

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

**GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS,
CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS,
THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2022/23**

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Recommendation

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

3. Detail

Details of the grant requests are included in the appendix for consideration. The amount available for distribution in 2022/23 is as follows:

	<u>£</u>
Revenue Grant Aid Budget	168,800
Less: Estimated requirements for:	
Citizens Advice Broxtowe	73,750
Rent Awards and Related Commitments (<i>Note A</i>)	44,800
Other Anticipated Grant Awards (<i>Note B</i>)	35,000
Less: Grant Awards to Date	7,900
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	7,350

Note A – This includes provision in respect of rental and support costs for tenants of Council-owned properties, including 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts, 2nd Kimberley Scout Group, 5th Stapleford Scout Group, Age Concern Eastwood, Bramcote Cricket Club, Broxtowe Play Forum, Chilwell Community Association, Eastwood People's Initiative, Stapleford Community Association and Toton Coronation Hall Community Association.

Note B – The estimated provision, based on grants awarded in 2021/22, in respect of other anticipated annual recurring grants to community organisations, including Broxtowe Women's Project, Hope Nottingham, Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service, and The Helpful Bureau.

4. Financial Implications

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

Any grant awards will have to be met from the established grant aid budget shown in the table above. Members are reminded that they will need to suitably constrain grant awards in 2022/23 if the budget is not to be exceeded. The total 'cash' grant requested in this report is £3,000. The additional sums requested in this report, when compared to the previous year, would amount to £3,000 if all requests are fully supported.

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

Grant Award Requests

The following grant requests have been received for consideration in 2022/23:

		<u>Grant Award 2021/22</u> £	<u>Grant Request 2022/23</u> £
Eastwood Food Bank (c/o Eastwood Volunteer Bureau)	1	-	3,000
		Total	<u>3,000</u>

Age Concern Organisations, Citizens Advice Bureaux and Volunteer Bureaux1. EASTWOOD FOOD BANK (C/O EASTWOOD VOLUNTEER BUREAU)

Eastwood Volunteer Bureau (“the Bureau”) is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity, incorporated in February 2002. Overall management of the charity is the responsibility of its trustees with day-to-day project activity managed by the Bureau Manager and Project Co-ordinators. All those involved in the Bureau consider themselves to be committed and passionate about its work with a responsibility to run all their schemes with efficiency and the most economic use of limited resources.

The Bureau states its primary objectives as being to provide charitable transport facilities for people who cannot use public transport because they are elderly, poor or disabled; the promotion of social inclusion amongst elderly or disabled people who are excluded or isolated from society because of age or infirmity; and the relief of poverty by the provision of a Food Bank. The Bureau defines its area of operations as ‘North Broxtowe’, including Awsworth, Brinsley, Cossall, Eastwood, Kimberley, Newthorpe, Nuthall, Watnall and surrounding areas.

These primary objectives are addressed through the Bureau’s three core schemes: a Community Transport Scheme, a “Be-A-Friend” Scheme and a Food Bank with associated food parcel distribution scheme. It is for the third of these schemes, the Food Bank, that this report relates to.

The Food Bank, which is open Tuesdays and Fridays, supplies an average of 160 food parcels per month (2020-21). The Food Bank remained open throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and associated ‘lockdown’ periods due to the work of ten volunteers who continued to work two mornings a week throughout.

Financial Information

The most recent Annual Report and Financial Statements for Eastwood Volunteer Bureau have been reviewed. In the year ending 31 March 2021, the

Bureau produced a deficit of £10,140 (2020: deficit of £20) leaving the Bureau with total reserves as at 31 March 2021 of £39,575 (2020: £49,715). Total cash balances as at 31 March 2021 were £38,940 (2020: £44,580).

Total income for the year ending 31 March 2021 was £46,480 (2020: £62,210), comprising primarily of £19,400 from Nottinghamshire County Council, £3,000 from the Nottinghamshire Community Fund (NET) and £16,030 from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Total expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021 was £56,620 (2020: £62,230), comprising primarily of staff costs of £34,510 and premises costs of £12,140.

The decline in the Bureau's income in recent years is the result of a number of factors including the suspension of the transport scheme and an inability to generate room rental income during the Covid-19 pandemic. Though the impact of this has been offset by the continuation of local grant funding, the receipt of various Covid-19 grants (including the Job Retention Scheme) and efforts on the part of the Bureau to reduce outgoings, the funding of their schemes continues to be a cause for concern as they remain dependent on charitable funding.

It is the published policy of the Bureau to hold sufficient reserves to both honour its liabilities to staff, suppliers and other organisations in the event of closure and to maintain sufficient funds to continue normal operations.

As at the 13 May 2022, the Bureau has stated it holds current cash reserves of approximately £36,500. Of this, approximately £3,500 is held in a separate account solely for the use of the Food Bank. The Bureau estimates a current utilisation of this reserve held by the Food Bank at a rate of £200 per week due to a decline in donations. It is not the policy of the Bureau to utilise its other general purpose reserves to directly support the Food Bank as those reserves are required to meet the operating expenses of the Bureau.

Grant Aid Request

Cabinet is asked to consider, with the support of the Leader of the Council, a grant of up to £3,000 to provide direct support to the Food Bank operated and managed by Eastwood Volunteer Bureau. Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- Eastwood Food Bank is based within Broxtowe.
- Supporting the voluntary sector is a Grant Aid policy commitment.
- The service provided by the Food Bank directly benefits Broxtowe residents and is complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The Food Bank targets the needs of disadvantaged sections of the community.

An award, if approved, would be met from the established Grant Aid budget shown in the table at the head of this report. No previous grant awards have been made to Eastwood Volunteer Bureau.