

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BROXBURN UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2020/21

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee of the final allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2020-21 to groups in the Broxburn Uphall and Winchburgh ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. The committee is asked to note the impact that COVID – 19 has had on the application and allocation process regarding the fund. The panel is also asked to note the additional option developed to provide a pre-prepared meal to groups who have indicated their interest.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes:

1. The effect of COVID-19 on the arrangements regarding the Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund in 2020-21;
2. The inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option; and
3. 5 groups were supported through the Pensioners Christmas Fund in 2020-21

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs. Being honest, open and accountable. providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; 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	The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Services 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	Older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life.

VI Resources - (Financial, £29,000 agreed by the Council. Staffing and Property)

VII Consideration at PDSP The Voluntary Organisations PDSP is updated annually.

VIII Other consultations A similar report will be made to all Local Area Committees

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

Each year the Council approves the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund. In 2020-21 the total fund amounts to £29,000 which is allocated through an application process. Funding is paid out on the basis of a pro-rata allocation based on the beneficiary numbers identified by the applicants. In 2019 this saw 8 organisations and 450 beneficiaries in the Broxburn Uphall and Winchburgh ward supported with an allocation of £5.56 per head.

D.2 2020 and the effect of COVID-19

This year due to COVID-19 it became clear that many groups were unlikely to be in a position to deliver their support in the same way if at all. Officers discussed the potential to offer an alternative to a grant towards an event and it was agreed that a pre-prepared chilled Christmas meal could be produced and delivered to groups for delivery to their members based on the final per head allocation. This was on the understanding that previously many groups utilised the funding for meals in community centres and other buildings

Officers contacted all 8 previous recipients by email or phone to ask if they were intending to provide a service this year and if so would they be interested in the provision of a pre-prepared meal or would they prefer a direct grant payment as before.

The meal will be prepared by the West Lothian Food Network and delivered to groups with support from the Council's Anti-Poverty Service. The meal will be delivered to groups to deliver to their members. The value of the meal is equivalent to the amount that groups receive per capita in a grant payment.

As a result of this work:

- 3 groups declined to apply to the fund. The groups that declined to apply did so due to the restrictions place on them by COVID-19
- 5 groups requested a grant payment, and
- No groups requested the meal option.

As in previous years the fund is divided equally by the total number of beneficiaries of the fund, which in 2020-21 saw £8.64 per head allocated to 450 recipients in the Broxburn Uphall and Winchburgh ward. Appendix 1 shows the overall breakdown by ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide

Due to changes to the usual application and allocation process paper application forms were not used this year.

Letters and e-mails were issued to groups advising them of the amount of funding they would receive in a grant payment or its equivalent in the form of a pre-prepared meal. Payments were made to the bank accounts of groups via Pecos or BACs for those groups not on PECOS.

Letters and e-mails sent to groups advised also that they must follow Scottish Government guidelines with regard to the delivery of hampers, gift packs and / or meals, for example, around minimising contact with individuals, car sharing, shopping and visiting care homes etc. and that if they were unable to follow guidelines they would be required to return all funding received to the council.

E CONCLUSION

The report asks the committee to note the effect of COVID-19 on the uptake and allocation of the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund in 2020-21 and the inclusion of the pre-prepared chilled meal option provided this year.

The report advises of the allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2020-21 to groups in the Broxburn Uphall and Winchburgh ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Letters and e-mails were issued to groups advising them of the amount of funding they would receive in a grant payment or its equivalent in the form of a pre-prepared meal. Payments were made to the bank accounts of groups via Pecos or BACs for those groups not on PECOS.

A satisfaction survey will be conducted with all applicants in January 2021.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund Allocations 2020-21

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5 March 2021

BROXBURN UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2020/21

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Appendix 1: 2020/21 Allocations to groups in the Broxburn Uphall and Winchburgh ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

Broxburn Uphall and Winchburgh Ward Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Broxburn United Sports Club	Grant Payment	55	£475.20
Hanover Court Social Club	Grant Payment	47	£406.08
Holmes Gardens Social Club	Grant Payment	31	£267.84
Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Holy Family, Winchburgh Conference)	Grant Payment	55	£475.20
Winchburgh Senior Citizens	Grant Payment	38	£328.32
Totals		226	£1,952.64

Livingston-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Braid House Day Centre	Grant Payment	78	£673.92
Total		78	£673.92

West Lothian-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
West Lothian 50+ Network	Grant Payment	380	£3,283.20
West Lothian Financial Inclusion Network	Grant Payment	50	£432.00
Total		430	£3,715.20

Notes: 6 groups were contacted and invited to apply to the fund in Armadale and Blackridge ward. Two groups applied to the fund. Four groups declined apply to the fund.