
LOCAL FESTIVAL GRANT SCHEME – PAYMENTS FOR 2021/22

Report by Service Director – Customer & Communities

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

16 March 2021

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present recommendations in relation to Local Festival Grant Scheme payments for 2021/22.**
- 1.2 It is proposed that an allocation of 50% of the fund is made available to the 29 festivals within the Scheme to support public liability insurance and public protection measures, and to support those who are adapting their arrangements in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.3 The Local Festival Grant Scheme is currently ring-fenced within each Area Partnership Community Fund, as agreed at Council on 27 August 2020.
- 1.4 This report is not a review of the Local Festival Grant Scheme, this will take place once the Fit For 2024 Review of Area Partnerships and the Review of the Community Fund are completed as per the report approved by Council on 27 August 2020.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee is asked to:-

- (a) Agree that 50% of the Festival Grant (approx. £42.5k) is awarded for 2021/22 in respect of public liability insurance and public protection measures, and to make a contribution to those festivals who are adapting or making alternative arrangements in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- (b) The remaining 50% of the Festival Grant for 2021/22 (approx. £42.5k), will be retained within each Area Partnership Community Fund for community led projects.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Further to the review of the Community Fund, at its meeting on 25 June 2020, the Council discussed and agreed to note the results, findings and subsequent recommendations of the report produced by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) on the review of the Community Fund.
- 3.2 The recommendation made by SCDC in regards to Festival Grants was that there was a desire to see the local festival grants to remain ring-fenced within the overall Community Fund.
- 3.3 On 27 August 2020, Council agreed to continue to ring fence grants made to Festival Grants within the Community Fund for 2020/21, with payments to Festival Grants only made to cover actual expenditure on public liability insurance and public protection measures incurred. A total of £13,599 was claimed and awarded as follows:
 - Berwickshire - £560
 - Cheviot - £4,425
 - Eildon - £5,633
 - Teviot & Liddesdale - £0
 - Tweeddale - £2,981

The unspent balances were returned to each Area Partnership Community Fund for community led projects.

- 3.4 Previous analysis of the Festival Grant Scheme has shown that approx. £49,000 of the £85,000 is used for the primary purpose of the grant. Other expenditure includes programmes/leaflets, festival activities, halls hire, publicity and entertainment.
- 3.5 Due to the current pandemic, festival committees have been forced to cancel their arrangements but some may still be incurring expenditure. A number of Festivals are looking to make alternative arrangements to allow recognition of their festivals (as current Covid-19 pandemic restrictions allow), and some are developing online events.
- 3.6 It is recognised that due to the cancellation of arrangements, many festivals will have lost vital income generating opportunities and are therefore requiring financial assistance to enable expenditure to be met.
- 3.7 There are no changes proposed to the process of the current Scheme, and festival committees will be asked to follow the normal process in order to claim the grant payment.
- 3.8 This report is not a review of the Local Festival Grant Scheme which is overdue, the review of the Scheme will take place once the Fit For 2024 Review of Area Partnerships and the Review of the Community Fund are completed as per the report approved by Council on 27 August 2020.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no further financial implications other than those detailed in the report.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are no risks associated with these proposed recommendations

4.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

There are no direct equalities issues within the proposed recommendations.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no direct economic, social or environmental issues within this report which would affect the Council's sustainability policy.

4.5 Carbon Management

There are no direct carbon emissions impacts as a result of this report.

4.6 Rural Proofing

It is anticipated there will be no adverse impact on the rural area from the proposals contained in this report.

4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation are required as a result of this report.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Executive Director (Finance & Regulatory), the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Jenni Craig

Service Director, Customer & Communities Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers: Council Report 27 August 2020

Previous Minute Reference:

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