



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Hill – Town Clerk and Responsible Financial
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Date	8TH APRIL 2020
SUBJECT	Grant Application for Handmade Parade

PURPOSE:

1. To present to Members a request for a Grant of £3,000 to be made to Handmade Parade
2. To inform Members that in view of the uncertain position facing any business in the events delivery sector, that any amount awarded is recommended to be paid in two tranches in order to manage risk of delivery – in this case one third up front and two thirds on confirmation of Covid 19 restrictions being lifted.

BACKGROUND:

3. Handmade Parade has received Grant awards from Todmorden Town Council for a number of years.
4. Members will be aware that a request to be the lead accountable body to the Arts Council for a substantial Grant application was with mutual agreement not taken forward.
5. The impact on Handmade Parade in terms of events cancellation is catastrophic in terms of much of their income sources ceasing immediately.
6. The Arts Council has recognised this in terms of not seeking clawback of funds released to date for their pre-existing events build up work, with any surplus being diverted now to lower level activities, that help keep Handmade Parade in business, and for the Arts Council, support to grass roots delivery is key to having an “industry” to build back with once restrictions are lifted.
7. Within the overall Handmade Parade project, there are specific elements to be delivered for Todmorden, that can be delivered as discrete parts of the project, that whilst contributing to the overall event itself, do in their own right, provide benefit to Todmorden residents.
8. This application is for such a discrete part of the overall project with the focus on activities that:-

- Through the Lamplighter Community Participation Programme (LCPP), HP will engage with local disadvantaged groups to address inequalities and support the development of a stronger community.
 - Will partner with Todmorden High School to work with vulnerable young people, and Healthy Minds Todmorden to work with adults with mental health difficulties. Groups will work with professional artists to create artwork for Lamplighter 2020, the annual community lantern festival on 25 October (date subject to change under current circumstances). This involves a community lantern parade through Todmorden to Centre Vale Park where there will be art and sound installations, street bands and walkabout theatre.
 - Will enable HP to deliver 5 x 3-hour workshops to 12 adults with mental health issues identified by Healthy Minds. Evidence shows that men particularly welcome activities to support mental wellbeing, rather than talking therapies. HP will deliver 8 x 2-hour workshops for the school's Nurture Group for 20 children, aged 11-16 who require additional support with learning, social or emotional needs. Evidence shows that children who engage with arts activities perform better in maths and English and have improved motor skills and social development.
 - This project will deliver an inclusive community programme working with vulnerable groups to ensure equality of access to high quality arts provision.
9. The total project cost of this element of discrete provision is £8,100 which will be funded from
- From HP own resources (including public fundraising) £500
 - Todmorden Windfarm Fund (confirmed) £1,960 (evidence seen of award)
 - Arts Council England (some of Lamplighter funding will be for community engagement) £2640
 - And if successful, £3000 for Todmorden Town Council.
10. Audited accounts previously seen by the Town Clerk confirm that resources are limited with shareholder's funds at less than £6,000 and evidence of bank statements seen confirm bank balances of around £6k as at the end of March 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

11. There is an element of risk in awarding any grant now to an events-based delivery group, but discrete elements that contribute to the overall event itself are relatively less exposed.
12. All activities of this nature require an element of "pump priming" and in this case our overall contribution, if awarded at £3,000, represents 37% of the overall project cost.
13. However given the risk of delay in delivery, and the potential, however unlikely, for grant funding to support other projects through the necessity of survival, it is prudent to limit our potential exposure of non-recovery of grant monies to a level of £1,000, until restrictions are lifted.

14. This initial amount, whilst also providing a vital lifeline of support for a group through its activities benefit Todmorden residents, will also contribute, once restrictions are lifted, to an event that attracts visitors into the town centre for the event itself, which is likely to be welcomed by retailers in their efforts to recover from the impact of Covid 19.

RECOMMENDATION:

15. That Members of the Emergency Committee consider whether to award this grant, and if so at what level.
16. That an initial payment of one third of the grant amount award is paid immediately and the balance on the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions on public events and confirmation from Handmade Parade that they are in a position to proceed with the workshops as proposed.
17. That the Town clerk in consultation with the respective Chair of the authorising committee Resources be given delegated powers to authorise the release of the second tranche of £2,000.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

18. Agreement of the Emergency Committee is required to approve this Grant Award.
19. To manage the risk of future financial exposure should Handmade Parade not be able to continue with this project.
20. To enable release of the balance of grant funds awarded without further reference to Committee.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:

21. These are unprecedented times for both Handmade Parade and TTC and a pragmatic, but risk-based approach needs to be adopted towards this historic beneficiary of TTC Grant funds.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

22. New Grant Policy guidelines have been adhered to

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

23. None

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

- Appendix 1 - Application Form
- Appendix 2 - Budget Breakdown
- Appendix 3 - Constitution

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Colin Hill