

Voluntary Sector Grants 2020-2022**Report by Dr Mary Smith, Director Education, Communities and Economy****1 Purpose of Report**

This report is requesting Council to approve voluntary sector grant awards and variations to the administration of the grants programme for the period 2020-2022.

2 Background

2.1 On the 22 August 2018 Council approved a revised three years grants programme. The overall grants programme had an annual budget allocation of circa £1 million from which £250,000 was withdrawn to commission a rights and advice service from the CAB's leaving a grants budget of £750,000.

2.2 The revised three year grants programme recommended a number of improvements including:

- Introducing an annual upper limit of £33,500 to reflect the reduction in overall Council budget and to help spread the limited resource across the voluntary sector.
- Introducing a new Micro Grant where small organisations can apply for up to £500 with minimal paperwork and reporting requirements. These applications are open twice yearly.
- Allowing Small Grant applications of under £2,000 a year to apply for funding for a three year period, on the same basis as Large Grant recipients. These applications are open annually.

2.3 The grants programme is made up of four separate funding streams:

- i) Developing Communities (including Community Councils)
- ii) Employability, Learning and Training
- iii) Health and Physical Activity
- iv) Poverty

In addition to the four grant streams there is a rents budget that provides grant funding to voluntary organisations who rent council premises.

2.4 Between August and October 2019 the Small and Micro grants programme was open for applications for years 2 and 3 of the grants programme. As part of this process community groups were offered bespoke support to help them apply.

- 2.5** The closing date for the small and micro grants programme was 20 October 2019. After this the grant stream leads convened grants panels to assess the applications. All grants were scored carefully against the approved criteria and the outcomes of the Single Midlothian Plan. Where applicants applied for more than one grant, they were cross-referenced to ensure there was no duplication in their applications. Other due diligence checks were carried out such as assessing the level of funding the applicants already received from commissioned contracts and other grants from the Council.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The recommended awards are included in **Appendix 1** of this report. A financial analysis of the applications received and the award allocations is included in **Appendix 2**. All organisations who applied but were not successful are listed in **Appendix 3** with the rationale for the decision.

Some key points arising from this analysis include:

- A total of £144,288.25 was requested from a two year small grants budget of £105,375.00. £80,082.58 was requested in year 2 from a budget of £55,198.00 and £64,205.67 in year 3 from a budget of £50,177.00.
- Forty four small grant applications were received in total and twenty five are recommended for an award. It is worth noting that small grants are open for applications annually so it is important to maintain some budget for Year 3 of the programme which will open in August 2020.
- Three applications were received for the Community Council Grants and three are recommended for an award. £5,480.00 was requested from a total budget of £6,219.00.
- In the micro grants stream a total of seventeen applications were received and ten are recommended for an award. Micro Grants are currently open for applications every 6 months. A total of £13,836.00 was requested from a budget of £5,509.00.
- Two of the funding streams, Developing Communities (DC) and Health and Physical Activity (HPA) are heavily over-subscribed. The Poverty stream is substantially under-subscribed.
- A brief evaluation of the micro grant applications to date highlighted that the majority of applicants did not seek funding for the stated core purpose of the funding stream which is to provide one off costs for small community organisations. Some organisations have been using this as a “top up” to support core work.
- Due to allocations already made in year 1 and those recommended in Appendix 1 for year 2, only a small budget of £892.00 will remain in the Micro Grants stream for period 2020-22.

- The process of advertising, supporting groups and scoring Micro grants is a time and resource intensive exercise which takes place twice a year. It is therefore recommended that no further rounds of Micro Grants are made available and the remaining budget of £892.00 is incorporated into the Small Grants programme for 2021-22 under the Developing Communities strand. This will ensure that the money is ring fenced for the voluntary sector and groups can still apply for small grants below £2,000 when applications open in August 2020 for the period 2021-22.
- There is a lack of successful applications from organisations operating in the three targeted areas of Mayfield, Gorebridge and Dalkeith.

3.2 Risk

The existing grants programme has been risk assessed and these risks are included in the Council's Risk Register. The existing grants 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 protocols.

This grant funding will help sustain a vibrant voluntary sector in Midlothian. The proposed contingency fund, outlined in section 4.2 of this report, will also help mitigate against the financial risks that the voluntary sector face.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☒ 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

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan (SMP)

The SMP has directly informed the criteria of the grants programme. Applications were assessed against the extent to which they further the priorities in the SMP.

3.5 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.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The recommended grants will continue to support the voluntary sector to undertake preventative work by reducing inequalities, reducing social isolation, developing communities, promoting healthy activities and supporting people into learning and employment.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The 2014 review of Council grants used a co-production approach with the third sector. This has informed the current three year grants programme.

Between August and October 2019, small and micro grants were advertised through a number of mediums including the Council website, social media campaigns and through the Third Sector Interface (TSi). Communities and Lifelong Learning staff and the TSi have offered support to local community organisations to encourage them to apply and to all potential applicants prior to submitting their application.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

A full Integrated Impact Assessment was completed for the new grants programme in 2018. The assessment concluded that the revised three year grants programme will have a positive impact on equality groups across Midlothian. It is worth noting that all applications are assessed against the extent that they promote equalities.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

The grants programme will help maintain a vibrant voluntary sector in Midlothian. With reductions in statutory funding, the voluntary sector has a key role in developing communities, reducing inequalities and supporting sustainable development.

4 Summary

4.1 Officers have implemented the Council's grants programme based on the priorities of the Single Midlothian Plan and evidence of good practice to meet the changing needs of Midlothian's communities.

4.2 The grant awards recommended in this paper are a key part of the Council's overall contribution to the voluntary sector. The recommended awards will provide a level of security for the voluntary sector, whilst maintaining some budget so applications can be considered in year 3.

4.3 Retaining a contingency fund in the large grants stream to support voluntary organisations in exceptional circumstances will further help safeguard Midlothian's vibrant 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.

4.4 Officers are concerned at the number of applications received for the Poverty stream and recommend that the outcomes and criteria should be reviewed before August 2020 to increase the number of applications and ensure that the grant stream outcomes are better aligned with Midlothian's Child Poverty Action Plan.

4.5 The remaining small grants budget available for year 3, 2021 to 2022, should be weighted towards applicants operating in the three priority targeted areas of Gorebridge, Mayfield and Dalkeith. This will allow officers an opportunity to encourage applicants from these areas to apply and provide evidence for the review and revision of the next grants scheme for period 2022-2025. It will also ensure that the three targeted geographic areas are prioritised in line with Council policy.

5 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that Council;

- a. Approves the recommended voluntary sector small and micro grants awards for the period 2020-2022 as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.
- b. Approves re-allocation of the Year 1 underspend of £5684.00 to the overbid Developing Communities and Health and Physical Activity streams for 2020-21.
- c. Approves the discontinuation of a separate micro grants stream; transferring the remaining budget of £892.00 into the small grants scheme under the Developing Communities strand; and approves the small grants scheme to consider all applications under £2,000 for 2021/22
- d. Approves that the unallocated large grants budget, as detailed in Section 4.2 of this report, can continue to be used as a contingency fund for voluntary groups in exceptional circumstances, delegating decision making on use of this to officers and reviewing in autumn 2020 if unspent.
- e. Approves the review of the Poverty funding stream outcomes for 2021 to 2022 to ensure alignment with Midlothian's Child Poverty Action Plan and actively encourage groups to apply when the scheme reopens in August 2020.
- f. Approves the review of the existing small grants programme to take account of lessons learned and consider allocating 60% of the remaining budget to be spent solely in the three targeted areas of Dalkeith, Gorebridge and Mayfield. The remaining 40% of the budget will continue to be available to applicants operating in all areas of Midlothian.

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Background Papers:

- a. Appendix 1: Recommended Voluntary Sector Awards 2020-22
- b. Appendix 2: Financial analysis of Voluntary Sector Awards
- c. Appendix 3: Unsuccessful applications

Appendix 1 – Small grants recommended

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES							
Cranston Women's Institute	£1,550.00	£0.00	£1,550.00	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	Partial funding to cover hall hire for the Centenary event & exhibition to be open to the public
Cousland Majority Group	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	Full funding to support the transport costs for the annual away day that will reduce social isolation
Home Link Family Support Midlothian wide	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	Full funding for staffing and resources to develop "Stay and Play" sessions for families with children aged 0-3. Can be accessed by any family across Midlothian and application provided strong evidence of need
Dalkeith Singers	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£800.00	£800.00	£1,600.00	Partial funding for hall and rental fees to ensure they continue to have somewhere to meet
Tots Start Burnbrae PS	£915.00	£915.00	£1,830.00	£400.00	£0.00	£400.00	Partial funding for equipment and resources for group to establish themselves

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES Contd.							
Rosewell Development Trust	£1,999.00	£1,500.00	£3,499.00	£1,295.00	£0.00	£1,295.00	Partial funding to upgrade IT equipment & resources for user groups
Bonnyrigg Rose FC	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£1,800.00	£1,950.00	£3,750.00	Partial funding to cover the costs of equipment & resources for new youth club that will provide an accessible youth space in the Bonnyrigg area
Pathhead Community Gardeners	£1,650.00	£0.00	£1,650.00	£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,200.00	Partial funding to buy plants and hedges, composting system and wildlife boxes. Group is fully accessible, links in to Midlothian's bio-diversity plan and offers volunteering opportunities
Midlothian Sure Start	£1,990.00	£1,990.00	£3,980.00	£1,250.00	£1,250.00	£2,500.00	Partial funding to support World Mental Health activities and promotion, fully accessible event tackling stigma
Bonnyrigg Playgroup	£1,941.61	£1,557.67	£3,499.28	£325.72	£325.72	£651.44	Partial funding to cover pavilion rent
TOTAL	£16,645.61	£11,962.67	£28,608.28	£9,820.72	£6,325.72	£16,146.44	

EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING & TRAINING							
Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
Women's Aid East & Midlothian	£1,850.00	£1,850.00	£3,700.00	£1,475.00	£1,475.00	£2,950.00	Funding to recruit and train a Survivors Board providing peer support to victims of domestic abuse. Strong evidence of capacity building & skills development. Only cover Midlothian costs for travel as joint East/Mid participants
Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project	£1,900.00	£1,900.00	£3,800.00	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	Does not demonstrate how this meets employability aims. Partial funding to help with resources and cost of arts & crafts tutor
Mayfield and Easthouses Development Trust (MAEDT)	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	Upgrade of IT equipment to support Job Club in SIMD area
Garvald Mayfield	£1,618.00	£900.00	£2,518.00	£1,618.00	£0.00	£1,618.00	Jewellery making equipment to upskill users with ASN and develop a social enterprise. Fund for one year only to support set up of project

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING & TRAINING Cont.							
Newbattle Beekeepers Association	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	Applied for core costs which are already partly funded. Partial funding to cover costs of upgrading website to promote training opportunities & widen reach of association. Supports bio-diversity plan
Gorebridge Community Development Trust	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£2,000.00	£1,000.00	£3,000.00	Tools & equipment to set up free/low cost handy people service for local community. Fund year one costs fully but reduce year two funding to cover maintenance & repair only
Penicuik Youth Band	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Sheet music to sustain attendance of youth members. Engaging with range of young people. One year funding only
TOTAL	£11,868.00	£9,150.00	£21,018.00	£7,893.00	£2,475.00	£10,368.00	

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY							
RUTS	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Partial funding to provide boxing sessions for young people. Good service and impact, but application has limited financial breakdown & details of number of sessions to be delivered
Y2K	£1,704.00	£0.00	£1,704.00	£1,704.00	£0.00	£1,704.00	Funding for staff, volunteers and resources to open new drop-in weekend service. Good local service in target area that will fulfil an unmet need
Lasswade Athletics Club	£1,985.00	£1,985.00	£3,970.00	£1,985.00	£0.00	£1,985.00	Partial funding for coach and volunteer education. Only athletics club in Midlothian covering all ages and offering low cost membership and reduced rates. Ambitious coach training plan which would address current limited capacity to meet demand

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Contd.							
Gorebridge Community Development Trust	£2,000.00	£1,000.00	£3,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	Funding for indoor play equipment. Clear aims that will meet an unmet need in a target area and provide an opportunity to engage with families
Dalkeith Rugby FC	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Funding for training, volunteer transport and equipment. Large number of young people involved, Midlothian wide
Penicuik Community Sport & Leisure Foundation	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	Funding to deliver youth project in area of Penicuik where few youth activities available. Clear physical activity and health ethos with active travel discount especially positive. Scores high for accessibility
TOTAL	£11,689.00	£8,985.00	£20,674.00	£9,689.00	£0.00	£9,689.00	

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project/rational e for decision
POVERTY							
Food Facts Friends Project	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£1,450.00	£1,450.00	£2,900.00	Running costs & volunteer expenses to provide the foodbank and drop in centre services at Penicuik
Midlothian Foodbank	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£4,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£2,000.00	Running costs for emergency food parcels and Growth Matters projects
TOTAL	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	£8,000.00	£2,450.00	£2,450.00	£4,900.00	

Community Council Grants

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
Eskbank & Newbattle CC	£1,920.00	£0.00	£1,920.00	£940.00	£0.00	£940.00	Partial funding to cover running costs and printing two of the quarterly newsletters. Staff will support CC to look for local business sponsorship for future issues
Damhead & District CC	£1,650.00	£910.00	£2,560.00	£200.00	£210.00	£410.00	Partial funding to cover running costs & equipment to support litter picks & community gatherings. Road and speed sign requests to be coordinated through MTRAP
Roslin & Bilston CC	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Partial funding to support with running costs and room rental. Not currently paying minute secretary, little detail on application. Not previously applied for funding for running costs
TOTAL	£4,570.00	£910.00	£5,480.00	£1,640.00	£210.00	£1,850.00	

Micro Grants

Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Awarded Year 2	Awarded Year 3	Total Amount Awarded	Summary of project
Pathhead Scottish WI	£250.00	£250.00	£500.00	£234.00	£234.00	£468.00	Funding for rental costs of Pavilion
Friends of Stobhill	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	£350.00	£0.00	£350.00	Funding for football strips and subsidised travel in SIMD area
Volunteer Midlothian	£500.00	£450.00	£950.00	£323.00	£150.00	£473.00	Funding for community garden
Dalkeith History Society	£420.00	£420.00	£840.00	£420.00	£0.00	£420.00	Library system for collections management
Parents & Tots Loanhead	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Room hire to support Sensory Music class for young babies and parents/carers
Woodland Wanderers Midlothian wide	£456.00	£0.00	£456.00	£456.00	£0.00	£456.00	Running costs and training costs for volunteers providing socially inclusive walks
Loanhead Gardening Group	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Equipment to maintain and improve the flowerbeds and public green spaces by volunteers
PlayBase Scio Midlothian wide	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Resources to fund Play on Pedals sessions

WWHAM Woodburn	£500.00	£400.00	£900.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Staffing to support healthy eating, managing on a budget, mindfulness, gentle exercise & bereavement sessions for socially isolated women
Dalkeith History Society	£450.00	£0.00	£450.00	£450.00	£0.00	£450.00	Costs of framing historical etchings for display
TOTAL	£8,296.00	£6,040.00	£14,336.00	£4,233.00	£384.00	£4,167.00	

Appendix 2 – Analysis of Small and Micro Grants 2020-2022

	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Small Requested	£80,082.58	£64,205.67	£144,288.25
Small Awarded	£29,852.72	£11,250.72	£41,103.44
Small Budget	*£55,198.00	£50,177.00	£105,375.00
Under/over allocation	£25,345.28	£38,926.28	£64,271.56
<i>*Includes underspend of £5684 from Year 1 and funds returned from Poltonhall Pensioners</i>			
Micro Requested	£7,796.00	£6,040.00	£13,836.00
Micro Awarded	£4,233.00	£384.00	£4,617.00
Micro Budget	**£2,789.00	£2,720.00	£5,509.00
Under/over allocation	-£1,444.00	£2,336.00	£892.00
<i>**Includes underspend of £14 from Year 1</i>			
CC Requested	£4,570.00	£910.00	£5,480.00
CC Awarded	£1,640.00	£210.00	£1,850.00
CC Budget	***£3,816.00	£2,403.00	£6,219.00
Under/over allocation	£2,176.00	£2,193.00	£4,369.00
<i>*** Includes underspend £1,354 from Year 1</i>			
Total requested (all streams)	£92,448.58	£71,155.67	£163,604.25
Total awarded (all streams)	£35,725.72	£11,844.72	£47,570.44
Total budget (all streams)	£61,803.00	£55,300.00	£117,103.00
Total under/over allocation (all streams)	£26,077.28	£43,455.28	£69,532.56

*DC – Developing Communities

ELT – Employment, Learning & Training

HPA – Health & Physical Activity

Small grants per stream

	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL	Number of applications	
Poverty Requested	£6,000.00	£6,000.00	£12,000.00	Poverty received	3
Poverty Awarded	£2,450.00	£2,450.00	£4,900.00	Poverty awarded	2
Poverty Budget	£18,012.00	£18,012.00	£36,024.00		
Under/over allocation	£15,562.00	£15,562.00	£31,124.00		
DC Requested	£25,993.61	£19,460.67	£45,454.28	DC received	15
DC Awarded	£9,820.72	£6,325.72	£16,146.44	DC awarded	10
DC Budget	£12,561.00	£10,012.00	£22,573.00		
Under/over allocation	£2,740.28	£3,686.28	£6,426.56		
ELT Requested	£13,798.00	£11,110.00	£24,908.00	ELT received	8
ELT Awarded	£7,893.00	£2,475.00	£10,368.00	ELT awarded	7
ELT Budget	£14,210.00	£14,180.00	£28,390.00		
Under/over allocation	£6,317.00	£11,705.00	£18,022.00		
HPA Requested	£34,290.97	£27,635.00	£61,925.97	HPA received	18
HPA Awarded	£9,689.00	£0.00	£9,689.00	HPA awarded	6
HPA Budget	£10,415.00	£7,973.00	£18,388.00		
Under/over allocation	£726.00	£7,973.00	£8,699.00		
TOTAL Small requested	£80,082.58	£64,205.67	£144,288.25	Total received	44
Total Small Awarded	£29,852.72	£11,250.72	£41,103.44	Total awarded	25
Total Small Budget	£55,198.00	£50,177.00	£105,375.00		
Under/over allocation	£25,345.28	£38,926.28	£64,271.56		

Micro Grants		Community Council Grants	
Number of applications	17	Number of applications	3
Number awarded	10	Number awarded	3

Appendix 3 Small and micro grants not recommended for approval

Small grants not recommended

Stream	Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Summary of Project	Rationale for decision
DC02	Cousland Smiddy Trust	£1,850	£2,000	£3,850	Core running costs	Application states they already have funding for core costs
DC05	Pathhead & District Community Association	£1,500	£0	£1,500	Ceiling panel lights, dimmer switches and bistro sets	High costs for small amount of equipment, no accurate costings provided
DC09	Play Midlothian	£1,998	£1,998	£3,996	Staffing & resources to run Play Forum for play practitioners	Limited evidence of need, value for money or impact. Should be part of core work
DC12	One Dalkeith	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Top up to cover salaries & core costs	Not new project, looking for top-up of existing grant
DC14	St Matthew's Parish Church, Rosewell	£2,000	£1,500	£3,500	Refurbishment of kitchen	Limited evidence of need or how it will benefit whole community
HPAL01	Penicuik Athletic Youth FC	£2,000	£0	£2,000	Improvements to clubhouse	Not eligible as cannot fund capital renovation costs
HPAL04	Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Taster outdoor activities for older people	Not value for money based on short programmes and low number of participants
HPAL05	Cyrenians (Community Hospital Garden)	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Running costs for community garden including salary	No detail re the numbers benefitting so difficult to assess if value for money
HPAL06	Anam Cara, Dalkeith	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	Taster yoga and relaxation sessions for women	Lack of detail in application

Stream	Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Summary of Project	Rationale for decision
HPAL07	City of Edinburgh Trampoline Club	£2,000	£0	£2,000	Replacement of equipment	Not evident how many will benefit apart from existing members
HPAL08	Play Midlothian	£1,850	£1,900	£3,750	Development worker to implement Play Strategy	Lacked detail of action plan, who stakeholders were & how impact will be measured. Should be part of core work
HPAL09	Bonnyrigg After School Club	£1,937	£2,000	£3,937	Healthy growing projects	Property not yet transferred to organisation and no evidence of benefit to the wider community
HPAL11	Parents & Tots Newbattle Abbey College	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Deliver Forest School	Expansion of existing provision, already receive funding for Forest Schools
HPAL12	Parents & Tots, The Link, Loanhead	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Deliver messy play sessions	Good project but duplication with other projects. Currently in receipt of 3 MC grants
HPAL16	KIC Arts Development Trust, Lasswade, Penicuik & Loanhead	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Providing credit rated courses in dance.	Unclear from application who will directly benefit, the specific courses offered and impact it will have. Large organisation with over 900 paying members
HPAL17	Beeslack Family Club	£1,850	£1,850	£3,700	Training staff to offer cycling and woodwork for disabled people	Application lacked detail re frequency and number of opportunities available and whether this would increase capacity. Already funded for similar projects
HPAL18	LASC Childcare Services – older people's activities	£1,965	£1,900	£3,865	Equipment to deliver physical activities in Loanhead	Potential duplication of other services, no clear evidence of unmet need

Stream	Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Summary of Project	Rationale for decision
ELT03	Play Midlothian	£1,930	£1,960	£3,890	Freelance development worker, speaker and workshop fees for Play Conference	Dependent on other funding being in place. No breakdown of charges or how most economically disadvantaged will benefit. Should be part of core work, Funded in previous years
PL03	Gorebridge CDT	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Volunteer costs, training and space hire for Community Fridge	Limited evidence of need, not recording numbers of those currently using the fridge to demonstrate impact and reaching those most in need

Micro grants not recommended

No	Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Summary of Project	Rationale for decision
MG02	Dalkeith Horticultural Society	£500	£0	£500	Rental for Kings Park Pavilion and Dalkeith Campus for flower show	Not sustainable, organisation apply year on year for same purpose
MG04	Midlothian Private Hire	£220	£20	£240	Posters, web page & laminator for Safety Campaign	Not enough detail on what safety campaign is, can't find evidence that they are an eligible association
MG06	Gorebridge Out of School Care	£500	£500	£1,000	First aid training & arts and crafts materials	Can access free first aid training through Early Years & Childcare Service, other activities part of core work
MG07	Loanhead After School Club – The Link	£500	£500	£1,000	Transport costs for older people	Little evidence that this is needed and no breakdown provided. Checked that local taxi service can provide this service free and have capacity to do this
MG10	Parents & Tots Midlothian	£500	£500	£1,000	Training for breast feeding peer supporters	Already receive grant for this group. Not a new project

Stream	Organisation	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Requested	Summary of Project	Rationale for decision
MG12	Pentland Piano Festival	£500	£500	£1,000	Install, tune & remove grand piano, premises rental & admin costs for music recital	Not good value for money
MG13	St. David's Brass Band	£500	£500	£1,000	Instrument cleaning & maintenance	Already receive grant for insurance and other costs, not a new project