

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

Cabinet is asked to consider the requests in the appendix and RESOLVE accordingly.

3. Detail

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

	£
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	11,100
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	4,150

The total grant requested in this report (from Hope Nottingham) is £12,000. As £10,000 of this is already covered by a provision based on previous grant awards, the additional amount required from the balance available for distribution is £2,000.

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 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 £12,000. The additional sums requested in this report, when compared to the previous year, would amount to £2,000 if all applications 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. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

There are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

As there is no change to policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

10. Background Papers

Nil.

APPENDIX

Applications

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

<u>Applicant</u>		<u>Grant Award 2021/22 £</u>	<u>Grant Request 2022/23 £</u>
Hope Nottingham	1	10,000	12,000
Total			<u>12,000</u>

The total request is made up of £2,000 in 'cash' from the balance available, with £10,000 being covered by a provision for anticipated annual recurring grants.

Caring Organisations Category**1. HOPE NOTTINGHAM**

Hope Nottingham is project that is operated from Hope House at the Boundary Road Community Centre in Beeston. The project has around 300 regular users, with approximately 800 individuals benefitting from the service each year.

The Hope Café was originally established in 2005 as part of Hope NG9, the Christian church working together to bring 'Hope to the NG9 area through social action, backed by prayer and word'. From 2010, local ministers agreed that Hope NG9 should be merged with Hope Nottingham. The charitable objects of Hope Nottingham are the relief of poverty, sickness and distress and to advance the Christian faith.

The services offered by Hope Nottingham are primarily aimed at crisis intervention and transformational support and include a free drop-in café, advice centre, foodbank, job club, literacy group, elderly friendship club, a 'food club' offering low-priced surplus fresh food), a youth well-being café, parent and toddler group and support to a small network of related foodbanks.

Up until the end of December 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the services provided by Hope Nottingham have mostly been limited to food provision, telephone befriending for people at home alone, the parent and toddler group, community allotment and elderly Friendship Club. It was not possible to extend wider holistic support to foodbank users except in a few cases. However, particular achievements within these continuing services during this period include:

- Food support to thousands of people during the pandemic, particularly continuing with delivery to those needing to isolate, but also assisting

those already experiencing poverty that was exacerbated by the pandemic.

- Telephone befriending was very effective in helping people overcome the negative effects of isolation resulting in growth of our Friendship Club when it restarted.
- The Parent and Toddler Group has been very helpful in providing support and company for new parents who would otherwise have been very isolated during the pandemic.
- The community allotment has continued throughout the pandemic providing healthy activity for about a dozen people and providing healthy fresh food for many local people.
- A new 'food club' was started in November 2021 providing members with approximately £15.00-£20.00 worth of fresh food for a weekly subscription of £3.50. This now has regular membership of 35 households, encouraging healthier eating and building friendships in the community.

Since around January / February 2022 it has been possible for Hope Nottingham to re-start their various other activities so that it has become possible to return to a more holistic approach.

Hope Nottingham continues to enjoy working as part of a number partnerships. In particular:

- Trent Compassion (The Arches) – store food supplies in bulk for redistribution to foodbanks.
- Citizen's Advice – provide twice weekly advice sessions at Hope House, funded by the Trussell Trust.
- Renew Well-Being – working to pilot a youth well-being café.
- Children's Centres/Family Action – the food club at Hope House.
- Chilwell Parish – 'Hope Hub' at St Barnabas Church, Inham Nook.

Financial Information

Hope Nottingham has provided the latest accounts for the year ended 30 June 2021 for scrutiny. The charity separates its accounts between restricted fund and unrestricted funds.

Total income generated amounted to £476,531 which mostly related to grants and donations. Significant restricted and unrestricted grants (in addition to those from this Council) were received from Nottinghamshire County Council

(£47,900), DEFRA (£37,500), the Big Lottery Community Fund (£35,000) and Grasiela (£15,000), in addition to considerable grants and donations received from local businesses, church and community.

Total expenditure amounted to £384,148 which included salaries and associated employer costs (£215,178) for an average of 12 employees with no employee receiving more than £60,000 during the period, external services and supplies (£116,586) and miscellaneous premises expenses and other operating costs.

Total funds as at 30 June 2021 were £285,180 including unrestricted funds of £219,811. Total cash at bank and in hand was £278,621.

As the formal financial statements of Hope Nottingham are over 12 months old, an update has been provided as to the current position of the organisation. The (draft) total funds as at 30 June 2022 is anticipated to be £180,000, of which £110,000 is anticipated to be classified as unrestricted.

Applications to other grant-awarding bodies are currently in progress with Nottinghamshire County Council (£10,900), Beeston Consolidated (£18,000), Tesco Community Grants (£5,000) Co-Op Local Community Fund (£3,000) and other smaller trusts (approximately £8,000 total).

Grant Aid Request

For 2022/23, Hope Nottingham has requested a grant of £12,000 towards the general cost of operating the project, an increase of 20% from previous years' grants of £10,000. Hope Nottingham cites the current cost of living crisis as having a direct impact on demand for its services as the reason for the request for an increase in the grant amount.

Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- Hope Nottingham is based within Broxtowe.
- The services provided by Hope Nottingham benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- Hope Nottingham 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. The Council has regularly supported Hope Nottingham, with the grants awarded in the past five years being as follows:

2021/22	£10,000
2020/21	£10,000
2019/20	£10,000
2018/19	£4,000
2017/18	£4,000

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.