Westmorland and Furness Council

Report Title	Events and Festivals Grants Panel Arts Culture and Heritage Grants panel– Council member representative for grants panel.
Meeting	South Lakeland Locality Board
Meeting Date	25th April 2024
Report Author	Joanne Marwood
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Virginia Taylor, the Lead Cabinet Member for Sustainable Communities and Localities.
Wards Affected	All
PUBLIC. PART EXEMPT, OR FULLY EXEMPT	Public
Appendices (if any)	N/A

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report seeks approval for a member of the South Lakeland Locality Board to be nominated to sit on the Council's internal Events and Festival grants panel. The recommendation follows the Council's successful applications to the UK Government Shared Prosperity fund.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, the Locality Board is recommended to:

2.1 nominate a member to sit on the Council's internal Events and Festivals grants panel which will meet virtually twice a year in summer 2024 and early 2025.

2.2 nominate a member to sit on the Council's internal Arts Culture and Heritage grants panel which will meet in summer 2024

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

3.1 Two successful funding bids were submitted to the Uk Government Shared Prosperity fund. One application was for £100,000 to deliver grants to improve the events and festivals offer across Westmorland and Furness. Small grants will be offered internally or externally to small organisations requiring funding to improve the quality and functionality of the event /festival. The objectives for this fund are to support 10 organisations to improve events and festivals, provide 22 organisations with non-financial support to improve their events and festivals offer, support 10 amenities and facilities and reach 1000 people with the project benefits.

3.2   The other successful application was for £200,000 for Arts Culture and Heritage to improve community involvement in existing cultural, creative and heritage organisations, enhance current facilities, increase wheelchair access and footfall. Funding will be offered internally or externally to small organisations requiring funding. The objectives for this fund will be to improve 8 culture or heritage assets, support 7 events, make 50 m2 of land wheelchair accessible support or step free and create 10 facilities. Grants funding in the Barrow area would be used for capital and revenue and grants in Eden and South Lakes would be used for capital only.

3.3   A grants panel consisting of Council Officers and one member from each Locality Board is required to make transparent decisions on grant applications. The first virtual panel meeting is scheduled for Summer 2024.

4.   Link to Council Plan Priorities: (People, Climate, Communities, Economy and Culture, Customers, Workforce)

4.1   Events and festivals along with heritage and culture sites contribute to the Council Plan which has a vision of making Westmorland and Furness ' a great place to live, work and thrive. 'The grant programmes fit in with the priorities included in the Council Plan. 'We will build strong links with parish and town councils, local community groups and other organisations. We will strengthen the local planning process to ensure residents are more involved and can have their say.'

5.   Consultation Outcomes

5.1   David Haughian has consulted with Cllr Virginia Taylor, the Lead Cabinet Member for Sustainable Communities and Localities.

6.   Alternative Options Considered

6.1   An alternative option is to not appoint a member to the panel, however officers do not recommend this.

7.   Reasons for the Recommendations

7.1   This funding will enhance and add value to the current cultural offer in Westmorland and Furness.

8.   Climate and Biodiversity Implications

8.1   The programmes contain an element of sustainability through using grants for capital or revenue purposes to improve sustainability at events. We will encourage the use of LED lighting, reusable equipment and compostable cutlery and cups.

9.   Legal and Governance Implications

9.1   The report refers to funding that has become available via a successful UKSPF application. The grant panel will need to have regard to any UKSPF

requirements associated with the funding. The Council may distribute grants in accordance with agreed criteria to ensure consistency and transparency across the process. Due weight must be given in terms of equalities duties and fairness. Should the council distribute funds not in accordance with these principles, then it could be at risk of legal challenge.

9.2   Grant awards will be made subject to appropriate terms and conditions and with regard to the Council's Finance Procedure Rules and any UKSPF terms and conditions. Officers will liaise with Legal Services in the preparation of appropriate grant funding terms and conditions and with regard to Subsidy Control compliance.

9.3   The Council is under a legal obligation to comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Decisions of the Council may be challenged by judicial review if the subsidy control rules are not followed or not followed completely. Grants or other measures may be suspended, and orders for damages or recovery of any unlawful subsidy made. The Council may suffer reputational damage if an unlawful subsidy is made.

9.4   Any Members appointed to the grants panel should seek legal advice from the Monitoring Officer where there is any concern that a situation may arise where there might be a problem with an interest arising from their involvement with an applicant.

10.   Human Resources Implications

10.1   No human resources implications are expected as a result of the contents of this report.

11.   Financial Implications

11.   No financial implications are expected as a result of the contents of this report.

12.   Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty, Armed Forces Veterans, Care Experienced, Rurality, and Socio-Economic Inequalities implications)

12.1   No equality and diversity implications are expected as a result of the contents of this report.

13.   Background Documents

11.   None.