



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Hill – Town Clerk and Responsible Financial
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Date	6th May 2020
SUBJECT	Grant Application – Empowered People

PURPOSE:

1. To present to Members an application for Grant Funding of £3,000 toward a project cost of £9,300
2. To inform Members that this charity specialises in providing bespoke cycle adaptations to enable those who are not independent to enjoy the freedom of cycling, and whilst by its nature it's number of direct beneficiaries is limited, there is also wider community benefit in terms of the involvement of 30 volunteers, 65 service users and over 1000 visitors to their All Ability Cycling Centre based in Todmorden.
3. To advise Members that whilst the Charity has built up an impressive Centre and catalogue of events-based activity, it has been hit with two major events outside of its control, flooding and the impact of Covid 19.
4. To advise Members that whilst cash reserves currently stand at c£12,000 the approximate financial loss to the Charity now stands at around £5,000 and with other commitments, would reduce the financial resources to £2,700.
5. To advise Members that in considering Grant assistance, due note must be made of the financial position and that if deciding to award this Grant, if the Charity were not able to return to its normal level of fundraising, activity, including the holding of events, its future could be uncertain.
6. To inform Members that since this application, their continuing efforts to seek other assistance have also been successful in that they have been awarded a grant of £3,000 from Todmorden Wind Farm Trust £2,879 from Sport England, and have also applied for four other grants whilst also seeking to fundraise through their social media presence.

BACKGROUND:

7. The Charity was established in 2013 to help the community of Todmorden and Calderdale to become independent through inclusive cycling.
8. The Charity currently has four projects, three of them are to assist Todmorden based residents. All cycles that are produced/adapted form part of a cycle library that people can then try and then loan.
9. Units cost can range from £2,000 to £10,000 with ongoing adaptations £500 per annum
10. The nature of this Charity's activities is unique and places Todmorden at the fore of this type of provision in England and specifically Yorkshire.
11. During this period of event shutdown volunteers have turned their skills base to helping make face masks with their 3D printers, whilst also working with Todmorden bases Single Track Magazine to deliver food on their cargo bikes to Todmorden residents who are isolated and cannot leave home. The group is also currently building another cargo bike from existing parts, that after its immediate use will then form part of the further cycle library.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

12. There are none directly arising from this report. There are enough funds available within the quarterly quota from awards as per the grant policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

13. That Members of the Emergency Committee consider whether they wish to support this grant application and if so, in what amount.
14. Given the current uncertain financial future of this Charity, Members of the Emergency Committee may wish to consider whether funding, if awarded, should be made in stage payments, with any future tranches to be awarded under delegated powers of the Chair of Resources with the Town Clerk and on satisfaction that the Charity is able to continue its work until April 2021.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

15. Member decision is required to award Grants.
16. These are uncertain times for this Charity relying on events based activity to help fundraising activity, and by either limiting grant funding, or making payment in tranches based on up to date knowledge of the Charities financial ability to continue, reduces the chance that Council awarded funds would simply be used to support losses.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:

17. This Todmorden based Charity has been gradually building its resource, both financial and volunteer capability, enabling such a substantial difference to be made to those persons that have limited independence.

18. The recent move into new premises was an ambitious step and had set the pattern for a Charity looking to develop further its reach and capability to support a need in Calderdale and specifically Todmorden.
19. The impact of first flooding and then Covid 19, have resulted in an unprecedented challenge to keep the Charity financially viable. The recent award of Grants from Todmorden Windfarm Trust and Sport England are testament to the Trustees determination to continue with their cause.
20. The financial viability of the Charity has been bolstered by the award of these two grants totalling £5,879, but in the absence of a speedy return to events-based activity, there is still a need to be cautious in terms of its financial future.
21. Whist there is therefore risk in awarding a grant to EMpowered People, this is not felt to be out of kilter with other awards recently made to concerns with an events-based nature to its provision.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

22. The purpose of EMpowered People supports climate improvement.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

23. None

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

- Appendix 1 - Grant Application
- Appendix 2 - Trust Deed
- Appendix 3 - Calendar of Events
- Appendix 4 - Trust Accounts as at Dec 2018

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Colin Hill