

Report to County Councillor Phillippa Williamson

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

Electoral Division affected:
Fleetwood East;

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:

Friends of Memorial Demonstration Garden

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 £1,054.10 towards the cost of equipment for the community garden 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.

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	
Friends of Memorial Demonstration Garden	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000	
£1,054.10	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Fleetwood East (CC Beavers)	£1,054.10
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
This project will ensure the sustainability of our community garden. The funds will be used for tools, compost, feed, vermiculite, perlite and growbags.	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
Goods will be purchased as soon as grant funds are available.	
How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?	
<p>We are a constituted not for profit community organisation and we provide a community garden to grow plants, trees, fruit and vegetables. We have around 15 - 20 regular attendees twice a week who are aged between 30 - 80 years of age and live in Fleetwood. The garden is in a public memorial park in a deprived coastal town on Lancashire's Fylde Coast. It provides people the opportunity to engage in an outside pastime, connect with nature, to meet and connect with other people, reduce loneliness and isolation, improve their mental health and their physical health through healthy food and nutrition. People are able to eat the produce that is grown and any surplus is taken to a local foodbank. We have supplied them with green beans, lettuces, potatoes, courgettes and beetroot. Local NHS services recognise the physical and mental health benefits of our community garden and social prescribers regularly signpost people to our garden from a nearby walk in centre.</p> <p>The community garden also has environmental benefits to the local area as the increased plants and trees benefit insects, bees and air quality. Many of our members are widows/widowers and in addition to the physical and mental wellbeing benefits that</p>	



the community garden provides, it also helps to reduce food poverty by providing healthy and affordable food. This is so important in Fleetwood where food insecurity is high with entrenched physical and mental health problems and high mortality rates.

By purchasing tools and other equipment we will be able to continue to run the community garden and be able to accommodate additional members. As our garden operates in a significantly economically deprived town, it is not feasible to ask our members for a larger financial contribution. They already pay £1 per attendance to cover the cost of a warm drink and a biscuit. If we are unable to secure funds our group will be unable to continue.

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

Grow Bag Trays pack of 10 - £86.14
Secateurs and replacement parts X4 - £276.81
Perlite - £25.78
Vermiculite - £31.12
Stainless Border Spades X 5 - £163.62
Stainless Border Fork X 5 - £169.02
Square Mouth Shovel - £32.65
Peat/Compost Shovel - £61.70
Small Hand Shovel - £7.26
Compost and Feed - £200

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.

Full amount applied for.

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 we are unable to receive the full amount, we will prioritise our purchases and seek funding from elsewhere.

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 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	Wyre District Scout Council	£175.00
		£175.00
Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2024/25		£1,825.00
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected		
		£0.00
NEW REQUESTS	Friends of Memorial Demonstration Garden	£1,054.10
		£1,054.10
Total Grant Requests in Progress		£1,054.10
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved		£770.90

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		

