

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS,
CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS,
THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2021/22**1. Purpose of report

To consider requests for grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Grant Aid Policy.

2. Applications and Financial Position

Details of the grant application received is included in the appendix for consideration. The amount available for distribution in 2021/22 is as follows:

	£
Revenue Grant Aid Budget	168,800
Less: Estimated requirements for: Rent Awards and Other Commitments (#)	49,900
Less: Grant Awards to Date	93,500
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	<u>25,400</u>

(#) This includes provisions in respect of the application from the 2nd Kimberley Scout Group.

Members are reminded that they will need to suitably constrain grant awards in 2021/22 if the budget is not to be exceeded. The total 'cash' grants requested in this report are £12,079. The additional sums requested in this report, when compared to the previous year, would amount to £7,079 if all applications are fully supported.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- 1. CONSIDER the request in appendix 1 and RESOLVE accordingly; and**
- 2. NOTE the grants awarded under delegated authority in appendix 2.**

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Applications

The following grant applications have been received for consideration in 2021/22:

<u>Applicant</u>		<u>Grant Award 2020/21</u>	<u>Grant Request 2021/22</u>
		£	£
2 nd Kimberley Scout Group	1	7,000	7,000*
The Helpful Bureau	2	5,000	10,000
Beeston Rylands Community Association	3	Nil	350
Beeston Civic Society/Beeston Street Art	3	Nil	1,329
Hope Community Gospel Choir	4	Nil	400
		Total	19,079

The total request is made up of £12,079 in 'cash' from the balance available (or partially from the Broxtowe Lotto Community Fund as appropriate), with £7,000* being covered by a provision for rents and other commitments.

Uniformed Groups Category1. 2ND KIMBERLEY SCOUT GROUP

The 2nd Kimberley Scout Group was established in 1955 and is based in Council owned premises at Kettlebrook Lodge on Eastwood Road in Kimberley. The Group continues to thrive and has over 200 members (both junior members and voluntary helpers) from Kimberley and the surrounding areas.

The aim of the Group is to provide activities within the Scout Association organisation. The Group is responsible for the maintenance and up-keep of Kettlebrook Lodge as a community venue. The facilities are currently utilised by the Scouts and Guides organisation, a pre-school playgroup, as a blood donor centre and for other events and functions. It is estimated that over 4,000 people would normally use the facilities every year. Whilst 2020 brought with it new challenges with pandemic, the hard work of the executive committee and leaders, enabled the group to continue activities both online and outside.

The latest accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 showed receipts of £26,061 (£38,274 in 2019/20) being generated from grants, subscriptions (less capitation), donations, fundraising and other activities. Payments amounted to £23,946 (£39,513 in 2019/20), which included premises expenses (rent, heating, lighting, repairs and maintenance), cleaning and caretaking, cost of activities and other expenses. The General Fund is represented by cash and bank balances, which at 31 March 2021 amounted to £20,452 (£18,337 in 2020). This money is earmarked towards repairs and improvements to Kettlebrook Lodge.

The current tenancy agreement for Kettlebrook Lodge replaced a previous peppercorn rent arrangement. As part of the Council's aim to secure market rental on its properties, the annual rent has been assessed at £7,000 from 2019/20. The 2nd Kimberley Scout Group has suggested that it would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

The Council has regularly supported 2nd Kimberley Scout Group with grant aid towards its rental obligations with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

2020/21	£7,000
2019/20	£7,000
2018/19	£6,500
2017/18	£6,500

The Council also supported 2nd Kimberley Scout Group with £5,000 of capital funding in April 2018 for the full cost of replacing the boiler at Kettlebrook Lodge, with the Council's officers also providing technical support in the process of assessing the scheme and evaluating quotations.

For 2021/22 the 2nd Kimberley Scout Group has requested a grant of £7,000 to cover the market rental of Kettlebrook Lodge. This grant would be for a period of one year and would be matched by allowances within the premises income budget and therefore leave the Council's overall budget unchanged.

Caring Organisations Category

2. THE HELPFUL BUREAU

An application for grant aid has been received from The Helpful Bureau (THB), a registered charity and not for profit organisation based at the Carnegie Civic and Community Centre on Warren Avenue in Stapleford. Originally established in 1978, THB formally registered as a charity from 2001.

The charity provides services which support and encourage older and/or disabled residents to live safely and independently in their own homes including befriending, practical services, social activities, transport scheme and support services. Its work, including positive signposting, supports people to make choices about their lives. The activities provide opportunities for people to socialise and keep active, helping people to feel less isolated and maintain both physical and mental wellbeing; preventing costly interventions. The charity has over 3,000 clients, the majority being residents of Broxtowe.

Whilst THB has previously applied for funding to support its activity relating to practical services, social interaction events and the volunteer transport scheme, this latest application is in respect of its befriending service.

The befriending service scheme is made up of volunteers who offer friendship and support to older people. The scheme specifically aims to help older people who live alone and are unable to get out of the house and have no one who is able to spend quality time with them. The volunteer befrienders offer a listening

ear, conversation and companionship and provide recreational activities within the home such as puzzles, letter writing or simply sharing memories.

THB wants to extend the term of its befriending service and to move forward the remit of the service to encourage people on the existing scheme to consider getting out to activities and trips offered by THB or other groups. The charity received separate funding for this activity up to September 2021 but there is still a real need for the service and for this to be effectively managed.

Whilst the scheme was a run as a phone service during the pandemic lockdowns, THB can now look to widen the service to encourage engagement in activities outside of the home. This has already seen new members encouraged to join the lunch club in person (although meal deliveries have continued). The charity would like to introduce an intermediate step of having smaller group meetings as a stepping stone for people who needs that support. This would require further organisation and training to be completed.

THB have received funding from the GC Gibson Charitable Trust (£3,352); Postcode Community Trust (£5,000): and Aviva Community Fund (£1,186) for this scheme. It is also at the second stage of an application to the National Lottery Reaching Communities for longer-term funding that would keep the service running.

The Helpful Bureau has submitted its Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 for scrutiny. The charity splits its accounts between restricted and unrestricted funds. Total income generated in the year amounted to £138,540 (2018/19 £152,325), including £15,893 as unrestricted funds, from fees and room hire, grants and donations and fundraising. Restricted grants totalling £122,647 were received in 2019/20 from Nottinghamshire County Council (£52,126) and other funders. Total expenditure was £134,179 (2018/19 £128,945), including £29,291 from the unrestricted fund, and related to wages (£89,128 split between restricted and unrestricted funds for an average of 11 employees), rent and services and other running costs. Total bank balances as at 31 March 2020 had fallen to £37,500, with Total Funds declared at £57,182, including £39,423 as unrestricted funds. The charity's policy on reserves is to retain three months' worth of operating reserves.

This is the fourth application received from The Helpful Bureau (although the Council previously supported Stapleford Volunteer Bureau), with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

2020/21	£5,000
2019/20	£5,000
2018/19	£2,000
2017/18	No application

For 2021/22, The Helpful Bureau has requested an increased grant of £10,000 to support its ongoing operations in respect of the befriending service.

Members should note that the grant aid policy requires that grant awards of £5,000 or above may be subject to a Service Level Agreement.

Community Associations Category

3. BEESTON RYLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Beeston Rylands Community Association (BRCA) is responsible for the management and operation of the Council owned Community Centre on Leyton Crescent in Beeston Rylands.

The aim of the BRCA is to identify opportunities for support and social interaction are needed and where possible provide groups and activities to support residents.

The community centre is available at a reduced rate for residents to hire for social functions. A variety of groups utilise the facilities on a regular/weekly basis for educational, leisure, recreational and social activities, including a youth club; adult craft and company social club; over 60s social groups; a social dining club; seated yoga; and a weekly tea and coffee morning drop in with lifts are provided where needed. BRCA are aiming to bring community events to the centre, the first of these was the Gala Day held in July this year. It is estimated that 100 people of all ages use the facilities on a weekly basis, with the majority being residents of the borough.

Beeston Rylands has a significant level of deprivation when measuring employment, health deprivation and disability, and living environment. The community is isolated from Beeston where the doctors, banks, chemists, and shops are.

BRCA is now entering the vital 'rebuild and recovery' phase following our initial emergency response to the COVID 19 crisis. It is striving to ensure that the community has a variety of accessible activities that meet the needs of the most deprived young, old, and families within its community.

BRCA has requested grant aid towards the cost of a new water heating system to replace the current one which is no longer fit for purpose. The new system will be more economical and have a reduced environmental impact. Quotations have been received for these works which are estimated to cost up to £3,500. The FCC Communities Fund have awarded a grant of £3,150 for this work which covers 90% of the cost, conditional upon BRCA securing the remaining 10% as match funding. BRCA has therefore requested grant aid of £350 as match funding towards this investment.

BRCA has provided its annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 for scrutiny. Annual income amounted to £52,859 from grants and donations and hall hire. Significant grants were received from Nottinghamshire County Council (£10,091), National Emergency Trust (£10,040), Martin Lewis (£5,091), National Lottery Community Fund (£5,010), Foyle Foundation (£5,000 restricted), Hans & Julia Rausing (£4,650 restricted), Beeston Consolidated Charities (£3,240) and this Council (£4,000). Expenditure of £41,110 included

employee costs (£15,589), Covid response (£15,807), repairs and renewals, utilities and other general running costs. Cash and bank balances as at 31 March 2021 were £24,334. BRCA indicated that reserves are partially earmarked towards the salaries of the part-time development worker and part-time youth worker and the improvement of the premises.

This is the first application that the Council has received from Beeston Rylands Community Association for many years and for 2021/22 it has requested a grant of £350 towards the cost of a new water heating system.

If Members were minded to support this request, an award at this level could be considered from the Broxtowe Lotto Community Fund.

Miscellaneous Category

4. BEESTON AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY (BEESTON STREET ART)

An application for grant aid has been received from the Beeston and District Civic Society towards the cost of an element of their Beeston Street Art project.

The Beeston and District Civic Society was established in 1974. The main activities of the group are to protect the built and natural environment in Beeston and Chilwell. The group has 140 members and over 3,000 followers on social media

The group has recently been working on its Beeston Street Art project. This has seen a number of art attractions being brought to the town for the benefit of the high street and local residents' wellbeing (41 artworks have been completed so far). The project is now looking to expand into 'light art' and has proposed to install an illuminated sign in Beeston. The neon sign, #alightinBeeston, would be installed facing the Beeston transport interchange. This will be visible at night turning a currently featureless wall into an attractive feature for the evening economy.

The group have received three quotations for the purchase of the neon sign "#alightinBeeston" (approximately 6000mm x 1200mm) scheme, with the cheapest being £1,800 excluding installation. The group has requested grant aid of up to £1,329 towards 50% of the total cost, to include purchase, installation and associated planning fees. The group has been raising money for this project (receiving £1,165 plus £245 gift aid).

It is hoped that the installation can be completed in time for the proposed Beeston Pilot Light Night on 4 November 2021 to launch the installation.

The Beeston and District Civic Society has submitted its income and expenditure account and balance sheet for scrutiny. Total income generated for the year ended 31 August 2020 amounted to £2,096 (2018/19 £9,062) from membership subscriptions, donations and other income streams. Total expenditure was £3,081 (2018/19 £7,389) and related to project work (including Beeston Street Art), newsletters, subscriptions, administration and other running costs. Total bank balances as at 31 August 2020 was £4,376 (2019

£5,361). The latest update as at 14 June 2021 shows reserves at £5,971 of which £769 ring-fenced for the Beeston Street Art project. The group are maintaining a separate ongoing account for the project.

This is the first application that the Council has received from the Beeston and District Civic Society and for 2021/22 it has requested a grant of up to £1,329 towards 50% of the cost of purchasing and installing the neon sign and associated planning fees.

5. HOPE COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR

The Hope Community Gospel Choir was established in 2008 and is based at the John Clifford School on Nether Street in Beeston. The choir, which is a registered charity, has 63 adult members from across the area with 22 being Broxtowe residents. Although the choir does not have junior members, accompanied children are welcomed.

The group is a non-denominational community gospel choir which opens its doors to all sections of the community. It prides itself on attracting a diverse membership and, in doing so, are able to create a welcoming environment for all. It is through friendship and song that the choir has a positive impact on emotional well-being of choir members as well as fostering a sense of belonging. The choir is managed through an established committee, which has been pivotal in providing pastoral support and care of its members, particularly during the pandemic. The choir provided emotional support, care packages and companionship during this time.

The Hope Community Gospel Choir has provided its annual accounts to 31 March 2021 for scrutiny. Annual costs totalled £2,231 and included director payments, rent, insurance, first aid, gifts and web expenses. Income is generated from voluntary membership subscriptions and fundraising. Cash at bank as at 31 March 2021 was £2,978, which are partially earmarked towards the replenishment of equipment.

This is the first application that the Council has received from the Hope Community Gospel Choir and for 2021/22 it has requested a grant of £400 towards the cost of maintaining its website and to contribute towards the cost of rehearsal space.

If Members were minded to support this request, an award at this level could be considered from the Broxtowe Lotto Community Fund.

APPENDIX 2

DELEGATED AWARDS

A summary of the grant awarded under delegated authority since July 2021 is included below. The Council's policy in respect of grant aid to voluntary organisations is to award the amount requested by the organisation or the maximum specified whichever is the lower. Additional consideration is given to groups who can demonstrate that they are meeting the particular needs of disadvantaged sections of the community.

All requests under £250 are considered under delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair of this Committee. This includes applications from individuals involved with sport and the arts.

This Committee determines all requests for grants in excess of the £250 maximum.

Groups

Group	Total Members	Total Broxtowe Residents	Grant Award in 2020/21	Grant Award in 2021/22	Purpose of Grant Award
5 th Stapleford Scout Group	85	77	Nil*	£250	Towards the purchase of high visibility vests, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes and outdoor play equipment. Award from the Broxtowe Lotto Community Fund

* excluding regular 'internal' grant awarded towards Market Rent