

**Audit, Risk and Governance Committee**  
Meeting to be held on Monday, 16 October 2023

Electoral Division affected:  
N/A;

## **Local Member Grants Scheme - Update Report**

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### **Brief Summary**

Monitoring of the money awarded under the Local Member Grants Scheme is conducted by Democratic Services. This report provides an update on the outcomes of that monitoring activity, following the Local Member Grants Scheme Annual Report which was presented to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee at its meeting on 24 April 2023.

This update report covers the period January 2021 to March 2023.

### **Recommendation**

The Audit, Risk and Governance Committee is asked to consider and comment on the Local Member Grants Scheme - Update Report for January 2021 to March 2023.

### **Detail**

On 16 December 2021, Full Council approved the reintroduction of the Local Member Grants Scheme with effect from 1 January 2022. Under the Scheme, each county councillor has been given a specific budget which they can spend to enhance the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of people who live in their division.

To support the reintroduction of the Scheme and in line with the powers granted by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Leader of the Council has authorised individual county councillors to take formal decisions on behalf of the county council. This legislation does not apply to Cabinet Members as they already have these decision-making powers.

Every decision taken by a county councillor to award a grant under the Scheme is available to view on the county council's website here:



Monitoring of the money awarded under the Local Member Grants Scheme is conducted by Democratic Services. Six months after a grant has been awarded, the organisation is contacted to request evidence of their expenditure. This is to ensure the money awarded has been spent in line with the organisation's application and as agreed by the local county councillor(s).

The information below provides the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee with a summary of the outcomes of this monitoring activity, in line with the committee's responsibility for oversight of the county council's governance and risk management.

## 2021/22

Month	Total number of grants awarded	Total amount awarded (£)	Satisfactory Evidence of Use		No or Unsatisfactory Evidence of Use	
			Total no. responses received	Total amount (£)	Total no. responses outstanding	Total amount (£)
Jan 2022	23	5,710.00	22	5,210.00	1	500.00
Feb 2022	34	8,928.35	33	8,428.35	1	500.00
Mar 2022	52	14,187.02	47	12,737.02	5	1,450.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>28,825.37</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>26,375.37</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2,450.00</b>

For the period from 1 January to 31 March 2022, a response providing satisfactory evidence of expenditure has been received in relation to 94% of grants, equating to 92% of the total value awarded. This information is correct as of 26 September 2023.

## 2022/23

Month	Total number of grants awarded	Total amount awarded (£)	Satisfactory Evidence of Use		No or Unsatisfactory Evidence of Use	
			Total no. responses received	Total amount (£)	Total no. responses outstanding	Total amount (£)
Apr 2022	34	12,074.98	26	9,124.98	8	2,950.00
May 2022	64	23,069.78	28	10,094.98	36	12,974.80
Jun 2022	23	9,046.00	12	5,550.00	11	3,496.00



Month	Total number of grants awarded	Total amount awarded (£)	Satisfactory Evidence of Use		No or Unsatisfactory Evidence of Use	
			Total no. responses received	Total amount (£)	Total no. responses outstanding	Total amount (£)
Jul 2022	26	8,985.00	15	6,825.00	11	2,160.00
Aug 2022	9	3,220.00	5	1,720.00	4	1,500.00
Sep 2022	30	13,065.00	15	6,665.00	15	6,400.00
Oct 2022	23	9,976.70	7	2,270.00	16	7,706.70
Nov 2022	31	14,417.57	13	6,762.60	18	7,654.97
Dec 2022	29	14,606.06	8	3,185.00	21	11,421.06
Jan 2023	21	10,803.00	0	0.00	21	10,803.00
Feb 2023	42	17,973.41	14	3,950.00	28	14,023.41
Mar 2023	81	45,920.32	11	6,725.00	65	39,195.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>183,157.82</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>62,872.56</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>120,285.26</b>

For the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, a response providing satisfactory evidence of expenditure has been received in relation to 37% of grants, equating to 34% of the total value awarded. This information is correct as of 26 September 2023.

## 2023/24

For grants awarded from 1 April 2023 onwards, organisations have not yet been contacted to request evidence of their expenditure. Information for the 2023/24 financial year will be provided in the next annual report to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee in April 2024.

As of 26 September 2023, the total number of grants awarded is as follows.

Month	Total number of grants awarded	Total amount awarded (£)
Apr 2023	52	£21,239.98
May 2023	39	£17,197.00
Jun 2023	44	£14,124.98



Jul 2023	41	£13,763.44
Aug 2023	32	£13,964.28
Sept 2023	23	£8,963.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>£89,253.28</b>

### Consultations

N/A

### Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### Risk management

Democratic Services maintain an effective audit trail of the money allocated to organisations. Monitoring is intended to be proportionate and takes into account that the organisations receiving the money are often small volunteer groups with limited resources, meaning that it is important to keep paperwork to a minimum and to be flexible with the type and nature of evidence accepted. Where no reply is received, this is followed up.

In some cases, organisations may never respond to Democratic Service's requests for evidence of expenditure or may provide evidence that does not sufficiently demonstrate how they have spent their grant money. However, these cases are limited, and the Internal Audit team is satisfied that Democratic Services take suitable steps to ensure money awarded under the Local Member Grants Scheme is spent in line with the organisation's application and as agreed by the local county councillor(s).

### Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

