

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:
Cleveleys East;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:
Thornton-Cleveleys Gala Committee

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

This report presents an application from a local organisation requesting £1,967 towards the cost of running the two-day Thornton-Cleveleys Gala weekend from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

The organisation has submitted a multi-division application requesting a total amount of £1,967 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 Andrea Kay - £491.75
- County Councillor Stephen Clarke - £491.75
- County Councillor John Shedwick - £491.75
- County Councillor Alan Vincent - £491.75

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 Andrea Kay's (County Councillor for Cleveleys East) 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	
Thornton-Cleveleys Gala Committee	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2500	
£1,967	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Cleveleys East (Cllr Kay)	£491.75
Fleetwood West and Cleveleys West (Cllr Clarke)	£491.75
Thornton and Hambleton (Cllr Shedwick)	£491.75
Cleveleys South and Carleton (Cllr Vincent)	£491.75
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
The money provided through the grant will enable the Gala Committee to run the two-day Thornton-Cleveleys Gala weekend, by providing such vital services as security; first-aid; and toilet hire. Without these, we would not be able to run the Gala.	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
The Thornton-Cleveleys Gala weekend takes place over two days, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June 2024.	



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

The Thornton-Cleveleys Gala weekend takes place on King George's Playing Fields, which is situated in an area covered by the divisions of Cleveleys East, Fleetwood West and Cleveleys West, Thornton and Hambleton, and Cleveleys South and Carleton. The Gala is particularly aligned with two points under the 'Caring for the Vulnerable' section of LCC's Corporate Priorities 2021-2025, namely point 2 – 'Challenge and reduce areas of inequality and provide opportunity for all'; and point 3 – 'Ensure children of all abilities do well..., gaining important skills and expertise for life'.

Thornton-Cleveleys Gala weekend is a great local family event promoting community cohesion, with local children very much at the forefront. The focal point of the weekend is the Gala parade. Children make up the two retinues of the Gala Queen and the Rosebud Queen, performing additional roles including Prince Charming's, Flower-girls, Maids of Honour, Trainbearers, and other retinue members. The children take part in the parade, having agreed on a theme, decorated their own wagons and chosen their own costumes. Once back on King George's Playing Fields after the parade, the outgoing and incoming Gala Queens make speeches to the assembled audience. Other members of the retinues also make speeches to the audience, to open and close the Crowning ceremony.

Whilst the children are having fun dressing up and taking part in the Gala and parade, they are also learning valuable life skills (point 3 - 'Ensure children of all abilities do well..., gaining important skills and expertise for life'). These include public speaking; planning, writing, and delivering a speech aimed at a target audience; budgeting; planning; the arts of compromise and negotiation with other children in the retinue, who may have different ideas regarding how the wagons should be decorated, for example.

Each child composes their application to join the retinue, provides a short statement following their election to the retinue before the Gala, and an evaluation of their experiences the following year, stating what they have learnt from being in the Gala retinue, and any advice they would give to future retinue members. These reflections are published in the Gala Programme, which has a print run of around 1000 copies. These are all skills which build confidence, and which will be beneficial in the child's life outside the Gala. Age, and residency within Thornton-Cleveleys, are the only criteria by which a child is selected to take part in the retinues. There is no restriction on the grounds of ability or disability (point 2 - 'Challenge and reduce areas of inequality and provide opportunity for all'). For the majority of the children, this will be the first time they have been involved in an event such as this.

The two-day event also enables the talents of the local community to be showcased. Last year, the music, food and drink event on the Saturday enabled local bands to perform on stage to an audience, and local food and drink suppliers to sell their produce to local people. The Gala Day on the Sunday enabled local groups, including local dance schools, and performing arts groups to showcase their talents on stage in front of a local crowd.



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

£624 - First Aid (balance)
£587 - Security (balance)
£552 – Toilets (hire and management)
£204 – Leaflets (to be delivered around the Gala parade route to inform local residents)

= £1,967

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.

The Gala Committee is not seeking a grant for the full cost of the Gala Weekend, as we have already paid for some elements. We successfully secured Spacehive Crowdfunding earlier this year, which has enabled us to make some purchases already.

The Gala Committee continues to hold regular fundraising activities in the community. These include a family fun-day; a grand raffle which is drawn on Gala Day; tombola events; psychic nights; chocolate bingo events; raffles; bucket collections at local supermarkets and in local pubs; collection boxes in local pubs and shops; brass band concerts; and a Christmas fair. We will continue to hold events such as these to make up any shortfall in funding. Additional events will also be held if required to raise additional funding.

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?

As stated in response 9 above, the Gala Committee actively carries out regular fundraising events. The frequency of these would be increased to meet any shortfall in funding if we obtained a grant which was for a lesser amount than we had requested.

We would not aim to scale back the Gala Weekend in the event of a lesser grant being awarded. The two-day Gala Weekend was held as a trial for the first time last year, and it proved to be a very successful community event, which drew in many local people, including families with children for the Sunday Gala, parade and fairground; and teenagers and young people who were interested in the music, food and drink event which was held on the Saturday for the first time last year. We would like to retain the two-day event this year, with the aim of building on the success of last year and engaging all areas of the community.

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 2023/24 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	Thornton-Cleveleys Gala Committee	£491.75
		£491.75
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£491.75
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved		£1,708.25

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

