

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



## **VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

### **GALA AND SIMILAR EVENTS GRANT BUDGET 2022-23**

### **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 Gala and Similar Events Grant in 2020-21.

#### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Panel notes that:

1. the new system put in place in 2020 will be used;
2. applications will be invited in early February 2022 with a fixed deadline 1 April 2022.
3. if the effect of COVID-19 sees a significant fall in applications the process detailed in D.3 will be used to cap awards to ensure that there is no significant distortion due to a small number of applicants coming forward.

#### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Being honest, open and accountable. Focussing on our customers' needs. Making best use of resources. Working in partnership.
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	The duty of Best Value is set out in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration has the delegated authority to make the final allocations and payments.
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None.
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SOA 4 - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.
<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	Total fund of £40,000.00 is available annually. Confirmation is awaited when the council general services revenue budget is set by council in February 2022.
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	None.

**VIII Other consultations** None

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D1 Background**

At the Voluntary Organisations PDSP on 19 March 2020 a new process for the allocation of the Gala and similar events Grant was set out. The approach will see an award of £500 paid to each applicant which will then be topped up with an additional payment based on their respective populations and the funding available.

This was due to be introduced in 2020/2021. However, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic the application process was not implemented and the £40,000 grant was used to support the voluntary organisation funding in 2021/22. Again given the ongoing COVID-19 situation no grants were awarded in 2021/22.

### **D2 Gala Grants 2022/23**

As COVID-19 related restrictions start to ease it is the intention to open up the grant process to allow groups to apply for the event in the summer of 2022. It is expected that £40,000 will be available in 2022/23 but we await formal confirmation at the Council's budget setting meeting in February.

Once the budget is confirmed applications will be invited. As this is a new process there will be a specific deadline date of 1 April 2022 for all applications and all funding for the year will be allocated based on applications received at that date.

### **D3 Cap on award**

The new process is based on a pro rata allocation which relies on the majority of gala and similar events going ahead in the summer of 2022, and indeed every year. However, it may be that with COVID-19 concerns still around that some groups may not be ready to hold events just yet.

Should this be the case it is proposed that a cap on awards is put in place to avoid any unintended effects that would be caused by a small number of applications being received. This will mean that no applicant will be awarded more than 25% more than their expected allocation should the usual number of galas and event proceed, as was the case prior to COVID-19. It is not expected that this will be needed but this provides a safety net just in case. This is because the system aims to fully allocate the £40,000 based on applications received at the deadline and a low level of applications would have the unintended consequence of making very large awards to a small number of groups in extreme circumstances. This will work well based on a small fluctuation in applications each year as would normally be expected based on the evidence over the years.

It should be noted that the population figures currently used will be updated in February 2022 to reflect the latest projections so all figures will be updated.

### **D4 The Funding Operating Scheme 2021 onwards**

As part of the changes the Funding Operating Scheme has been updated along with the applications forms to reflect the changes. These are not major changes but more tidying up and points of clarification.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

The report advises the Panel of process for the application of the Gala and similar events Grant in 2022/23. A report on the final allocation will be brought to a future PDSP.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

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

VO PDSP March 2020

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dh%94m%7D%87>

Appendices/Attachments: None.

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