

Report to the Cabinet Member for Leader of the Council

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

Part I

Electoral Division affected:

Heysham; Lancaster Central;
Lancaster East; Lancaster
Rural East; Lancaster Rural
North; Lancaster South East;
Morecambe Central;
Morecambe North;
Morecambe South; Skerton;;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:
Citizens Advice North Lancashire

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 £2,000 towards the cost of new carpets from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

The organisation has submitted a multi-division application requesting a total amount of £2,000 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 Andrew Gardiner - £200
- County Councillor Gina Dowding - £200
- County Councillor Lizzi Collinge - £200
- County Councillor Matthew Maxwell-Scott - £200
- County Councillor Phillippa Williamson - £200
- County Councillor Erica Lewis - £200
- County Councillor Margaret Pattison - £200
- County Councillor Stuart C Morris - £200
- County Councillor Charles Edwards - £200
- County Councillor Jean Parr - £200

Recommendation



The Cabinet Member for Leader of the Council is requested to consider and approve the request for grant funding as set out in the report.

Detail

On 16 December 2021, Full Council approved the reintroduction of the Local Member Grants. 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.

The above legislation however does not apply to Cabinet Members as they already have these decision-making powers. The Cabinet Member for Leader of the Council is therefore being asked to consider and agree the application for funding (in relation to their own Local Member Grants Scheme budget) under the existing decision-making process for Cabinet (Executive) Members. Existing rules for executive decision making, including the notification of key decisions and provision for the call in of decisions will therefore continue to apply for Cabinet Members.

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 Phillippa Williamson'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	
Citizens Advice North Lancashire	
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
Heysham (Cllr Gardiner)	£200
Lancaster Central (Cllr Dowding)	£200
Lancaster East (Cllr Collinge)	£200
Lancaster Rural East (Cllr Maxwell-Scott)	£200
Lancaster Rural North (Cllr Williamson)	£200



Lancaster South East (Cllr Lewis)	£200
Morecambe Central (Cllr Pattison)	£200
Morecambe North (Cllr Morris)	£200
Morecambe South (Cllr Edwards)	£200
Skerton (Cllr Parr)	£200
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
<p>Our Morecambe Building is the centre of our charity and houses our advisers and admin teams who provide our service across the district when they aren't out and about. The building is in desperate need of new carpets throughout as they are threadbare and starting to become dangerous.</p> <p>Our clients also use the Morecambe building when they come to see us in person, and we'd like the building to be smarter and more welcoming. In addition, we would like our carpets to have increased insulation to help insulate and lower our heating bills.</p>	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
<p>We intend to purchase carpets in the next 12 months, and we are applying to a number of different charitable funds to cover the cost.</p>	
How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?	
<p>Our service supported over 7,500 residents across Lancaster District (all divisions) in 2023/4 who were facing over 28,000 different problems. Our work directly benefitted our clients by over £14.9m in reduced debts, benefits claimed, and other costs secured to ensure that residents are getting all the money they are entitled to. Our office in Morecambe is where all our central operations take place and our advisers work across the district in all ward divisions.</p>	
Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.	
<p>We have received quotes from three different suppliers based near to our office and the cheapest quote for the whole building (which has 18 rooms that need new carpets) is £9,000 to include installation and an insulating underlay.</p>	
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.	
<p>The total amount of the new carpets will be £9,000. We have applied to The Hobson Trust, The Jules Thorn Charitable Trust and the Garfield Weston Awards too, to try to cover the costs through several different grants.</p>	



If we do not get grant funding from these sources, we will continue to apply but we will also use money raised from our fundraising activity this year to cover the cost.

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?

Any amount granted will be a welcome addition towards our total goal of £9,000.

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

- Yes
 No

Consultations

N/A

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.

Financial

Details of the funding requested are set out in this report.

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

Budget for 2024/25		£2,000.00
C/F from 2023/24		£96.18
Refunds		£0.00
Total Grant Available in 2024/25		£2,096.18
Grant Allocations Already Approved	St. John's Hospice Lancaster	£100.00
		£100.00
Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25		£1,996.18
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected		



		£0.00
NEW REQUESTS	Citizens Advice North Lancashire	£200.00
		£200.00
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£200.00
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved		£1,796.18

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

