

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

REPORT ON WEST LOTHIAN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION MODERNISATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the panel on the £200,000 West Lothian Voluntary Organisation Modernisation and Improvement Programme and the additional £450,000 allocated by West Lothian Council.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the panel:

1. note that 44 applications were received;
2. note that the total funding requested is £360,629;
3. note that the panel is currently considering the applications and intend to inform applicants of the outcome before the end of the month; and
4. note the additional resources of £450k (£150k per year from 2020/21) for the next three financial years

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. Providing equality of opportunities. Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The report does not raise any health or risk assessment issues. No strategic environmental assessment is required.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	An agreed method of assuring quality and continuous improvement is an integral constituent of the move to funding voluntary organisations to deliver agreed outcomes, and should increase performance against agreed indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	£650,000
VII Consideration at PDSP	The Voluntary Organisations PDSP is updated on a regular basis.
VIII Other consultations	Third Sector

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

At the West Lothian Council meeting on 24 September 2019 a paper providing an update on the Review of the Loans Fund, Insurance Fund and Modernisation Fund proposed to allocate of £200,000 from the one off resource to create a fund for voluntary organisations to help modernise their operations.

This would be delivered through an application based Voluntary Organisations Modernisation and Improvement Fund open to all voluntary organisations operating within West Lothian. The focus of the Fund would be to support voluntary organisations to:

- modernise and improve to make it more sustainable in the medium term;
- encourage partnership working within the sector;
- demonstrate how it will support the council in meeting its agreed priorities

The allocation of funds from the Voluntary Organisations Modernisation and Improvement Fund is delegated to the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration.

D2 Application Process 2019/20

Officers worked with representatives of the Third Sector to agree the process to deliver the funding. Agreement has been reached that a programme would be made up of two elements:

1. A Business Improvement Programme (BIP)– funding will be allocated to bring in expert advice and support which will be free to access and cover a range of subject areas that link to supporting the sector in modernisation and building sustainability.
2. A Modernisation and Improvement Grant – For those that identify a specific need that requires direct funding that over and above the support offered through the BIP will be able to apply for a grant of up to £10,000 to implement sustainable modernisation projects.

Applications were invited and 44 applications were returned by the deadline of 27 January 2020 with £360,629 requested in grants. A panel of Council Officers and Third Sector representative is currently assessing the applications. A decision will be made and applicants informed before the end of the month.

D3 Additional Funding 2020/21

At the West Lothian Council meeting on 28 February 2020 additional funding of £450,000 was agreed to support extending the Modernisation and Improvement Fund

for a further three years with £150,000 allocated for each of the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23.

How this will be processed is likely to be similar to the above approach. However officers will look to learn from the current process and develop the approach accordingly.

E. CONCLUSION

Members are asked to note current position regarding the decision making process for the 2019/20 £200,000 Voluntary Organisations Modernisation and Improvement Fund and the additional £450,000 allocated for future years. .

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

West Lothian Council Executive, 24 September 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=43428>

West Lothian Council, 28 February 2020

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/Agenda.asp?meetingid=8228>

Appendices/Attachments: none

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