

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



## **FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

### **PENSIONERS GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2023-23**

#### **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 Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley 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 meal as an alternative to a direct grant award.

##### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the committee notes:

1. Fifteen groups in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Ward are being supported through the Pensioner's Christmas Fund 2022-23
2. The continued inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option

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

<b>I Council Values</b>	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.
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	The report does not raise any health or risk assessment issues. No strategic environmental assessment is required.
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Services has the delegated authority to make the final allocations and payments.
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	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.
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	Older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life.

<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	£29,000 agreed by the Council with £7,359.31 awarded to groups in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	The Voluntary Organisations PDSP is updated annually.
<b>VIII Other consultations</b>	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 2022-23 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 2022-23 this saw 15 organisations representing 1,127 beneficiaries in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Ward 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 an event or activity, this option was offered again to applicants in 2022-2023. Two applicants to the fund in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Ward requested the meal option. No Livingston Wide or West Lothian Wide groups requested the meal option in 2022-2023.

### **D.3 Applications 2022-23**

Officers contacted all previous recipients of the fund in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley 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.

Twenty-six groups in total were contacted in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Ward, Livingston Wide and West Lothian Wide, of which 21 have applied to the fund. Two of the applicants requested the meal option and the remainder requested the finance option.

As a result of this work:

Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Ward

- Nineteen groups in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Ward were contacted and fifteen applied to the fund
- Three groups declined to apply to the fund
- One group did not respond to correspondence
- Two groups requested the meal option
- Thirteen 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 have been supported.

As in previous years the fund is divided equally by the total number of beneficiaries of the fund, which in 2022-23 will see £6.53 per head allocated to recipients in the Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley 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 sent to groups advising them of the amount of funding they were to receive in a grant payment or the equivalent of a Christmas meal. 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 Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley 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 or the equivalent of a Christmas meal. 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 2022-23

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10 January 2023



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

**Appendix 1:** 2022-2023 Allocations to groups in the Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

#### **Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Ward Organisations**

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Blackfaulds Court Tenants Association	Grant Payment	40	£261.20
Crofthead Care Home	Grant Payment	57	£372.21
Fauldhouse CDT	Grant Payment	95	£620.35
Fauldhouse Monday Club Old Age Pensioners	Grant Payment	75	£489.75
Fauldhouse Young at Heart	Grant Payment	90	£587.70
Harburn Village Hall Assoc. Lunch Club	Grant Payment	30	£195.90
Loganlea Miner's Welfare Charitable Society	Grant Payment	80	£522.40
Longridge Over 50's Group	Grant Payment	60	£391.80
Polbeth Community Hub	Meal Option	39	£254.67
St John the Baptist Social Care Group	Grant Payment	120	£783.60
Stewart Court Registered Tenants Organisation	Grant Payment	38	£248.14
Stewart Court Sheltered Housing Day Centre (Tuesday Club)	Grant Payment	30	£195.90
Stoneyburn and Bents Old Folks Treat	Grant Payment	200	£1,306.00
West Calder Community Education Association SCIO (Trading as West Calder Community HUB)	Grant Payment	100	£653.00
Willow Wood Residents Association	Meal Option	73	£476.69
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,127</b>	<b>£7,359.31</b>

#### **Livingston-Wide Organisations**

Group	Provision	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Awarded
Braid Health and Wellbeing (formerly Braid House)	Grant Payment	73	£476.69
<b>Total</b>		<b>73</b>	<b>£476.69</b>

#### **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		<b>753</b>	<b>£4,917.09</b>

**Notes:** Nineteen groups in Fauldhouse and The Breich Valley Ward were contacted and invited to apply to the fund. Fifteen groups applied to the fund. Three groups declined to apply to the fund and one group did not respond to correspondence. 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 group declined funding. One new group was added to the list