

**Report to County Councillor Loraine Cox**

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

**Local Member Grants Scheme Application  
from:**

Blackburn Blind Sports

Contact for further information:

Local Member Grants, Tel: (01772) 530078, Legal  
and Democratic Services,

[LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Electoral Division affected:**

Accrington North; Accrington  
South; Accrington West &  
Oswaldtwistle Central;  
Brierfield & Nelson West;  
Burnley Central West; Burnley  
North East; Nelson East;  
Oswaldtwistle; Preston Central  
West; Preston South West;  
Rossendale South;  
Rossendale West; West  
Lancashire East;

**Brief Summary**

This report presents an application from a organisation requesting £1942 towards sports equipment from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

The organisation has submitted a multi-division application requesting a total amount of £1942 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 Azhar Ali - £150
- County Councillor Usman Arif - £150
- County Councillor Rob Bailey - £150
- County Councillor Samara Barnes - £150
- County Councillor Peter Britcliffe - £150
- County Councillor Matthew Brown - £150
- County Councillor Anne Cheetham - £150
- County Councillor Loraine Cox - £150
- County Councillor Munsif Dad - £150
- County Councillor Mohammed Iqbal - £150
- County Councillor Scott Cunliffe - £150
- County Councillor Nweeda Khan - £142
- County Councillor Terry Hurn - £150

**Recommendation**



That consideration be given to the request for grant funding as set out in this report.

It should be noted that the outstanding amount being requested by organisations for grant applications comes to a combined total of £816. The total amount of funding available in County Councillor Loraine Cox's budget is £500.

Therefore, the maximum amount of funds that can be approved for outstanding grant requests is £500.

## 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 Loraine Cox'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	
Blackburn Blind Sports	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000	
£1942	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Nelson East	£150.00
Burnley North East	£150.00
West Lancashire East	£150.00
Rosendale West	£150.00
Oswaldtwistle	£150.00
Preston Central West	£150.00
Rosendale South	£150.00



Accrington North	£150.00
Accrington West & Oswaldtwistle Central	£150.00
Burnley Central West	£150.00
Accrington South	£150.00
Brierfield & Nelson West	£150.00
Preston South West	£142.00
<b>What are you going to spend the grant on?</b>	
<p>The grant will be spent on the purchase of equipment needed for blind people to play a variety of blind sports, equipment includes balls with bells in, goal nets, tape and string.</p>	
<b>Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods</b>	
January 2025	
<b>How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?</b>	
<p>There are no existing sports club for the blind in Lancashire. Therefore, the club will benefit all blind people living across Lancashire as it will get them out of isolation, improve their physical and mental health and increase their confidence and self-esteem. It will also create cohesion between sighted and blind people as we're inviting sighted people to come and play blind sports. We have players coming to the blind tennis and goalball sessions from across Blackburn, Darwen, Accrington, Oswaldtwistle, Preston and even Bolton.</p>	
<b>Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.</b>	
<p>£11.40 needed per week for three rolls of self-adhesive line marking tape to stick string to the court so blind people can feel their positions on court.  £11.40 x 40 weeks = £456.  £25 per week on venue hire - £1000 per year on venue hire 2 hours per week.  £81 on a goalball ball from the RNIB – six needed = £486.</p> <p>Total requested £1942  £1000 for venue  £486 on balls  £456 on tape</p>	
<b>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.</b>	



We have an active fundraising campaign on SpaceHive, that's been contributed to by Lancashire County Council's Culture and Sport Fund. This grant would go towards the reaching of the fundraising total, so we are eligible to receive the council's pledge. We're £3200 short of the target at the time of writing.

[Blackburn Blind Sports Equipment Costs \(spacehive.com\)](https://spacehive.com)

**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 are seeking funding elsewhere and if we aren't successful then we'll continue to seek other funding or order less equipment. The sessions will still run as we collect £5 subs per player per session to cover our key cost of venue hire/coach fee. The reason we need a grant is so we can actually purchase proper equipment for everyone to play properly.

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

- Yes  
 No

\* There aren't any children currently attending the sessions, but vulnerable adults do attend as they're blind. However, we have robust safeguarding procedures in place and all volunteers and staff are qualified and cleared.

### **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:

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Budget for 2024/25		£2,000.00
C/F from 2023/24		£200.00
Refunds		£0.00
<b>Total Grant Available in 2024/25</b>		<b>£2,200.00</b>
Grant Allocations Already Approved	Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum	£500.00
	Official Accrington Stanley Supporters Trust	£500.00
	Community Solutions North West Ltd	£400.00
	Bury Cabaret Lunch Club CIC Limited	£300.00
		£1,700.00
<b>Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25</b>		<b>£500.00</b>
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected	JC's Gym & Fitness Centre	£666.00
		£666.00
NEW REQUESTS	Blackburn Blind Sports	£150.00
		£150.00
<b>Total Grant Requests in Progress</b>		<b>£816.00</b>
<b>Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved</b>		<b>-£316.00</b>

### List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

