

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 (#)	42,900
Less: Grant Awards to Date	111,929
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	<u>13,971</u>

(#) This includes provisions in respect of the application from Toton Coronation Hall Community Association and the 5th Stapleford Scout Group.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to CONSIDER the requests in appendix 1 and RESOLVE accordingly.

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>
		£	£
Toton Coronation Hall Community Association	1	7,000	7,000*
5 th Stapleford Scout Group	2	4,500	4,500*
		Total	11,500

The total request is made up of £nil in 'cash' from the balance available, with £11,500* being covered by a provision for rents and other commitments.

Community Associations Category1. **TOTON CORONATION HALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

The Toton Coronation Hall Community Association (TCHCA) is responsible for the management and operation of the Coronation Hall on Portland Road in Toton which opened in 1953.

The aim of the Community Association is to provide the best possible social meeting place for Toton and the surrounding area. A variety of groups utilise the facilities for educational, recreational, leisure and sporting activities, including keep-fit clubs (yoga, zumba, fitsteps), uniform groups, senior citizen's groups, dance classes, martial arts clubs, family groups and parties. The pandemic has had an impact on hall usage, with some groups proving to be a hesitant to return and some are not returning at all. TCH has lost a number of previously regular bookings including the Carers Trust, the weekly playgroup and the drama and theatrical group. It is estimated that up to 200 people of all ages use the facilities on a weekly basis, with the majority being local residents.

A new Committee was formed in March 2017 to oversee the operation of the Community Association. There has since been continued refurbishment of the Coronation Hall including redecoration, health and safety improvements, new curtains and blinds, stage curtains, new cooker and fridge and replacement furniture.

TCHCA has provided its annual accounts for the year ended 31 July 2021 for scrutiny. Annual income amounted to £15,785 mainly from hall hire and grant aid. Expenditure of £12,999 included repairs and refurbishment works, rent, utilities, insurances and cleaning. Cash and bank balances as at 31 July 2021 were £11,514. TCHCA indicated that reserves are earmarked towards genral repairs and improvement of the premises.

The current tenancy agreement for the Coronation Hall replaced the earlier arrangement of charging a peppercorn rent. As part of the Council's aim to secure economic rents on its premises the annual rental is £7,000. TCHCA has suggested that it would be unable to sustain the tenancy with a rental charge of this size.

The Council has previously supported TCHCA with grant aid towards its premises rental with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

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

For 2021/22, the Toton Coronation Hall Community Association has requested a grant of £7,000 to cover the market rental of the Coronation Hall. This grant award would be for a period of one year, with the potential award being matched by allowances within the premises income budget.

Uniformed Groups Category

2. 5TH STAPLEFORD SCOUT GROUP

The 5th Stapleford Scout Group was established in 1964 and is based at Stapleford House, Wesley Place in Stapleford. The Group currently has 100 members of all ages (scouts, cubs, beavers, leaders and voluntary helpers), the majority of whom are residents of Stapleford and Bramcote.

The aim of the 5th Stapleford Scout Group is to provide activities within the scout association organisation. The Group provides an interest for local children aged between 6 and 14 years to experience new adventures, learn new team and individual skills required for scouting activities, play new games and meet new friends. The Group are also supported by the local community at regular fundraising events such as jumble sales and fairs.

For the year ended 28 February 2021, receipts of £11,780 were generated from grants, donations and fundraising and other activities (subscription fees not charged due to the pandemic). Annual payments amounted to £8,322 and included equipment, premises expenses such as rent, heating, lighting, repairs and maintenance and the cost of activities and fundraising events (membership fees were not charged due to the pandemic). Cash and bank balances as at 28 February 2021 had increased to £15,439.

The 5th Stapleford Scout Group commenced their lease for first floor at Stapleford House from September 2014. The tenancy agreement reflects the Council's aim of securing economic rents on its properties, with the annual rent of the accommodation assessed at £4,500. The 5th Stapleford Scout Group only has limited financial resources and suggests that it would be unable to sustain a rental charge of this size.

The Council has regularly supported the 5th Stapleford Scout Group for many years with grant aid towards its rental obligations. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2020/21	£4,500
2019/20	£4,500
2018/19	£4,500
2017/18	£4,500

For 2021/22 the 5th Stapleford Scout Group has requested a grant of £4,500 to cover the annual market rental of the accommodation at Stapleford House. This potential grant award would be for a period of one year and would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the award being matched in the Council's premises income budget.