



PRCC.26 11/12 .
Prosperous Communities Committee
1st February 2012

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Subject: Celebrating Localism in West Lindsey

Report by:	Director of Communities and Localism and Monitoring Officer
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Purpose / Summary:	This report details the creation of a Celebration Fund to support community events that mark the Diamond Jubilee or Olympics taking place in 2012. These funds will be available across West Lindsey for local groups, parish councils and other bodies to support the holding of local festivities that promote community spirit.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- i) That Members support the creation of a Celebrating West Lindsey Fund to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee and / or Olympics and agree the criteria as detailed in this report**
- ii) That the Chair and Vice Chairs of Prosperous Communities Committee are formed into a Standing Grant Panel to approve grant allocations.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: The criteria for the Fund will include due diligence checks around the holding and planning of Events which will be incorporated into the requirements of any allocation. These will comply with all legal requirements.

Financial: Corporate underspends of £50,000 has been identified within the 2011/12 financial year to create a specific reserve to support this Fund. It is recommended that Policy and Resources Committee are asked to consider approving the creation of this reserve through the budget monitoring process.

Staffing: The administration of the Fund will be undertaken by the Lincolnshire Sports Partnership as they already have effective systems and processes to allocate funds linked to the Olympics. WLDC staff will oversee and support the publicity and allocation of the funds and it is anticipated that this can be contained within the existing staff resource.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: Recognition of Equality and Diversity impact will be a requirement of the Fund allocation. Local groups will be asked to explain how they will ensure fair and open access to all local people. .

Risk Assessment: An understanding of the need to manage risk within event planning will be requirements on local groups before any monies are allocated.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules applies?

Yes

No

Key Decision:

Yes

No

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has approved its Corporate Plan for 2011 - 2014 and six over-arching Themes have been agreed as central to the delivery of the council's overall vision for West Lindsey. The first of these is:

Theme 1: An accessible and connected district where all have the best opportunities in life to help themselves and others.

- 1.2 Central to the delivery of this vision is the Council's Localism programme which is a priority programme for the next 3 years.
- 1.3 The Programme involves the Council's commitment to build its understanding and relationship with the many and varied communities of West Lindsey. The principle objectives of the programme are to ;
- Improve understanding of the needs of different areas within West Lindsey to ensure the Council targets its resources more effectively.
 - Provide tools to local people to help them help themselves by coordinating information and support.

2. Celebrations

- 2.1 As part of the Council's Localism Programme an opportunity has arisen to utilise the year of national celebrations around the Olympic Games (Olympics, Paralympics and Torch Relay) and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee to promote community celebrations across West Lindsey which would bring local people together and promote community spirit.

3. Olympics, Paralympics and Torch Relay

- 3.1 The Olympic and Paralympic Games are being hosted in the UK from 27th July to 12th August 2012 and 29th August to 9th September 2012 respectively. Prior to the games starting the Olympic Torch will be carried around the UK in a relay event covering 8000 miles and passing within 20 miles of 95% of all households in the UK.
- 3.2 The Olympic Torch Relay will be visiting Saxilby on 28th June 2012, the only location within West Lindsey DC area where the Olympic Torch will be carried through the streets by a torch bearer. To manage the torch relay event Saxilby Parish Council have convened a working group chaired by the Chair to Saxilby Parish Council. The District Council are represented on this group and remain the responsible authority for managing safety and security on the torch relay route. Discussions are currently underway at county level with colleagues at the Police, County Council and Emergency Planning to achieve this.
- 3.3 The Saxilby PC working group have started work arranging decoration of the route and are liaising with schools across the district and

businesses locally to determine the appetite for other celebrations to be hosted in Saxilby on the day of the Torch Relay.

It has been suggested that a district member/officer working group is established to coordinate and facilitate events and celebrations across the wider district area with the Torch Relay event in Saxilby as well as supporting communities that wish to develop ideas for the Olympics, Torch Relay and Queens Jubilee. This idea will be taken forward to coincide with the launch of the Celebrating West Lindsey fund.

4. Queen's Diamond Jubilee

- 4.1 To mark 60 years of the Queen's reign the Diamond Jubilee will take place in 2012. The celebrations will centre on a specially extended bank holiday weekend in June.
- 4.2 The 2012 late May bank holiday will be moved to Monday 4 June 2012 and an additional Jubilee bank holiday will be added on Tuesday 5 June 2012. Schools in England and Wales will be able to close on Tuesday 5 June 2012 for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Schools already closed on 5 June for half term or another reason will be able to close on a different day. Details regarding planned national events can be found at www.direct.gov.uk.

5 Opportunities for our Communities and the Council

- 5.1 The Olympic and Paralympic Games, Torch Relay and Diamond Jubilee provide an ideal opportunity for celebration throughout the district. These national events will provide a platform enabling the Council and communities to promote local sporting events, celebratory activities and cultural events as well as celebrating and promoting our heritage, arts and tourism. The Torch Relay coming to Saxilby is an added bonus in that it provides a window of opportunity to bring the national spotlight and Olympic celebrations right into our district.
- 5.2 In particular schools, sporting clubs and community groups are already planning activities at local level that will coincide with these 'once in a lifetime' national events. Businesses and Local Government are also keen to support communities and are seeking ways in which they can facilitate and financially support activities and events.

6 The Celebration West Lindsey Fund

- 6.1 A one off Fund of £50,000 has been identified to help support local communities hold events of Celebration linked to the national commemorations around the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics coming to the United Kingdom.
 - 6.2.1 The Fund will be a one off pot of money available to community organisations which can fulfil the following criteria.
 - 6.2.2 Events must:

- Be a celebration of either the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee or the Olympic Games.
 - Take place in West Lindsey.
 - Help promote community spirit – for example volunteering, helping others and working together to improve where you live.
 - Uphold equalities and the principle of fair and open access to all local people.
- 6.2.3 Applicant groups should:
- Be constituted, have a bank account and able to provide accounts on request.
 - Have appropriate insurance, health and safety and risk assessments in place.
- 6.2.4 The maximum grant given will be £1000 per event.
- 6.3 In order to get the Fund launched by the beginning of March 2012 to allow local groups adequate time to make the necessary plans and local arrangements the administration of the Celebrating Localism Fund will be undertaken by the Lincolnshire Sports Partnership.
- 6.4 This will be in the form of collaboration between the Council and the Lincolnshire Sports Partnership.
- 6.5 The Lincolnshire Sports Partnership already have effective systems and processes to manage similar grant schemes – some of which are linked to the Olympic Games and they are in a position to launch the Fund in a matter of weeks to meet the expected timeline as above .
- 6.6 The overall allocation and decision making of Fund will be run by West Lindsey District Council.
- 6.7 An Officer group has been established within the Council to pool expertise around licensing, health and safety, child protection and other event issues to provide advice and support to local groups. A link has been established to Lincolnshire County Council Highways officers to simplify the answering of queries around road closures and other highways matters.

7 Allocation processes

- 7.1 Allocations will be made against the criteria approved on a first come, first come basis. All reasonable attempts will be made to ensure a fair and equal spread of events across the areas of West Lindsey however this will be in large part a result of where local communities take up the opportunity presented in the Fund.
- 7.2 Members may need to adjudicate in some instances if for example more than 1 bid came in from the same community but from 2 different local groups and it is recommended that the Chair and 2 Vice Chairs of

the Prosperous Communities Committee act as a standing Grant panel to fulfil this role when required.

8 Summary

- 8.1 Members are asked to support the creation of the Celebrating West Lindsey Fund and to promote it across these wards to ensure maximum take up of the opportunities presented. A full Publicity campaign will be mounted across the press and direct to the community including parish councils.