

**Report to County Councillor Lizzie Collinge**  
**Report submitted by: Head of Service Legal, Governance and Registrars**

**Electoral Division affected:**  
Lancaster East;

**Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:**  
Lancaster BID Ltd

Contact for further information:  
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[LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk)

### **Brief Summary**

This report presents an application from a local organisation requesting £900 towards the cost of Lancaster's Dino Fest annual event from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

### **Recommendation**

That consideration be given to the request for grant funding as set out in this report.

### **Detail**

On 16 December 2021, Full Council approved the reintroduction of the Local Member Grants Scheme. Under the scheme, each county councillor has been given a specific budget which they can spend to enhance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of people who live in their division. Following the reintroduction, using powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Leader of the County Council has authorised individual county councillors to take formal decisions on behalf of the county council.

For the financial year 2024/25, each county councillor has a budget of £2000. Each councillor can also carry forward a maximum of £200 that was unspent in the previous financial year. County Councillor Lizzie Collinge's total budget is set out in the financial section of the report.

Details of the requests for grant funding are shown below:



<b>Full name of your organisation</b>	
Lancaster BID Ltd	
<b>How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000</b>	
£900	
<b>Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Lancaster East (Cllr Collinge)	£900
<b>What are you going to spend the grant on?</b>	
<p>The grant will contribute to the cost of Dino Fest – one of the biggest annual events in Lancaster city centre. Over Dino Fest weekend, we will fill the city centre with all things dinosaur related to provide an exciting range of free activities for the whole local community. The event is designed to build on Lancaster’s past by highlighting Sir Richard Owen who grew up in the city and became a world-renowned palaeontologist who was the first to invent the word ‘dinosaur’. For 2024 we will also be celebrating 200 years since the Megalosaurus – the first named dinosaur – was named. Dino Fest 2024 will include a Megalosaurus walking the streets of Lancaster as well as a real Megalosaurus tooth on display alongside other fossils in Lancaster City Museum.</p> <p>We aim for the event to have the widest possible appeal to everyone. To achieve this, we aim for a balance between fun dinosaur activities aimed primarily at younger children and more educational activities targeted at the real dinosaur enthusiasts. Whilst we have secured funding for the majority of the event, we are seeking support from the Local members grant to pay for the Wild West Dino Discovery to attend the event on both days. This will include a full portable exhibition, including a full sided T.Rex skull and the only full sized Spinosaurus skull in the UK and Europe on tour plus much more. The display will include both real and museum quality replicas and will be fully hands-on and engaging with the public including allowing children to handle some of the specimens under careful supervision. This attraction would really enhance the overall event with the life-sized skulls in particular providing a visual focal point and an amazing photo opportunity. Photos of exhibits available at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/wildwestdinodiscovery">https://www.facebook.com/wildwestdinodiscovery</a>.</p>	
<b>Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods</b>	
13/14 <sup>th</sup> July 2024.	



### How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?

The event will be open to all ages in a fully accessible location, making sure that it provides the opportunity for everyone from the community to come together and celebrate.

The event will be free for all to take part with lots of free family entertainment. It will be widely promoted, in particular in the areas close to Lancaster city centre, to attract as many people as possible. All entertainment will be provided free of charge with small charges for the face painting and fairground rides. Income from these will all go towards the costs of this event and / or future community events in the city centre. This ensures that there is no barrier to local people joining in with the event.

Dino Fest is already a well-established annual event which has been a finalist at the Lancashire Tourism Awards for the past two years. It reliably attracts many thousands of visitors into Lancaster city centre and reliably receives excellent visitor feedback. In 2024 over 81% of visitors surveyed rated the event at 8 or more out of 10 and 95% saying they would either definitely (83%) or probably (12%) recommend it to friends.

Visitor comments from last year included: *“The children were so excited and thought the paraded dinosaurs were real, lol. The rides, painting, balloons were all fantastic. It was an opportunity for children to see their friends and meet new friends too.”*

Visitors also reported that the event made them feel more pride in the local community (68% with 32% same as before), made them feel more connected to the local culture, history & heritage (50% with 49% same as before) and more connected to their local community (51% with 49% same as before).

Wild West Dino Discovery will be a new attraction for 2024 ensuring renewed interest from regular visitors to the event and further adding to our balance of informative vs fun!

Overall, this feedback provides strong evidence of the value Dino Fest brings to the local community – in particular providing free entertainment during the current cost of living crisis.

### Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.

Wild West Dino Discovery – 2-day fee - £900

Budget for other event costs funded from elsewhere is as follows:

Rentadinosaur – animatronic dinosaurs including Megalosaurus - £5,236

Dinosaur Experiences – animatronic dinosaurs and dino dig - £5,000

Dino Isle Museum – fossil collection with experts from Isle of Wight - £1,800

City Centre Dino Trail - £1,300

Dr Deam Lomax – expert palaeontologist – talk & ‘Meet & Greet’ - £1,500

School workshops at City Museum - £1,200

Facepainting – 2 people for 2 days - £880



Room hire for talks - £900  
Fossils In T'Hills – local palaeontologists with educational fun activity - £600  
Printing – posters & event programmes - £800  
Event Marketing - £3,000  
Event Security - £850

Total costs funded from other sources: £23,066

**If you are not asking for the full amount of the cost of your activity / equipment, please give us details of where the rest of the funding is coming from. Please also explain what you will do if we give you the grant, but you do not get the other funding.**

We are requesting full funding for the Wild West Dino Discovery to attend the event on both days, so no match is required for this element of Dino Fest.

The overall Dino Fest budget is over £20,000 to fund educational talks, workshops, expert palaeontologists, face painting, animatronic dinosaurs, a Dino Trail and more. Other aspects are all fully funded through a grant from Heritage Lottery Fund (£10,000), sponsorship from Stagecoach (£3,250) and at least £7,000 investment by Lancaster BID through our annual BID levy income from city centre businesses.

Other funding is all fully secure so the event is certain to go ahead, and all proposed activities will be funded if the Local Members Grant is approved.

**If the councillor offers a grant of less than you have asked for, please explain below how that will affect your proposal – for example, will you still be able to complete your project or purchase, will you scale the project back, or seek funding elsewhere?**

We would seek further funding to make up any shortfall but would not be certain of success. We may have to consider reducing the booking for Wild West Dino Discovery to a single day rather than the whole weekend. Whilst this would still provide an exciting activity for the local community, it would mean visitors on the other day of the event would potentially be disappointed with less on offer.

If no funding is offered by Lancashire County Council, it is likely that we will be unable to book the Wild West Dino Discovery which will mean fewer hands-on activities for local residents attending the event.

**Will the activity involve members of your organisation having significant contact with children or vulnerable adults?**

- Yes  
 No

**Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:



## Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

## Finance

An up-date of spend in 2024/25 is shown below:

Budget for 2024/25		£2,000.00
C/F from 2023/24		£0.00
Refunds		£0.00
<b>Total Grant Available in 2024/25</b>		<b>£2,000.00</b>
Grant Allocations Already Approved		£0.00
<b>Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25</b>		<b>£2,000.00</b>
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected		£0.00
NEW REQUESTS	Lancaster BID Ltd	£900.00
		£900.00
<b>Total Grant Requests in Progress</b>		<b>£900.00</b>
<b>Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved</b>		<b>£1,100.00</b>

## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

