

Notice of:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Decision Number:	PH38/2024
Relevant Officer:	Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
Date of Decision:	10 April 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 £6,500 to each Ward Councillor covered for the financial year 2024/2025. The funding for this scheme can be spent on supplementing funding public services, for the benefit of the local community.

6.2 Councillor Matthew Thomas of Brunswick ward has requested:

(i) £65 as a ward councillor donation to Boys and Girls / Youth Partnership, towards the cost of Easter crafts and decorations. Retrospective application as equipment needed to be purchased so that exact costs and receipts could be provided.

(ii) £85 as a ward councillor donation to St Thomas' Church, towards the cost of Easter books for children.

(iii) £105 as a ward councillor donation to St Thomas' Church, towards the cost of an Easter Egg hunt.

(iv) £2,130 as a ward councillor donation to Enveco, towards the cost of graphics for a community alleygate project.

6.3 Councillor Laura Marshall of Brunswick ward has requested:

(i) £65 as a ward councillor donation to Boys and Girls / Youth Partnership, towards the cost of Easter crafts and decorations. Retrospective application as equipment needed to be purchased so that exact costs and receipts could be provided.

(ii) £85 as a ward councillor donation to St Thomas' Church, towards the cost of Easter books for children.

(iii) £105 as a ward councillor donation to St Thomas' Church, towards the cost of an Easter Egg hunt.

(iv) £2,130 as a ward councillor donation to Enveco, towards the cost of graphics for a community alleygate project.

6.4 Councillor Gillian Campbell of Park ward has requested:

(i) £1,201.32 as a ward councillor donation to the Council's Waste Services department, towards the cost of a Park Ward Waste Amnesty in April 2024.

6.5 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.

ONLY APPLICABLE FOR REPORTS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE/CABINET MEMBER

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 10 April 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 10 April 2024

23.0 Executive Members in attendance:

23.1

24.0 Call-in:

24.1

25.0 Notes:

25.1