

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:
Lancaster Central; Lancaster
East; Lancaster Rural North;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:
Community Mind Connect C.I.C

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 £1,880 towards the cost of running a film screening and art exhibition event from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

The organisation has submitted a multi-division application requesting a total amount of £1,880 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 Lizzi Collinge - £1,000
- County Councillor Gina Dowding - £500
- County Councillor Phillippa Williamson - £380

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	
Community Mind Connect C.I.C	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000	
£1,880	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Lancaster East (Cllr Collinge)	£1,000
Lancaster Central (Cllr Dowding)	£500
Lancaster Rural North (Cllr Williamson)	£380
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
Venue hire - £1,000 Promotional materials - £500 Social media ads - £50 Volunteer costs - £100 Accounts - £200 Website - £30	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
15/09/2024	



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

Our project will enable fostering a supportive environment that promotes mental health and artistic exploration through community engagement. Through a film screening and art exhibition event involving local film makers and artists to showcase their work.

Research shows that Mental health is an issue in the Lancaster and Morecambe district, with suicide rates above both the regional and national averages - 15.1 per 100,000 population, with the English average at 10.4 per 100,000 population. Data from the Small Area Mental Health Index (SAMHI) show that areas of higher deprivation have increased rates of poor mental health.

Making a lasting difference to people’s lives: Art has the power to change the way we see the world, awakening us to new perspectives, ideas, and values. It can take us back in time to reflect on our past or push us further into our future. Art can bring awareness to social issues and foster a sense of acceptance — bringing people together regardless of background.

Reducing isolation, stigma and discrimination: Art can help people feel relaxed and safe when exploring upsetting experiences, can help people feel in control of their own stories, and enables them to share these stories in ways they feel comfortable with.

Encouraging or enabling unpopular groups to share in the life of the whole community: Art, in its diverse forms, plays a pivotal role in fostering inclusivity and enabling unpopular groups to actively participate in the life of the entire community.

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

Venue hire - £1,000 =
Promotional materials - £500
Social media ads - £50
Volunteer costs - £100
Accounts - £200
Website - £30

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.

N/A

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 project budget would have to be assessed and adjusted.



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
	Citizens Advice North Lancashire	£100.00
		£200.00
Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25		£1,896.18
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected		
		£0.00
NEW REQUESTS	Community Mind Connect C.I.C	£380.00
		£380.00
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£380.00



Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved	£1,516.18
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List of Background Papers

Paper

Date

Contact

None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

