

Notice of:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Decision Number:	PH34/2024
Relevant Officer:	Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
Date of Decision:	12 March 2024

WARD COUNCILLOR FUNDING

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider applications under the Ward Councillor Grants Scheme.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To authorise the requests, as submitted.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The requests are in accordance with the Ward Councillor Grant initiative.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 Not to approve the applications but this is not recommended as the requests are in accordance with the Ward Councillor Grant initiative.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

6.0 Background information

- 6.1 The Council's delegated budgets scheme allocates budgets of £7,000 to each Ward Councillor covered for the financial year 2023/2024. The funding for this scheme can be spent on supplementing funding public services, for the benefit of the local community.
- 6.2 Councillor Sarah Smith of Marton ward has requested:
(i) £200 as a ward councillor funding donation to Blackpool Art Society, towards the cost of Arts in the Park painting competition in Stanley Park.
- 6.3 Councillor Shaun Brookes of Marton ward has requested:
(i) £200 as a ward councillor funding donation to Blackpool Art Society, towards the cost of Arts in the Park painting competition in Stanley Park.
- 6.4 Councillor Emma Ellison of Norbreck ward has requested:
(i) £1,060 as a ward councillor funding donation to The Friends of Anchorsholme Park, towards the cost of events being held in the Park.
(ii) £1,764 as a ward councillor funding donation to Bispham with Norbreck Gala, towards the running costs of the Gala in 2024.
(iii) £500 as a ward councillor funding donation to Blackpool Music School Charity, towards the costs of Blackpool Music School Rock Band performance in Anchorsholme Park in June 2024.
(iv) £500 as a ward councillor funding donation to Blackpool Brass Band, towards the costs of the purchase of second hand brass instruments to loan out the children for lessons.
- 6.5 Councillor Jane Hugo of Talbot ward has requested:
(i) £200 as a ward councillor funding donation to Blackpool Art Society, towards the cost of Arts in the Park painting competition in Stanley Park.
- 6.6 Councillor Mark Smith of Talbot ward has requested:
(i) £200 as a ward councillor funding donation to Blackpool Art Society, towards the cost of Arts in the Park painting competition in Stanley Park.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The requests can be met through existing budgets, with no recurring costs being incurred.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people:

11.1 In the course of considering these specific ward councillor funding recommendations, the Council has explored any possible unintended adverse impacts on people because of shared characteristics protected by the Equality Act. The Council believes none of these proposed funding recommendations will have indirectly discriminatory effects. Finally, the Council has reflected on the overall aggregated expenditure for this financial year's ward councillor budget allocations and has taken appropriate steps to ensure schemes continue to reflect the wider communities of Blackpool.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 Ward councillor funding application forms.

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information:

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1 None.

19.0 Executive decision:

19.1 The Leader of the Council agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:

To authorise the requests, as submitted.

20.0 Date of Decision:

20.1 12 March 2024

21.0 Reason(s) for decision:

21.1 The requests are in accordance with the Ward Councillor Grant initiative.

22.0 Date Decision published:

22.1 12 March 2024

23.0 Executive Members in attendance:

23.1

24.0 Call-in:

24.1

25.0 Notes:

25.1