

Report of the Portfolio of Resources and Personnel Policy

CAPITAL GRANT AID REQUEST – THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (BEESTON) SOCIAL CLUB1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to CONSIDER the request and RESOLVE accordingly.

3. Detail

An application for capital grant funding of £6,000 has been received from The Royal British Legion (Beeston) Social Club. This has been considered in accordance with the provisions of the Council's grant aid policy. Details of the application are included within the appendix to this report.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

No budgetary provision exists for capital grants to voluntary organisations. Any grant award would have to be funded from the 2022/23 Capital Contingencies of which £55,000 currently remains available (subject to the consideration of a concurrent request from a Town Council for capital funding presented to Members alongside this report as part of this same agenda).

5. Legal Implications

The Council is empowered to make grants to voluntary organisations by virtue of Section 48 Local Government Act 1985 (as well as other legislation). Having an approved process in line the legislation and the Council's Grant Aid Policy will ensure the Council's compliance with its legal duties.

6. Background Papers

Nil

APPENDIX**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (BEESTON) SOCIAL CLUB**

The Royal British Legion (RBL) was formed in the aftermath of the First World War when four organisations came together to fight the injustices faced by those returning home after service and became the British Legion in 1921. From the beginning, it campaigned for fair treatment of those who had given so much for their country and provided much needed welfare support and comradeship. Today, the RBL continues to respond to the changing needs of the Armed Forces community, providing small interventions to life-changing and sometimes lifesaving support.

The Royal British Legion (Beeston) Social Club was formed in 1949 and is located at Haigh House on Hall Croft in Beeston. The Beeston Club is a 'not for profit' registered society, which provides a social, community and entertainment venue and activities for residents of Beeston, Chilwell, Toton and the surrounding areas. Activities include fundraising for good causes, support for veterans' groups, support for the local RBL Branch, and a venue for events e.g. Oxfam. Approximately 300 to 400 people attend the venue on a monthly basis depending on range of activities and entertainment.

The RBL national membership fees are not shared with the local clubs, although there is an option to join the Beeston Club for a nominal £1 (around 110 local members). The Club is open to non-members and guests.

The Beeston Club is currently refurbishing its premises and needs to bring the premises' systems up to current fire and safety standards. Improving the fire safety of the building to current standards will make it safe for community use. The premises are leased from The Royal British Legion (Regional Office Property Management).

The Beeston Club has requested a capital grant of up to £6,000 to enable it to complete this work. This will include the installation of twelve smoke and heat alarms and an upgrade of the emergency and outside lighting, twenty-one LED strips and nine 'PIR' sensors. Members will recall that a capital grant of £8,645 was awarded to the Beeston Club in June 2021 for a similar purpose through the exercise of the Chief Executive's urgency powers and as reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on 8 July 2021. An additional award now will enable the Beeston Club to complete this refurbishment project.

Due to the nature of this scheme, any approved grant would normally be made on the basis of 25% of the actual costs incurred (given that it relates to a non-Council owned asset) with a maximum figure specified in appropriate circumstances. In support of this new application, the Beeston Club has already submitted invoices totalling £3,714 dating from February 2022 and March 2022. Grant payments are not released without receipt of relevant invoices in support of the amounts claimed.

The Royal British Legion (Beeston) Social Club has provided its accounts for the year ended 30 September 2021 for scrutiny. Total income amounted to £44,047 (including turnover of £10,992 and government grants of £33,055) which increased from £43,423 in 2020. Total expenditure for the year was £39,442 (£38,230 in 2020)

which mainly related to repairs and renewals, premises overheads, wages and salaries. The surplus for the year was £4,605 (£5,193 in 2020). The cash at bank and in hand as at 30 September 2021 was £13,648, with total net assets of £24,262.

This is the second application that the Council has received from The Royal British Legion (Beeston) Social Club following the earlier award in 2021/22 referred to above. For 2022/23, the Beeston Club has requested grant aid of up to £6,000 has been requested to complete necessary electrical safety works at its premises.

No budgetary provision exists for capital grants to voluntary organisations. Any capital grant award would have to be funded from the Council's overall capital contingencies budget in 2022/23 of which £55,000 remains available (subject to the consideration of other requests as part of this same agenda).