

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2022-2023

REPORT BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE EDUCATION, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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 2022-23 to groups in the Armadale and Blackridge Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. The committee is asked to note that applicants were offered, as they were in 2020 and 2021, an additional option of a pre-prepared chilled Christmas meal as an alternative to a direct grant award.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee notes:

1. Four groups in Armadale and Blackridge Ward have been supported through the Pensioner's Christmas Fund 2022-23
2. The continued inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option

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, 456.19 awarded to groups in Armadale and Blackridge 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 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 this saw four organisations representing 223 beneficiaries supported with an allocation of £6.53 per head.

D.2 Additional Meal Option 2022-2023

In 2020 and 2021, 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 of an event or activity, this option was offered again to applicants in 2022-2023. No applicants to the fund in Armadale and Blackridge Ward, Livingston Wide or West Lothian Wide requested the meal option in 2022-2023.

D.3 Applications 2022-23

Officers contacted all previous recipients of the fund in Armadale and Blackridge Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide by email or post 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.

Thirteen groups in total were contacted in Armadale and Blackridge Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide, ten of which applied to the fund and all of which requested the finance as opposed to the meal option.

As a result of this work:

Armadale and Blackridge Ward

- Six groups in Armadale and Blackridge Ward were contacted and four applied to the fund
- One group, Monday Club, declined to apply to the fund
- One group, Armadale 50+ Activities Group advised the council that they have disbanded
- Four Armadale and Blackridge groups that applied to the fund requested a grant payment

Livingston Wide

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

West Lothian Wide

- Six West Lothian Wide groups were contacted and five applied to the fund
- One group, West Lothian Financial Inclusion Network, declined to apply to the fund
- One new group, Carers of West Lothian, was added to the West Lothian Wide list
- The additional group requested a grant payment
- In all, five West Lothian Wide groups applied to the fund and all requested a grant payment

All applicants to the fund were supported.

As in previous years the fund is divided equally by the total number of beneficiaries of the fund, which in 2022-23 saw £6.53 per head allocated to recipients in the Armadale and Blackridge Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Appendix 1 shows the overall breakdown of grants awarded to groups by ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Letters and e-mails were sent to groups in October advising them of the amount of funding they were to receive in a grant payment. Payments were made directly to the bank accounts of groups using the BACs payment method.

E CONCLUSION

The report asks the committee to note the allocation of the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund in 2022-2023 and the continued inclusion of the pre-prepared chilled meal option this year.

The report advises of the allocations that were made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2022-2023 to groups in the Armadale and Blackridge Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide.

Letters and e-mails were issued to groups advising them of the amount of funding they were to receive in a grant payment. Payments were made directly to the bank accounts of groups using the BACs payment method.

A satisfaction survey will be conducted with applicants in February 2023.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

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

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29 November 2022

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2022-2023****REPORT BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE EDUCATION, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Appendix 1: 2022/2023 Allocations to groups in the Armadale and Blackridge Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

Armadale and Blackridge Ward Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Armadale Parish Church Friendship Group	Grant Payment	51	£333.03
Blackridge, Westrigg, West Craigs OAP Association	Grant Payment	120	£783.60
Colinshiel Court Tenant's And Friends Association	Grant Payment	30	£195.90
Tollgate House Social Fund	Grant Payment	22	£143.66
Totals		223	£1,456.19

Livingston-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Braid House Day Centre	Grant Payment	73	£476.69
Total		73	£476.69

West Lothian-Wide Organisations

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Boghall Drop-In Centre	Grant Payment	120	£783.60
Carers of West Lothian	Grant Payment	30	£195.90
Society of St Vincent De Paul (Whitburn Conference)	Grant Payment	120	£783.60
SPARK (formerly Craigshill Good Neighbour Network)	Grant Payment	40	£261.20
West Lothian 50+ Network	Grant Payment	443	£2,892.79
Total		753	£4,917.09

Notes: Six groups in Armadale and Blackridge Ward were contacted and invited to apply to the fund. Four groups applied to the fund. One group declined to apply to the fund. One group had disbanded. One Livingston Wide group was contacted and applied to the fund. Six West Lothian Wide groups were contacted and five applied to the fund. One new group was added to the list.