

Report to County Councillor Tim Ashton
Report submitted by: Head of Service Legal, Governance and Registrars

Electoral Division affected:
Lytham;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:
Lowther Gardens (Lytham) Trust

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 lighting bars for the venue from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

Recommendation

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

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 Tim Ashton'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	
Lowther Gardens (Lytham) Trust	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000	
£2,000	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Lytham (Cllr Ashton)	£2,000
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
<p>Lowther Trust are in the final stages of the delivery of a brand new performance and education centre built in the grounds of Lowther Pavilion. Having raised £2.7 million of just shy the £3 million needed to bring it to opening in April 2025 we are in the final stages of fund raising for the fit out.</p> <p>The building will offer a state of the art space with bifold doors which open on to the gardens. The use will be varied from workshops for home educated children, arts and culture for the very young through the ages to our adult groups. It will provide a new base for community and amateur groups as well professional artists, jazz and folk clubs.</p> <p>Outside, there will be an amphitheatre and outdoor classroom, which has been funded through the LCC Spacehive project.</p> <p>The spend will be towards lighting bars for the venue at a cost of £3960.96 inc VAT of which the remainder will be made up from other donations.</p>	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
An order will be placed on raising the funding.	
How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?	
As stated in the description, the money will be spent on something which is for the benefit of all users of the premises from the community, schools and other groups. The initiative is also beneficial for the local economy as we have visitors from across the Fylde, regionally and beyond.	
Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.	



Quoted - £3960.96

8.5 metre long internally wired lighting bar x 4
There will be a further ABS enclosure which will be but unwired
Universal clamps
Delivery and shipping

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.

Lowther is continually fund raising and the remainder will come from money raised via collections and the theatre restoration levy. The other funding will be in place and if not further money will be transferred from the restoration fund or leases.

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?

If offered less it will affect other aspects of the fit out and cause us to divert other moneys from aspects of the fit out.

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

It should be noted that the outstanding amount being requested by organisations for grant applications comes to a combined total of £2,350. The total amount of funding available in County Councillor Tim Ashton's budget is £2,200.

Therefore, the maximum amount of funds that can be approved for outstanding grant requests is £2,200.

An up-date of spend in 2024/25 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	Fresh Food 4 Working Families	£350.00
		£350.00
NEW REQUESTS	Lowther Gardens (Lytham) Trust	£2,000.00
		£2,000.00
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£2,350.00
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved		-£150.00

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

