Assessment Panel

It is proposed that the assessment panel should consist of elected members, council officers and representatives from 3rd sector and the community. The panel will be chaired and supported by a Council Officer from CLL. The Panel will assess and award grants without further recourse to Council to ensure a quick turnaround in payment.

3.8.3 Monitoring

This will be monitored in the same way as current grants with appointed council officers assigned to each project to provide support and scrutiny.

3.9 CLL request that Council give some consideration and an early indication to available grant funding post 31st March 2022. This will allow CLL to liaise effectively with 3rd sector and the community as detailed in the Compact Report.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

No additional resource, funding has already been allocated within the 2019–22 grants budget.

4.2 Digital

None

4.3 Risk

Failure to address the poverty related issues that have arisen from the COVID pandemic will have a socio-economic impact on vulnerable Midlothian residents.

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

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

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APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Reducing the gap in learning outcomes
Reducing the gap in health outcomes
Reducing the gap in economic circumstances

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 2019–2022 Midlothian Grants programme has been the product of extensive engagement with community and third sector organisations.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The report sets out revised outcomes that 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.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

A preventative approach is a key principle in addressing poverty related outcomes.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

This is not applicable.

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

Recommended small grant awards 2021/2022 (unsuccessful applications are highlighted in grey below)

Organisation	Requested Year 3	Awarded Year 3	Summary of Project
DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES			
Penicuik Community Arts Association	£2,000	£1,600 (not paying for redecoration)	Community art project and contribution to running costs
Bonnyrigg Rose FC	£2,000	£2,000	Contribution to new Men's Shed project
Pathhead & District Community Association	£1,915	£315 (only paying for lighting improvements)	Ceiling lights & dimmers and 4 x bistro sets
Midlothian Youth Platform	£1,375	£1,075 (not funding hoodies)	Youth voice groups - venue costs for meetings, mentimeter and hoodies
Middleton Village Community Hall Association	£2,000	£2,000	Contribution to running costs
Penicuik community Sports and Leisure Foundation	£2,000	£2,000	Contribution to running costs
Pathedible	£2,000	£1,000 (part funding to allow them to pilot the indoor market for 20 weeks)	Hall hire to expand project to create an indoor market selling local produce
Rosewell Development Trust	£1,600	£0 (not funding as limited evidence of need and already received funding 19/20 for IT equipment that has yet to be purchased)	Purchase IT equipment to deliver face to face computer classes and Zoom licence
Borthwick Green	£2,000	£0 (concerns about privacy, legality and GDPR)	Community CCTV system
Girl Guiding, Rangers		£0 (never provided amount required, limited evidence of need and lack of detail)	Trip abroad, advertising costs and speakers
TOTAL	£16,890	£9,990	
EMPLOYABILITY, LEARNING AND TRAINING			
Glencorse Pipe Band	£2,000	£862 (only funding the 2 drums)	Buy 2 x tenor drums and unspecified items of uniform

Garvald	£2,000	£2,000	Start up and running costs for Seasonal Pop Up Craft Workshops to support adults with learning and physical disabilities.
Volunteer Midlothian	£1,950	£750 (part funding for tablets and mifi)	Upgrade IT equipment for Connect Online project
St David's Brass Band	£2,000	£0 (not funding as no information on what they have been doing to engage young people up to this point)	Provide weekly remote tuition to youth band. Contribution to zoom licence, broadband, music, recording equipment and cost of a tutor.
TOTAL	£7,950	£3,612	
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY			
Newtongrange Star FC	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	Upgrade to LED floodlighting for existing 3G pitch
MAEDT	£1,996.78	£1,996.78	Resources to allow volunteers to develop and maintain pavilion gardens.
St Margarets Primary School parent Council	£1,994.48	£1,994.48	Tools and materials for pupil gardening project
Roslin Village Group	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	Materials and labour to create a community Petanque piste
Lasswade RFC	£1,600.00	£0 (not funding as application is to replace existing sports equipment and does not make clear that this would lead to more opportunities and increased participation in rugby)	Replacement equipment
Danderhall ASC	£2,000.00	£0 (doesn't make clear where outdoor equipment will be used as application states	Outdoor equipment, coach hire and park fees

		outdoor space is limited, use of coaches to transport children to parks does not seem good use of fund)	
TOTAL	£11,091.26	£7,491.26	
POVERTY			
Play Therapy Base	£1,340	£1,340	To provide travel tickets to enable families to attend services and sessions
COMMUNITY COUNCIL			
Roslin & Bilston CC	£500.00	£400 (not funding £100 other costs)	Running costs
Eskbank & Newbattle CC	£2,000.00	£2,000 (condition of grant to check where notice boards will be situated)	2 noticeboards, website maintenance and newsletters
Tynewater CC	£1,350.00	£900 (only funding 1 laptop)	2 laptops, printer, supplies and software
TOTAL	£3,850.00	£3,300	

Appendix Three

Poverty funding allocations 2020/2021

Successful applications:

Organisation	Amount Awarded	Purpose
Dalkeith CAB	£16,939.00	Offer tailored advice and support for people at risk of falling into serious hardship
Penicuik CAB	£14,000.00	Crisis funds to provide small items of emergency support to families and vulnerable individuals to assist them through a financial crisis and enable them to engage with services
MAEDT	£8,420.00	To pilot/kick start a food co-op in the area for those on low incomes. To continue and improve the school uniform recycling project
MARC	£17,000.00	Increase provision and installation of white goods and furniture free of charge on a referral basis
Mayfield, Lawfield, Tynewater ASC	£3,200.00	Partial funding - 6 months snack and play equipment only
Penicuik Community Sports and Leisure Foundation	£3,925.00	Partial funding for internet and free access activities only
Midlothian Foodbank	£2,770.00	Partial funding for equipment, not paying staff costs
Total	£66,254.00	

Appendix 4

Poverty grant criteria and guidance

Applications are welcome from community groups, charities and social enterprises. To apply you must be constituted and have a bank account. If you are a new group, you will need a statement of purpose and a bank account in the name of the group.

All awards should demonstrate how they meet the priorities of the Single Midlothian Plan. The top three priorities in the plan are to *reduce the gap in learning outcomes, health outcomes and economic circumstances*. Grants will fund activities that further the priorities in at least one of the five themes:

1. Adult Health and Care
2. Community Safety
3. Getting it Right for Every Midlothian Child
4. Improving Opportunities for the People of Midlothian
5. Sustainable Growth

The single Midlothian Plan is available online or in hard copy.

www.midlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/89/single_midlothian_plan

Grant funding can be used for things like:

- Volunteer expenses
- Running costs
- Start-up costs for new projects
- Staff costs
- Buying equipment

There are some activities that are not eligible for grant funding. It cannot be used to:

- Repair buildings
- Pay for religious services or religious materials
- Be spent exclusively on consultancy fees
- Pay for material that is designed to support political activity or a political party

The grant covers the period September 2020 to March 2021 only

Minimum level of grant - £5,000

Maximum level of grant - £20,000

Criteria for Poverty Grants

Applicants will need to indicate which of the outcomes their activity will address:

Outcomes

- Disposable income of Midlothian residents is maximised.
- Cost of utilities have been reduced.
- Costs of participation in education have reduced.
- Costs of participation in leisure, sports and arts experience have reduced.
- Transport costs are reduced.
- Reduction in poverty related inequalities in health and wellbeing.
- Reduction in financial stress for parents.
- Increase in opportunities to upskill and gain qualifications.
- Awareness of entitlement to benefits has increased.
- Reduction in health and wellbeing inequalities caused by poverty.

Decision making

Grant applications will be assessed against the extent to which the project or programme of work will:

1. Meet the outcome of the funding stream.
2. Address unmet need.
3. Reduce inequalities, help people most in need and address the priorities in the Single Midlothian Plan.
4. Make a difference to the people you are working with.
5. Complement or add to existing services and resources.
6. Provide evidence of partnership working and how local people have been involved in the planning of the proposal.
7. Provide details of how the project will be sustained beyond the grant period and, where possible, how it will generate additional income.
8. Promote a sense of place by connecting local people to their community.
9. Be community-led and delivered by organisations with the skills and experience to deliver effectively.
10. Include clear costing and timescales that demonstrate value for money.

Your application will be considered by an assessment panel. You will find out by the end of September 2020 if your application has been successful.

Further Support

If you need any additional support or further information, please contact:

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For help with completing the application, discussing ideas or general funding support please contact: CLL@midlothian.gov.uk