

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:	
Rent Awards and Related Commitments (<i>Note A</i>)	44,800
Other Anticipated Grant Awards (<i>Note B</i>)	25,000
Less: Grant Awards to Date	96,950
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	2,050

The total grant requested in this report (from Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service) is £7,000. As this is already wholly covered by a provision based on previous grant awards, no additional amount is required from the balance available for distribution.

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, 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 £7,000. The additional sums requested in this report, when compared to the previous year, would amount to £nil 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.

APPENDIXApplications

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

		<u>Grant Award 2021/22 £</u>	<u>Grant Request 2022/23 £</u>
Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service	1	7,000	7,000
		Total	<u>7,000</u>

The total request of £7,000 is wholly covered by a provision for anticipated annual recurring grants.

Volunteer Bureaux Category**1. RUSHCLIFFE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

A request for grant aid has been received from Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service (RCVS) towards general running costs to provide volunteer brokerage and support, and network development support across Broxtowe.

RCVS was established in 1984 and is based at The Cotgrave Hub in Cotgrave. Though based in Rushcliffe, RCVS also serves Broxtowe and Gedling in providing:

- Volunteer Brokerage at volunteer centres (Broxtowe and Rushcliffe)
- Infrastructure support to the Voluntary and Community Sector (Broxtowe and Rushcliffe)
- Public and Patient Engagement (Broxtowe and Rushcliffe)
- Community Transport (Rushcliffe and Gedling)
- South Notts Befriending (All areas)

There are currently 555 users of RCVS direct services, with 199 volunteers supporting its services in the last year. In Broxtowe, 90 voluntary groups operate and 12 individuals access direct services.

It is widely recognised that volunteers and volunteering has a significant impact on the local community, economy and health. Volunteers and organisations that engage them provide a vital service across Broxtowe. In many cases the services they provide extend or support the services of statutory organisations and often fill a gap in health and social care.

Support provided by RCVS to 'Volunteer Involving Organisations' includes:

- Promotion of volunteering opportunities.
- Ensuring they have the support they need to manage and support their volunteers along with good practice guidelines.
- Training in areas such as safeguarding / DBS checks, recruitment and the management and training of volunteers.
- The Volunteer Coordinators Network meets termly, providing a network to share good practice raise issues pertinent to volunteering.

There is also in place an agreement with Citizens Advice Broxtowe to have regular presence and/or surgeries at their offices at Beeston and Eastwood, thus ensuring that residents have access to advice regarding volunteering.

The benefits for volunteers and clients include learning and developing new skills, interests and hobbies; engaging with communities and assisting with community cohesion; providing motivation and sense of achievement; increased employability; boosting confidence and self-esteem (according to research volunteering has increased health benefits including improved mental health and well-being); reducing isolation, combating stress and having a purpose. Up to 75% of the volunteers matched through RCVS say that health and wellness is the reason for wanting to volunteer.

RCVS also engages with Primary Care Networks, the public, patients, carers and other community members to assist with health and wellbeing. At present, RCVS is involved with the '100-day Transformation Project' which provides a focus on dementia services, engaging with those with dementia and their carers.

The RCVS South Notts Befriending scheme, which was started in Rushcliffe, is now rolled out across Broxtowe and Gedling in addition. RCVS has secured additional funding from NHS Charities to provide and expand this service to include telephone, face to face and 'walk and talk' befriending.

RCVS has supported the establishment and development of Community Engagement Groups in Beeston, Eastwood and Stapleford including the Broxtowe Community Development Forum. RCVS has also worked to secure funding for a dedicated Community Development Worker for Broxtowe with the post currently out for recruitment.

Alongside colleagues across Nottinghamshire, RCVS has undertaken a 'State of the Sector' survey. Key issues that emerged from this are the need for volunteers and an accompanying loss of volunteers with 55% reporting that demand for their services has increased. RCVS also continues to map the voluntary sector across Broxtowe, having identified just over 80 groups to be contacted with RCVS details.

Financial Information

RCVS has provided its annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 for scrutiny. The charity separates its accounts between restricted and unrestricted funds. Total income generated in the year amounted to £188,565. This included £145,768 of unrestricted core funding from grants and donations, rent/room hire and sales income, including unrestricted funding from the Prison Advice and Care Trust (£35,683), Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service (£18,314), Rushcliffe Borough Council (£15,000) and Nottinghamshire County Council (£14,000). Sizeable restricted funding was received from Nottinghamshire County Council of £39,620. Total expenditure amounted to £174,408. This mainly related to staff costs (£126,346 for an average 15 employees), rent, maintenance, equipment, repairs and renewals. Total cash and bank balances at 31 March 2021 was £276,822 including £230,027 held as unrestricted funds.

RCVS states that adequate reserves (approximately £108,000) are maintained to cover potential closure costs, project contingencies and general variations in income and cash flow. All other unrestricted reserves will be used to support the charity's post-Covid recovery plan and to extend the charity's reach, re-establish and expand existing services and develop new services to meet community need and to improve longer term sustainability.

Grant Aid Request

For 2022/23, RCVS has requested grant aid of £7,000 towards their general running costs to provide volunteer brokerage services and network development support across Broxtowe. Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by RCVS benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- RCVS targets the needs of disadvantaged sections of the community.
- Volunteer Bureaux are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.

The Council has supported RCVS in previous financial years, as follows:

2021/22	£7,000
2020/21	£4,000

Members may recall that prior to this, services now provided by RCVS were provided by the former Voluntary Action Broxtowe (VAB). The Council had supported VAB in previous financial years, as follows:

2020/21	£3,000
2019/20	£7,000

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.