

Report to County Councillor O'Toole

Report submitted by: Head of Service Legal, Governance and Registrars

Electoral Division affected:

Preston East; Preston South West; Preston West; West Lancashire West;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:

Crusaders Morris Dancers

Contact for further information:

Local Member Grants

, Tel: (01772) 530078, Legal and Democratic Services,

LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report presents an application from a local organisation requesting £2000 towards a new music system and travel expenses from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

The organisation has submitted a multi-division application requesting a total amount of £2000 from the Local Member Grants Scheme towards the same project. Requests have been made to each of the following county councillors and a separate report will be submitted to each councillor for their determination

- County Councillor Nweeda Khan - £500
- County Councillor John Potter - £500
- County Councillor Anna Hindle - £500
- County Councillor David O'Toole - £500

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 David O'Toole's total budget is set out in the financial section of the report.

Details of the requests for grant funding are shown below:

Full name of your organisation	
Crusaders Morris Dancers	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000	
£2000	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Preston South West	£500
Preston West	£500
Preston East	£500
West Lancashire West	£500
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
New music system and travel expenses to and from competitions.	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
As soon as any funds come through, we will get the new music system that we desperately need to continue the work we do.	
The travel expenses will be used to help with cost towards our travel to competitions throughout the year. We will use the funds provided so that we can subsidise the cost of travel for our children and families.	
How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?	
Although we are based in Larches Preston, we have dancers from all over Preston and Lancashire that attend our organisation.	



These areas include but are not limited to: Larches, Savick, Ashton, Tanterton, Ingol, Moor Nook, Deepdale, Ribbleton and Leyland.

Each of our members are from low-income families and struggle keeping up with the cost of dance. We fundraise throughout the year to try to subsidise the cost. However, travel to competitions is becoming extremely expensive anywhere from £650-£750+ per competition we attend.

Crusaders is not just a dance troupe but also a safe space where people can make new friendships and combat isolation. We have supported so many children and adults with mental health issues as well as physical health issues and would love to be able for people to continue using our service and reaping the benefits from this without the financial burden.

Crusaders allows these children to get off the streets and to join something positive. It allows these children to come off their devices and become active. It allows these children to have a place they can rely on no matter what and without any judgement from others.

This is how the money will benefit the people in each of these councillors communities and hopefully many more to come.

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

Music Machine – £110
Travel expenses to competitions - £1890

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.

As we are a non-profit organisation, we have applied for funding from other sources such as the Lancashire county council community champions scheme for the other things we need to keep going. This includes funding for costumes, and cost associated with our championships in October 2024.

As previously stated, we do everything we can to fundraise to subsidise the cost for our members. However, without the funding we receive from our generous donors we will struggle to keep cost low, which in turn will mean the loss of members due to financial reasons.

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?

The majority of the funding we have asked for will go towards the cost of the travel to and from competitions throughout the year.



This will mean that the charge for travel to the competitions can be kept low for members. The majority of our members do not drive so we have no choice but to hire a coach for the 65 members we have and their parent or guardian. Every penny you offer will help keep this cost low and we hope that by doing this we can still compete.

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		£200.00
Refunds		£0.00
Total Grant Available in 2024/25		£2,200.00
Grant Allocations Already Approved		
		£0.00
Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25		£2,200.00
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected		
		£0.00
NEW REQUESTS	Crusaders Morris Dancers	£500.00
		£500.00
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£500.00
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved		£1,700.00

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

