

Gala Days Funding 2016/17 and Beyond**Report by John Blair, Director Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the direct funding arrangements for gala days and seeks a decision in relation to the ongoing level of financial support to these community events.

2 Background

- 2.1** Gala days have been an important part of the cultural and community life of Midlothian for over 100 years. Historically their focus has been on activities for children and young people, however in recent times Gala Days generally provide activities for the whole community with a particular focus on families. There are currently 15 active gala days across Midlothian which are generally overseen by local committees with individual events varying from a one day community event to week long community events.

In 2014 the Council reviewed all grants, with the aim of introducing a consistent approach which reflected the strategic priorities of the Council. The review was undertaken using a co-production approach and concluded that the funding streams should be aligned with the priorities of the Community Planning Partnership.

- 2.2** Prior to 2015 gala days received year-on-year funding from the Council and the 2014 Council review of grants consolidated this grant funding into a single fund.

- 2.3** In 2015/16 gala days were funded from the Council's Developing Communities grants stream. This resulted in a number of consequences:

- I. Gala day committees required to compete with year round services provided by local third sector organisations. Gala Committees find it challenging to demonstrate the impact of one-off events. This makes like for like comparisons with year round services challenging.
- II. The recommendations of the grants panel were reviewed and amended by Council, who took the decision at its meeting on 24 March 2015 to uplift gala day funding across the board to two thirds of the funding provided in 2014/15.
- III. Gala Committees were concerned with what was perceived as burdensome and bureaucratic grant application and monitoring arrangements appropriate to year round grant aided groups and organisations.
- IV. The third sector was concerned that the reduction in their grant funding was exacerbated by having to compete directly with Gala days.

3 Council Motion

3.1 At its meeting on 24 March 2015 the Council considered the following motion.

Council agrees to recognise the unique position of Gala days and Community events in the Towns and villages of Midlothian; notes the potential for these events to be included in greater community decision making; and as such agrees to reinstate grants to these events at two thirds of the 2014 level as a transitional measure.”

4 Issues and Options

4.1 The key issue for the Council is how to support gala days in an equitable way without impacting significantly on the grant funding available to the third sector. One option would be to remove Gala days from the competitive small grants process:

4.2 If the funding of Gala days and community events is to continue, the Council requires to identify a recurring funding source. Options include;

- i. Sustain the funding approved by Council in 2015/16 by ring-fencing £9,665 from the Developing Communities small grants budget for 2016/17 and beyond.
- ii. Introduce new criteria based on financial sustainability of each individual organising committee;

5 Other Council Support

In addition to the cash contribution there are significant in-kind contributions to gala days provided by Resources Directorate. These contributions include staffing costs and include signage, marquees, traffic management, transportation and cleaning. These costs are detailed in the Resources section of the report.

A report entitled Midlothian Council Small Grants Allocations 2016/17 is also on today's agenda.

5.1 Safety Advisory Group

6 Report Implications

6.1 Resource

- i. The Developing Communities small grants stream has a total budget of £40,000 for 2016/17. In 2015/16, 83 organisations received funding with an average value of £460. The overall reduction in Council grants funding (34% over three years) has increased the pressure on third sector organisations;
- ii. In 2015/16 the total grant funding for Gala days was £9,910 – see Appendix 1 for a breakdown of funding. As outlined in section 3.1 the uplift agreed by Council, to bring Gala day grants up to two thirds of the amount they received in 2014/15. The 2015/16 recommended funding has been met by a supplementary estimate in the current financial year.
- iii. The following table details the historic support and funding provided by the Council to Gala days.

iv.

Year	Grants	In kind support	Total
2012/13	£16,500	£76,219	£92,719
2013/14	£24,000	£65,223	£89,223
2014/15	£14,500	£63,458	£78,458
2015/16	£9,910	£48,515	£58,425

- v. The proposal to reinstate grants to gala days of two thirds of 2014/15 funding levels from 2016/17 will require to be met from ring fencing £9,665 from the developing communities' small grants fund.

6.2 Risk

Gala days bring communities together; withdrawing funding in its entirety could result in some gala days ceasing to operate. This presents reputational risks in that some communities would criticise the Council for withdrawing an event that forms parts of local identity and cultural heritage.

There are risks for the third sector. Ring fencing £9,665 for gala days from the small grants programme would further reduce the amount available to small, local third sector organisations, in some instances potentially threatening their existence. Furthermore it may reduce the likelihood of them receiving match funding from external bodies.

6.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

- ☒ Community safety
- ☒ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☒ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

6.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Gala days support the aspirations of the Single Midlothian Plan; however it may be viewed that one-off events may have less of a positive impact than year round services.

6.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

No direct impact on performance measures.

6.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The third sector provides a range of preventive services that are funded by Council grant funding sources.

6.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholder

The issue of gala day funding has been a general matter of discussion within the Third Sector Forum, Midlothian Council, and with gala day committees.

The Council has established a Gala Day and Special Events Forum which considers a range of issues relating to Gala Days.

6.8 Ensuring Equalities

Gala days have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics; both are inclusive and bring communities together.

6.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Gala days help build stronger communities and improve the lives of people in Midlothian.

6.10 IT Issues

There are no direct IT issues as a consequence of the proposals set out in this report.

7 Summary

7.1 Gala days benefit local communities and have historically received financial support from the Council.

- i. Gala days should continue to receive support from the Council based on need.
- ii. The unique status of gala days makes them incompatible with an overall competitive grants programme that supports year round services provided by the third sector; therefore a more tailored approach is required.
- iii. Alternative sources of recurring funding should be identified so that gala days can be sustained.

8 Recommendations

8.1 The Council continues to provide in-kind support to gala days; and it is recommended that Council considers:

- I. Gala day funding is identified as a separate funded stream from the small grants programme for 2016/17;
- II. Separate small grants (galas) application and monitoring forms be prepared which are more appropriate for gala funding bids; and
- III. Responsibility for the management of the Gala Day funding to rest with the Head of Commercial Operations.

Date

16 November 2015

Report Contact:

Name: John Blair, Director Resources

Tel No: 0131 271 3102

john.blair@midlothian.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1 Grants to Gala Days

EVENT	BAND	2014 GRANT	INITIAL 2015 GRANT	REVISED AWARD 2015*
Loanhead Gala	Large	£1,250.00	£700.00	£833.00
Newtongrange Gala	Large	£1,250.00	£545.00	£833.00
Gorebridge Gala	Large	£1,250.00	£645.00	£833.00
Penicuik Hunter & Lass	Large	£1,250.00	£645.00	£833.00
* Penicuik on Parade		-	£200.00	£200.00
Dalkeith Festival	Large	£1,250.00	£645.00	£833.00
Mayfield & Easthouses Community Assoc Gala	Large	£1,250.00	£545.00	£833.00
Poltonhall Gala	Large	£1,250.00	£645.00	£833.00
Roslin Fun Day	Medium	£1,000.00	£645.00	£667.00
Rosewell Fun Run/Community Event	Medium	£1,000.00	-	£667.00
Birkenside Fun Day	Small	£750.00	£545.00	£545.00
Cousland Village Hall Assoc Gala	Small	£750.00	£450.00	£500.00
Edgehead Village Committee Gala	Small	£750.00	£450.00	£500.00
Middleton Village Hall Assoc Fete	Small	£750.00	£450.00	£500.00
Temple Village Hall Assoc Fete	Small	£750.00	£450.00	£500.00
Totals		£14,500.00	£7,560.00	£9,910.00

NOTE: The banding of events was approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on 6 May 2008.