

CABINET LEAD MEMBER DECISION MEETING - 15TH NOVEMBER 2018

Report of the Monitoring Officer Lead Member: Councillor Taylor

Part A

ITEM 1 MEMBER GRANTS SCHEME

Purpose of Report

To bring forward recommendations for an award under the Member Grants Scheme where the Ward Councillor has declared a personal interest that might lead to bias.

Recommendation

That £750 be awarded to Newtown Linford Tennis Club towards furnishing their new, larger clubhouse.

Reason

To approve an award under the Member Grants Scheme where the relevant Ward Councillor has declared a personal interest that might lead to bias in connection to the organisation receiving the funding.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Member Grants Scheme was approved by Cabinet at their meeting on 12th April 2018 (minute reference 116).

Under the scheme each Councillor is allocated £1,000 to fund local community projects within their ward.

Situations are now arising where Ward Councillors are considering awarding grants under the scheme to organisations they have a connection to, which under the provisions of the Member Code of Conduct may result in them having a 'personal interest which might lead to bias'.

The Member Conduct Committee considered this matter at their meeting on 17th September 2018, and were of the view that in cases where a Ward Councillor has a conflict of interest that the grant application should be referred to the Cabinet for decision.

The Leader of the Council on 2nd October 2018 allocated this Executive function to the Lead Member for Communities, Safety and Wellbeing.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board has been consulted and has agreed that these decisions be exempted from call-in, given their nature and low financial value.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

The grants can be funded from within existing identified budgets.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this decision.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The Lead Member is being requested to make the final decision on the award of the grant in question because the Ward Councillor has declared a personal interest that might lead to bias, and therefore the advice of the Monitoring Officer is that he should not be the final decision maker.

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: None

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Part B

Background

1. Cllr Snartt is the Ward Councillor representing Forest Bradgate, and wishes to support the award of the grant to Newtown Linford Tennis Club from the money available to him under the Member Grants Scheme. However, he has declared that he has a personal interest that might lead to bias as some of his family members are involved in the running of the club. Therefore the Cabinet Lead Member is being requested to act as the final decision maker in respect of the award of the grant.
2. The proposal is for £750 be awarded to the club towards furnishing their new, larger clubhouse.
3. In their application form the club have indicated that:

'Replacing our existing 6' x 8' Wooden Club House with a larger one [NB. funded directly by the club] to accommodate growing membership and usage. The Grant would enable us to furnish the new structure with Tables, Chairs, Bench Seating in the Changing area. Kitchen Area needs Kettle, Crockery, Cutlery, Bin, Blinds for the windows and Kitchen units'.

4. Cllr Snartt supports the award of the grant.