

Report to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth
Report submitted by: Head of Service Legal, Governance and Registrars

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Euxton, Buckshaw & Astley;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:
New Friends For You

Contact for further information:
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Brief Summary

This report presents an application from a local organisation requesting £600 towards running and advertising two social events in July and December 2024 from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth 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 Economic Development and Growth 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 Aidy Riggott'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	
New Friends For You	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000	
£600	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Euxton, Buckshaw & Astley	£600
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
<p>£60 - Advertising materials, posters, and handouts.</p> <p>£100 - Subsidised hot drinks for Café Ambio and War Horse Talkin Tables Meetings. (July & December)</p> <p>£40 - Biscuits for War Horse Talkin Table (no biscuits allowed at Café Ambio) July & December.</p> <p>£200 - subsidised War Horse Talkin Table birthday event which will include NFFY volunteers and clients for Euxton Astley Village and Buckshaw (14 individuals are supported). The current 15 members of War Horse TT will help to host new visitors.</p> <p>£200 - subsidised War Horse Venue Christmas event for All Talkin Table members, all NFFY clients and volunteers and all After Loss Club members living in Euxton, Astley Village and Buckshaw.</p>	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
<p>War Horse Talkin Table was set up on 7th July 2022. We want to have a second birthday party event on Wednesday 10th July 2024. For the months of July & December we want to try to encourage more socially isolated people living in Euxton, Astley Village & Buckshaw to join us at their local Talkin Table. We will be running an ad campaign to have 'A cuppa for £1' at the TT venues in Astley Village and Buckshaw Village.</p>	



We want to do a Christmas event in December 2024 for the Friends For You clients and their volunteer visitors as another opportunity to meet Talkin Table attendees in their locality.

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

Modern life is making us lonelier, and recent research indicates that this may be the next biggest public health issue on par with obesity and substance abuse. A [recent review of studies](#) indicates that loneliness increases mortality risk by 26%.

New Friends For You supports 10 people in Euxton, 3 in Astley Village and 1 in Buckshaw Village. Clients have been referred to us by Chorley Council, GPs or Social Services. A trained Volunteer visits the client for one hour per week. We would like to invite the volunteer to bring their client to a social event where they can meet people who attend the Talkin Table near where they live. The aim is that the Talkin Tables members and the supported NFFY clients will improve their network of friends and decrease their social isolation. It is also beneficial to the volunteers supporting individuals to meet fellow volunteers. We also intend to invite any members who attend the After Loss Club who live in the 3 areas to again increase their social networks.

Loneliness has also been linked to poor mental health. In a survey by Mental Health Foundation, more than a third of people surveyed had felt depressed because of feeling lonely. The 3 strands of New Friends For you all aim to combat loneliness in our community.

The opportunity for more people to attend a Talkin Table will enhance the emotional health and well-being of all concerned as has been evidenced by those who have already taken that first step and now have a new network of friends to enjoy days out and regular meet ups.

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

£60: Printing budget to produce posters and leaflets.

£100: In July & December we will advertise 'A cuppa for £1' at Café Ambio TT and War Horse TT for any new members of Talkin Tables. The grant will be used by the table leader to pay the difference at each venue. The average cost will be £2 per head so we are looking to spend £25 per month at each venue.

£40: Biscuits for War Horse TT July & December. (No outside refreshments allowed at Café Ambio)

£200: We will invite 14 supported Friends For You individuals plus their volunteer supporters to a buffet lunch along with the War Horse TT members and any other TT member living in the division who wants to celebrate with us. The £200 will be used to subsidise the meal for all participants.

£200: We also want to arrange a Christmas event for the same invited people where the £200 will be used to subsidise the meal. Members will pay the balance after the £200 subsidy.



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.

All events are subsidised, and all participants will contribute to the overall cost in a fair and equitable way. Where there is hardship, a member will be fully funded to attend with the agreement of the relevant table leaders/ volunteers.

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 will either cancel one event or ask attendees to pay the full cost which may reduce the number of people able to attend.

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		£0.00
Refunds		£0.00
Total Grant Available in 2024/25		£2,000.00
Grant Allocations Already Approved		
		£0.00
Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25		£2,000.00
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected		
		£0.00
NEW REQUESTS	New Friends For You	£600.00
		£600.00
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£600.00
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved		£1,400.00

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

