

Questions to Cabinet

Responses for the Cabinet Meeting on **3 November 2022**

1.	Questioner: County Councillor Scott Smith	Respondent: County Councillor Michael Green
	<p>Item 11 - Establishing Additional Funds for Community Food Grants</p> <p>Please could the Cabinet Member explain why the item on Community Food Grants is required, when the additional funding was proposed by him as an amendment to a Motion at the Council Meeting on 13 October 2022.</p>	<p>We launched the Lancashire Community Food Grant Scheme in 2020, during the pandemic. This scheme allows community and voluntary organisations to apply for funding for projects that are aimed at tackling food insecurity. Applicants can apply for items such as food, equipment, volunteer expenses, premises costs, organisation staff costs and resilience building activities.</p> <p>Recognising the likely need in our communities, we significantly increased the budget for this scheme up to £180,000 for 2022/23. The decision panel for the latest round was completed recently and the County Council approved 46 applications with funding totalling just over £123,000.</p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to thank our officers for their hard work to support this scheme.</p> <p>With a second round imminent, we moved an amendment to a Motion at Full Council on 13th October to increase the budget for the Community Food Grant Scheme up to £250,000.</p>



		<p>Cty Cllr Scott Smith tabled a question, asking why we therefore needed to bring this report today.</p> <p>The answer is that, incredibly, Cty Cllr Samara Barnes, supported by her Labour Group colleagues, decided to withdraw her Motion, which meant that the amendment could not be approved.</p> <p>Their actions disappointingly put groups at risk of not receiving this additional funding – which I would remind colleagues is designed to permit community and voluntary organisations to apply for funding for projects which are aimed at tackling food insecurity.</p> <p>The report has therefore been tabled today to ensure that we can make this additional funding available in time to be distributed to groups across Lancashire to support projects which provide emergency food and tackle food insecurity for those residents most in need.</p> <p>I am therefore pleased to recommend increasing the allocation once again up to a quarter of a million pounds. We will also be running surgeries to help groups to access this funding.</p> <p>Once again, this demonstrates the commitment of this Administration to offer assistance to our communities across Lancashire in a very practical way.</p>
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