

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the COUNCIL EXECUTIVE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 8 MARCH 2017.

Present – Councillors John McGinty (Chair), Frank Anderson, Tom Conn, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Dave King and Anne McMillan

Apologies – Councillor Peter Johnston

Absent – Councillors Cathy Muldoon, Jim Dixon, David Dodds, Danny Logue, and George Paul

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 4 (Time Limited Investment – Gala Days and Festivals Support Fund) – Councillor Tom Conn declared a non-financial interest in that he was a member of the Court of Deacons of the Ancient and Royal Burgh of Linlithgow but would take part in the item of business.

2. TIME LIMITED INVESTMENT: GALA DAYS AND FESTIVALS SUPPORT FUND

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration seeking approval of a means of disbursement of the monies held in the Gala Days and Festival Support Fund. The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration then took the opportunity to advise the Council Executive that with regards to Appendix 1 attached to the report the second column was headed up “Capital Grant” when this was a mistake and should be read as just “Grant”.

The report recalled that West Lothian Council agreed at its meeting on 20 February 2017 to invest £150,000 in a time limited Gala Days and Festivals Support Fund.

The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration explained that West Lothian had a vibrant gala day tradition with 31 gala days receiving funding in 2016, sharing £46,000 of gala grants plus 15 awards of £250 for smaller events. The Gala Days and Festivals Support Fund provided further support to local gala days and festivals and in particular would allow committees to invest in equipment and supplies to continue gala days’ and festivals’ valued contribution within local communities.

It was proposed that each recognised gala day and festival committee would be awarded a share of the fund based on their annual grant and as such no application process would be necessary. A schedule of proposed awards was set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report. £5,000 would be reserved from the fund to support any new community run galas or festivals. Where no new groups came forward then the balance would be distributed to the existing groups on the same basis as set out in

Appendix 1. Notwithstanding that, an application for the additional funding would not be required and the normal conditions for gala day grants would apply to the additional support.

Each committee would be asked to confirm to the council's Economic Development and Regeneration section, by 31 March, that they would accept the fund and provide an indication of what the additional funding would be used for.

It was recommended that the Council Executive :-

1. Notes the availability of the Gala Days and Festivals Support Fund; and
2. Approves the proposed means of disbursing the funds as set out in the report.

### Decision

To approve the terms of the report

### 3. TIME LIMITED THIRD SECTOR AMBITION FUND

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration seeking approval to commence discussions with the Third Sector about eligibility criteria and the means of disbursing funds from the Third Sector Ambition Fund.

The report recalled that West Lothian Council at its meeting on 20 February 2017 agreed to invest £200,000 in a time limited Third Sector Ambition Fund.

The purpose of the Third Sector Ambition Fund was to provide funding for third sector organisations to enable them to increase their capacity to develop existing or new services.

It was intended that the funding would be used to :-

- Purchase capital equipment which would improve their ability to develop and/or deliver services;
- Support the development of existing and/or new services by front-loading staff and other costs; and
- Provide match funding for grants from external organisations for investment in new projects to lever in additional funding to pilot, develop and/or improve delivery of services.

It was important to engage with the Third Sector to ensure that the broad criteria set out above met the needs of the sector and would deliver the

outcomes expected from the fund.

Therefore it was intended that a short term working group comprising of council officers and representatives from the Third Sector be established to inform the efficient and effective operation of the fund. It was intended that the group would be chaired by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration and that the Voluntary Sector Gateway be invited to appoint three representatives to the working group.

The working group would be invited to report on the proposed eligibility criteria for accessing funding within one month of the group being set up.

It was recommended that the Council Executive :-

1. Notes the availability of the Third Sector Ambition Fund; and
2. Agrees to engagement with the Third Sector on the eligibility criteria for organisations accessing funds.

#### Decision

1. To approve the terms of the report; and
2. To agree that the working group report back to Council Executive with its findings.