

Thursday, 10 November 2022

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Entertainment and Leisure

Grant Support for Tamworth Pride Event

Exempt Information

None

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend an ongoing annual grant of £5,000 toward the Tamworth Pride Event.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet approves the release of £5k annually from the contingency budget to be used as a grant donation towards Tamworth Pride for a period of three years.
2. Cabinet gives authority to the Theatre, Artistic and Events Manager to release the grant annually to the Tamworth Pride Committee, upon conditions detailed below.

Executive Summary

This report aims to outline why an annual grant toward Tamworth Pride is beneficial to the Council and community long term.

Tamworth Pride's vision is "To celebrate and promote inclusivity, equality and diversity between the LGBTQ+ community and its allies."

"Tamworth Pride has been in existence for many years in the local community. In 2021 the group came together officially for friendship and to offer support. They are a well-balanced group of individuals who all have the same goals; to eliminate prejudice, to be able to celebrate who they truly are, create safe spaces for those that may need them and most of all show that Tamworth is an inclusive place to live." *Tamworth Pride Website*

The above details the vision and mission of Tamworth Pride and is a group and event that encompasses what Tamworth is about – inclusion, support and celebration. In 2021 Tamworth Pride organised their own event in Wiggington Park, attracting high numbers to what turned out to be a fun-filled, family-friendly inclusive day of activities, entertainment and companionship amongst the attendees'. It is an annual event that should be supported by TBC to display a sense of solidarity and support, and which will sit alongside other outdoor events as a major annual attraction. A grant of £5,000 will help maintain the momentum last year's event began and help ease the burden of expenditure for the group.

Options Considered

To not support the event in some way would highlight Tamworth as a town that does not support what Tamworth Pride stands for – inclusion, celebration and support.

Resource Implications

The £5k grant donation is to be funded from the Council contingency budget for a period of three years.

After 3 years, it is recommended the grant is re-assessed in terms of value for money to TBC and Pride, and the wider benefits on the community. If results are still found to be beneficial, an award for a further 3 years upon the same above conditions is awarded.

The grant will be paid on acceptance of the booking to enable best use of the funding (this is likely to be 6months prior to the event)

A date for the Castle Grounds will be booked out for this event, during July. It is anticipated that the popularity of the event will overshadow any booking for the same date by an external event.

There would be staffing commitments from Arts & Events and Streetscene, to service the event in terms of administration and cleaning up, after the event. As always accountability for items such as cleaning, toilet provision, and H&S, will be included in the terms and conditions of booking, as it is with any other external event.

Legal/Risk Implications Background

Awarding an ongoing grant commits TBC to an expense, and risk, should a fall in event standards occur. It is recommended a grant is committed annually for 3 years, subject to:

1. a written de-brief from the Pride Committee, after the event.
2. submission of plans for the following year.

Equalities Implications

The Council has its own Diversity and Equality Scheme (2020-24) and gives the public commitment 'to ensure all council strategies, policies and procedures consider the impact on our diverse community/ workforce to ensure maximum inclusion'. In supporting this event with a financial commitment, TBC is displaying its solidarity with the vision and message of not only Tamworth Pride but all groups and minorities that face a specific day-to-day struggle.

Background Information

TBC has a history of presenting large scale, inclusive outdoor events that offer a chance for a wide range of community groups to come together, whilst attracting visitors from further afield. Outdoor events such as Fireworks, St Georges, and We Love Tamworth have become part of the wider Midlands social calendar. Feedback for all events is positive and we are recognised as a local authority that always delivers new and interesting community-based events.

Report Author

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List of Background Papers

Diversity and Equality Scheme (2020-24)