

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

GALA AND OTHER EVENTS FUND BUDGET ALLOCATIONS 2020-21

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Panel of changes to the methodology to calculate the allocations for the Galaday Committee Grant in 2020-21.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Panel notes the changes to how the budget is allocated for 2020/21 and the plans to update the Operating Scheme for 2021/22.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Being honest, open and accountable. Focussing on our customers' needs. Making best use of resources. Working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The duty of Best Value is set out in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration has the delegated authority to make the final allocations and payments.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA 4 - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Total fund of £40,000.00. As part of its general services revenue budget agreed by Council on 28 February.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII Other consultations	None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

At the Council Executive meeting on 29 October 2018 the Galaday Committee Grant was set at £40,000 for the financial year 2019/20. The budget was allocated using the same process as in previous years but this has caused a number of issues around the ability of the budget to cover the applications. Whilst all groups were funded it became clear that changes would be required going forward.

Officers have looked at two areas:

1. The mechanism for payments; and
2. Updating the Scheme to take on board changes to cover this and essentially update and tidy up sections that were no longer relevant.

The grants allocated previously have been historic in nature and in need of updating to take account of the revised budget allocation. Officers have looked at the existing process and the available budget. The current approach means that there can be variances each year with some groups applying some years and not others with some applicants requesting to be added if re-established or newly formed this makes the amount requested variable and makes the process difficult to manage within the £40,000 budget.

D2 Applications 2020-21: Gala Committees

The budget for 2020/21 remains £40,000 and officers have taken the opportunity to look at several models, including the status quo, a straight per capita allocation similar to the pensioners scheme and a basic payment plus per capita option to address the variable nature of the applications. Of the options considered the basic payment plus area based option offers the most equitable option that both works within the budget and updates a number of historic issues that have developed over time.

The new arrangements will see:

- A payment of £500 paid to each applicant (in 2018/19 the lowest amount paid to an applicant was £513 so this will protect those that received the least previously)
- In addition to the £500 all groups will receive a per capita payment in line with their respective populations (based on updated 2018 population figures from the National Records Office) will be paid.

To illustrate how this will work in practice. In 2019/20 there were 28 awards made to applicants. This would mean that if the same number of applications is received for 2020/21, using the new mechanism, £14,000 will be allocated based on a basic £500 and the remaining £25,000 budget allocated on a per capita basis. This would equate to approximately £0.16 per person.

The balance of £1,000 will be taken out of the pot, hence the £25,000 figure, to fund the West Lothian Highland Games, should they apply, as this is the only West Lothian wide event and does not sit within the approach as it would adversely skew calculation and the resultant per capita payment figure.

Importantly this also allows officers the flexibility to make small adjustments based on the applications received by the deadline in any given year to take account of returning or new applicants should that be that case.

D3 The Funding Operating Scheme 2021 onwards

As part of the review it has been noted that the Funding Operating Scheme that currently exists has not been updated for a number of years and officers will take the opportunity to update this and the applications forms to reflect the changes being made and will go out to groups in 2021/22. These are not major changes but more tidying up and points of clarification.

E. CONCLUSION

The report advises the Panel of the changes being made to the calculation of the Galaday and Events payments in 2020/21 and the updates that will be made for 2021/22.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

West Lothian Council Executive, 29 October 2018
<http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=40192>

West Lothian Council Gala and Events Grants Operating Scheme.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1: None

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