

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>)	18,000
Less: Grant Awards to Date	103,950
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	2,050

The total grant amount requested in this report is £8,500. Of this, £8,000 is already provided for as an 'other anticipated grant award'. The remaining £500 would be drawn from the balance available for distribution of £2,050. There is also included within this report a request for an 'in principle' decision to provide grant funding to Broxtowe Women's Project to cover anticipated rental expenditure up to £3,000 regarding a potential tenancy within Council-owned premises. Such a decision at this stage will not require immediate funding. However, it is included in this report to provide assurance to both Broxtowe Women's Project and the Council that the rental cost of these premises would be covered by the Council's Grant Aid scheme.

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 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 £8,500. The additional sums requested in this report, when compared to the previous year, would amount to £500 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>Grant Award 2021/22 £</u>	<u>Grant Request 2022/23 £</u>
Broxtowe Women's Project	1	8,000	8,000*
Eastwood & District Darts & Dominoes League	2	Nil	500
		Total	<u>8,500</u>

*The request of £8,000 from Broxtowe Women's Project is wholly covered within the provision for anticipated annual recurring grants. The further request for an 'in principle' decision regarding potential future rental costs of up to £3,000 will not result in an immediate award and is therefore not included within these figures here.

1. BROXTOWE WOMEN'S PROJECT

Broxtowe Women's Project ('BWP') is a support, advice and advocacy charity for women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse, predominantly covering Broxtowe. BWP aims to empower women to regain domestic control and lead independent, fulfilling, safe and positive lives. BWP nurtures children and young people affected by domestic abuse to build resilience and understand healthy relationships and emotions. In addition, BWP challenges the stigma associated with domestic abuse, advocates for women and their families, raises awareness and campaigns for an end to domestic abuse.

Over time, BWP has grown and developed a range of services. These include:

- Women's Outreach
- Drop-in Support Services
- Helpline
- Wellbeing
- Employability Programme
- Children's and Young People's Service
- Counselling
- Training
- Legal and Court support
- Volunteering
- Awareness Raising and Campaigning
- Signposting to a range of other support services
- Partnership working
- Leading the White Ribbon Campaign across Broxtowe in partnership with this Council

- Business training and support packages

BWP also aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse with partner organisations and businesses to increase their understanding and so they can better support their staff and customers.

BWP are part of the Broxtowe Crime Reduction plan, taking a leading role with regard to Domestic Abuse. BWP are a member of the Consent Coalition for Nottinghamshire and are an active part of Nottinghamshire DVA Communication Group.

BWP are the only Domestic Abuse charity in the UK to achieve the White Ribbon Accreditation and are currently leading the Broxtowe White Ribbon campaign for 2022 alongside this Council's Community Safety and Housing Teams. Along with Equation, BWP are coordinating the launch of Notts White Ribbon and recently launched the 'Notts Cut It Out' campaign to work with salons and barbers across Broxtowe so that they could better support their clients.

Throughout 2021/22 BWP received 257 referrals. 114 became on-going support cases accessing adult and children's outreach services. 94 cases were adult outreach, 20 were children.

Outcomes are monitored and the percentage of women that reported an increase in positive outcomes as a direct result of working with BWP during this period included client empowerment (92%), feeling safer (80%), minimised risk of harm (80%), skills increased (more informed) (84%), increased self-esteem (68%), improved mental health (67%), reduced isolation (54%), fled relationship (55%) and gained employment/training/ volunteering (24%). Furthermore, 50% of women were 'support ready' for moving onto well-being/counselling/befriending services after outreach. These outcomes provide a strong indication of the impact the BWP has had upon the lives of survivors with whom it works. It also indicates the importance of continually developing services such as the counselling to increase the positive outcomes for women.

Financial Information

BWP has provided its draft accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 for scrutiny. Total income for the year was £325,303 (2021: £245,585) which included grants and donations of £316,172 (2021: £240,387) and other small sundry amounts including fees and reclaimed gift aid. Total expenditure for the year was £243,308 (2021: £242,184) which included wages and salaries of £185,425, professional fees of £18,644 and other expenses including rent, room hire, training, utility costs and communications.

Total reserves as at 31 March 2022 were £165,236 (2021: £83,241) of which £52,369 is restricted. These reserves include £165,442 in cash at bank and in hand. The increase in reserves during the year is primarily the result of a significant and unexpected donation to BWP which has been allocated to a close-down fund.

Grant Aid Request

There are two elements to the Grant Aid Request from BWP for consideration.

Firstly, for 2022/23, BWP has requested grant aid of £8,000 to meet its current rental obligations and to contribute towards other core costs. Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by BWP benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- BWP targets the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community.
- Caring Organisations such as BWP are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.

The second element of the request is for Cabinet to approve 'in principle' the award of a grant of up to £3,000 to cover the anticipated rental cost associated with BWP entering into a tenancy to occupy Council-owned premises within Broxtowe. Though the negotiations for such a tenancy are at an early stage, it is understood that the Council is keen to support BWP in expanding their operations within Broxtowe and such a 'in principle' decision would provide assurance to both BWP and the Council that the financing for this aspect of the project would be covered.

As with all rent awards to other Voluntary Groups which hold tenancies for Council-owned properties, no cash would become payable to BWP as part of this element of the grant.

The Council has supported BWP for many years, as follows:

2021/22	£8,000
2020/21	£6,000
2019/20	£6,000
2018/19	£6,000

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.

2. EASTWOOD AND DISTRICT DARTS AND DOMINOES LEAGUE

Eastwood and District Darts and Dominoes League ('EDDDL') was established approximately 80-90 years ago and holds darts and dominoes competitions at a public house in Newthorpe. Teams from within the Borough and surrounding areas meet to compete six times a year. EDDDL feels that such activity helps to bring the community together, both old and young, and assists with the sustainability of local trade.

There are currently 11 teams within the League, each consisting of approximately 20 players. In addition, spectators are welcome at meetings of the League, with EDDDL estimating the total number of Broxtowe residents involved to be 200.

Financial Information

Due to the closure of public houses for much of 2020 and 2021 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, EDDDL was unable to hold its meetings and was effectively a dormant organisation. As such, EDDDL has not produced a set of formal accounts since February 2020, with the next set intended to be drawn up for the Annual General Meeting in March / April 2023.

EDDDL has, however, provided a bank statement which confirms the closing balance on the account as £218 as at 14 September 2022. A regular pattern of monthly cash deposits of the fees collected from EDDDL members (approximately £150-£200 per month) has also been observed, with a withdrawal of £2,000 recently made in order to help pay for trophies and other prizes.

Members should also note that although the bank account referred to above is operated solely for the benefit of EDDDL, it is held by an individual as the group was, due to being an unincorporated group, unable to open an account in its own name. This has been confirmed separately with both the Chairman and Treasurer of EDDDL.

Grant Aid Request

EDDDL has requested grant aid of £500 to provide trophies and other prizes to encourage people to enter the competitions held by the League. This is the first time EDDDL has applied to this Council for support.

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

- The events held by EDDDL benefit Broxtowe residents and are not in conflict with services provided by the Council.
- As 60% of the membership of EDDDL is over 60 years of age, it may be considered that the group targets the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community, helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Cabinet may also wish to note that this application is presented with the support of the Leader of the Council.