

Report to County Councillor Philippa Williamson
Report Submitted by: Head of Democratic Services

Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:
Harmony & Health Singers

	Corporate communities;	Priorities:	Stronger
Electoral Division(s): Cleveleys East; Fleetwood East;			
Contact: Local Member Grants, Democratic Services, Tel: (01772) 530078, LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk			

Summary

Purpose of the Report

This report presents an application from a local organisation requesting £1,000 towards a new iPad and replacement song books from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

The organisation has submitted a multi-division application requesting a total amount of £1,000 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 - £208
- County Councillor Philippa Williamson - £792

Recommendation

County Councillor Philippa Williamson is asked to consider the request for grant funding as set out in the report.

Background

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Details of the requests for grant funding are shown below:

Full name of your organisation	
Health & Harmony Singers	
How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2000	
£1,000	
Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?	
Name	Amount
Cleveleys East (Cllr Kay)	£208
Fleetwood East	£792
What are you going to spend the grant on?	
The grant would go towards the purchase of iPad, which we are in desperate need of. We need to re-print / replace our Song Books (some in large print).	
Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods	
As soon as funding is secured.	
How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?	
To ensure continuation of our 2 long established Community Groups (Thornton & Fleetwood). We meet twice weekly and our main aim is to improve health and wellbeing through	



singing and socialising whilst encouraging social interaction and inclusion, reducing loneliness and isolation.

The group has been fully voluntary and lead by the founder for 7 years.. Since Covid we have had no specific funding and we are mainly self-sufficient (paying large rents £10k a year to Wyre Borough and other for use of premises). Members pay SUBS. We have around 190 members and regularly have 100 meeting twice weekly.

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

iPad Air 2 - £309
Case - £20
New charger - £21

Towards printing 150 – 200 books / A4 x 50 double sided pages booklet including wire coil binding or similar - £650 (2 quotes available)

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.

We are applying for the full cost of our activity.

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?

For IPAD - we will continue somehow, we use this every session and our previous one broke Carol Singing outside ASDA at Christmas. We borrow a members iPad currently and we are trying to transfer the music onto the founders personal device.

For printing - We will apply elsewhere or wait till our budget allows.

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

- Yes
 No

Options and Proposals

5. There are three options available:

6. **Option One:** Approve the application in full for the amount requested.



7. **Option Two:** Approve the application in part for a reduced amount.

8. **Option Three:** Reject the application.

Consultations

9. This report has been written in consultation with Harmony & Health Singers and using the information provided in their application.

Context and Implications

Legal (including Human Rights)

10. In submitting their application, the organisation has signed the Local Member Grants Scheme Funding Agreement which sets out the terms and conditions of the grant. Those conditions include a requirement that any funding awarded to them will be used solely for the purposes set out in their application and this report.

Financial

11. It should be noted that the outstanding amount being requested by organisations for grant applications comes to a combined total of £4,014. The total amount of funding available in the Fleetwood East division budget is £1,825 Remaining.

12. Therefore, the maximum amount of funds that can be approved for outstanding grant requests is £1,825 to spend.

13. An updated summary 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	Friends of Memorial Demonstration Garden	£1,054.10
	LPM Dance	£668.00
	Fleetwood Civic Society	£1,500.00
		£3,222.10
NEW REQUESTS	Harmony & Health Singers	£792.00



	£792.00
Total Grant Requests in Progress	£4,014.10
Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2024/25 if all outstanding requests are approved	-£2,189.10

Equality and Diversity

14. The Local Member Grants Scheme enables each county councillor to enhance the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of people who live in their division. Applications for grant funding may relate to projects or activities that seek to benefit specific groups with protected characteristics.

Risk Management

15. No significant risks have been identified.

16. Following the receipt of grant funding, organisations are contacted for evidence to demonstrate that the money awarded has been spent in accordance with their application. The outcome of this monitoring activity is reported to the council's Audit, Risk and Governance Committee.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

17. N/A

