

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Finance and Policy</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>15 August 2024 6.00pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Jackie MacArthur, Deputy CO and Marketing and Communities Manager</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>5 UKSPF Grant application process</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>This paper has been written to assist Councillors in the allocation of funding to the applications in item 6.</p> <p>These grants differ from the usual grants that the CTC Finance and Policy committee considers, as they must meet the criteria of UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The outcomes and expenditure must meet the monitoring requirements of Cheshire East Council and ultimately the Government audits the funds.</p> <p>The Town Council has £6k of UK Shared Prosperity Fund to allocate for events in Congleton which should boost footfall in town, and so help with the vitality of the town. A paper considered by an Emergency Council on the process of issuing these grants:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CTC 27/2425 Resolved to</b> hold a special meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee in August to discuss and approve applications for the £6k of grant funding that Congleton Town Council has from the Government's Shared Prosperity Funding for events in town before March 2025. The opportunity should be promoted in Congleton.</p> <p>A press release was issued and information appeared on a number of social media sites as well as the Chronicle. This resulted in 11 applications from 8 organisations.</p>		
<b>To Consider</b>	<p>When filling in the form the applicants were advised that consideration will be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whether the planned event is likely to increase footfall in Congleton town centre (essential outcome)</li><li>• Whether the spend is likely to attract new people into Congleton town centre (desirable)</li><li>• How inclusive and accessible the activity will be (desirable)</li><li>• Preference will be given to free or low-cost events for the public (desirable)</li><li>• Confidence that the event will take place (essential)</li><li>• Taking steps to minimise the environmental impact of the event (desirable)</li></ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History of delivering events or attractions, and a plan for how this will be delivered (desirable)</li> </ul> <p>Officers believe all the applications meet the criteria.</p> <p>Applicants were also advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They will be expected to provide at least 20% match-funding for the event.</li> <li>They must complete a post-event feedback form.</li> <li>The decision on the grant will be made at a special Finance and Policy Committee meeting where Councillors will agree on the funding allocation. If necessary there will be a second round of applications.</li> <li>They must acknowledge the UKSPF Government Funding and Cheshire East Council funding in your activity.</li> <li>The event must occur, and all spending be accounted for, before 31 March 2025.</li> <li>If successful they must be able to sign a Subsidy Control form to show that you have not received more than £315,000 of Government subsidy.</li> </ul>
<b>Details</b>	<p>As you will see from the next agenda item, there have been requests from 8 organisations for 11 events. The total requested is £5,818. The fund available is £6,000.</p> <p>Councillors can therefore accept all the requests in full, or can opt to fully or part-fund some, all or none of the projects. It is suggested that the committee considers each application separately.</p> <p>Any surplus after councillors have approved the grant applications can be held over for a second run of applications or could be used to supplement a Town Council-organised events in the Town Centre (£6k of the £12k was used for CTC events). This has been added as 6.9 on item 6 for councillors to decide.</p>
<b>Financial</b>	<p>There is £6,000 of UKSPF funding available to allocate if the Committee wishes to do so. The Town Council is the custodian of this fund and must ensure that it is allocated to meet the outcomes of the UKSPF grant or returned.</p>
<b>Environmental</b>	<p>Applicants have filled in a section on the form where they asked how they consider the environmental impact of their event in the application. This is a consideration for the grant.</p>
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	<p>Applicants have filled in a section on the form where they asked how they consider they will make their event or activity inclusive and accessible. This is a consideration for the grant.</p>
<b>Decision Request</b>	<p>To note this report</p>