

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2021/22

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 2021-22 to groups in the Bathgate Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. The committee is asked to note the continuing impact that COVID – 19 has had on the application and allocation process regarding the fund. The Local Area Committee is also asked to note that applicants were offered, as they were in 2020, an additional option of a pre-prepared meal as an alternative to a direct grant award.

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 2021-22
2. The continued inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option and
3. Seven groups in Bathgate Ward are being supported through the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2021-22

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	This will be reported against indicator EDR061_9b.1b; Number of community organisations funded or supported through funding managed or administered by Community Planning and Regeneration.

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, Staffing and Property)	£29,000 agreed by the Council with £1,945.90 allocated to groups in the Bathgate Ward.
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 2021-22 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 2020/21 this saw 6 organisations and 272 beneficiaries supported with an allocation of £8.64 per head.

D.2 2021 and the ongoing effect of COVID-19

In 2021, as was the case in 2020, due to ongoing effect of COVID-19, many groups will not be delivering support in the same manner as usual if at all, at Christmas 2021.

In 2020, the council in partnership with the West Lothian Food Network, offered applicants the option of a pre-prepared chilled Christmas meal as an alternative to a direct grant award as a contribution towards the costs an event or activity, this option was offered again to applicants in 2021.

The meal will be prepared 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.

D.3 Applications 2021/22

Officers contacted all previous recipients of the fund in Bathgate Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide 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.

Nine groups in total were contacted in Bathgate Ward. When contacted, two groups declined to apply to the fund including Boghall Pensioners Fund and Rosemount Jane Place Tenants Association. Two further groups, Boghall Drop In Centre and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Whitburn Conference) when contacted, indicated that they deliver to beneficiaries across multiple wards. The two groups have been moved from their respective wards to the West Lothian Wide list.

As a result of this work:

Bathgate Ward

- Nine groups in Bathgate Ward were contacted and seven applied to the fund
- Two groups declined funding
- Six Bathgate groups that applied to the fund requested a grant payment
- One Bathgate group that applied to the fund requested the meal option

Livingston Wide

- One Livingston Wide group was contacted and applied to the fund
- The group requested a grant payment

West Lothian Wide

- Two West Lothian Wide groups were contacted and applied to the fund
- Both groups requested a grant payment
- Two groups were added to the West Lothian Wide list
- One of the additional groups requested a grant payment
- One of the additional groups requested both a grant payment and a meal option to be delivered to the groups they support across two wards

All applicants will be supported.

As in previous years the fund is divided equally by the total number of beneficiaries of the fund, which in 2021-22 will see £6.71 per head allocated to recipients in the Bathgate Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Appendix 1 shows the overall breakdown by ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

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

This also advised 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 continuing effect of COVID-19 on the uptake and allocation of the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund in 2021-22 and the continued inclusion of the pre-prepared chilled meal option this year.

The report advises of the allocations that will be made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2021-22 to groups in the Bathgate Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

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A satisfaction survey will be conducted with applicants in January 2022.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 Pensioners Groups Christmas Fund Allocations 2021-22

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22 November 2021

BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2021/22

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Appendix 1: 2021/22 Allocations to groups in the Bathgate Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

Bathgate Ward Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Acredale House	Grant Payment	<u>27</u>	£181.17
Bathgate Stroke Support Group	Grant Payment	19	£127.49
Carron Court Tenants Group	Grant Payment	31	£208.01
Hanover Close Social Club	Grant Payment	<u>30</u>	£201.30
Norvell Lodge Social Club	Grant Payment	<u>29</u>	£194.59
Royal British Legion Scotland Bathgate Branch Club		140	£939.40
St Marys & St Columbas 60s Club		14	£93.94
Totals		290	£1,945.90

Livingston-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Braid House Day Centre	Grant Payment	67	£449.57
Total		67	£449.57

West Lothian-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Boghall Drop-In Centre	Grant Payment	200	£1,342.00
Society of St Vincent De (Paul (Whitburn Conference))	Grant Payment and Meal Option	135	£905.85
West Lothian 50+ Network	Grant Payment	388	£2,603.48
West Lothian Financial Inclusion Network	Grant Payment	100	£671.00
Total		823	£5,522.33

Notes: Nine groups in Bathgate Ward were contacted and invited to apply to the fund. Seven groups applied to the fund. Two groups declined funding. One Livingston Wide group was contacted and applied to the fund. Two West Lothian Wide groups were contacted and applied to the fund. Two groups that indicated that they delivered a service across multiple wards applied to the fund and were moved from their respective wards to the West Lothian Wide List.